CHANGING PERSPECTIVE IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION: CHALLENGES & ISSUES

Dr. Joseph George, Ayoona Aji

Department of Management Studies, St. Joseph's College, Moolamattom, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, josephgeorgesjc@gmail.com

Scholar, Department of Management Studies, St. Joseph's College, Moolamattom, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, ayoonaji@gmail.com

Abstract

Higher education is the strongest and sturdiest ladder to increased socio-economic mobility. The vision of higher education is to utilise the human resource potential at its maximum for the economic development and for the students of future. Higher education in India has facing a drastic change by the introduction of NEP 2020 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Education system has witnessed a growth in many aspects such as its infrastructure, institution structure, capacity, virtual classrooms, global rating, teacher student ratio etc. And at the same time faces the challenges of privatisation, increased cost of education, out flight of students etc. Moreover, the increased number of private and State Universities has made education institutions a business house which needs professionalism. The perspective of students and parents towards higher education has also been changing. This paper attempts to focus on the changes happening in the higher education sector in India, its opportunities, emerging trends, and the need for the development of human resource. All changes which happen in education affects economic development as education is the art of making a man ethical.

Keywords: vision, human resource potential, institution structure, global rating, professionalism, ethical

1. INTRODUCTION

Indian higher education is the third largest in terms of students after China and US. Education in India is seen as one of the way to social mobility. Good education is a stepping stone to a better career Indian Education System provide quality education which contribute to the overall economic development of a nation. From the post independence onwards education system has shown a drastic change from book learning to online learning. Nowadays doing higher education in abroad had also become a trend. India ha s established several universities, technical institutions, research institutions and professional institutions or non professional colleges overall the country.

Higher education plays an important role in countries overall development like social, industrial, economic etc. It provides quality based education in field of education, research etc. During the last decades education institutions faced changes from conventional to modern likewise it also affects lots of challenges like privatization, financing, low quality etc. Higher education concentrate more on the human resource development for an educated and skilled youth.

2. HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA: STATUS QUO

Higher education plays an important role in our national economy, as educated students are more skilful and they can contribute more for the national development. Higher education is the type of education, given in post secondary institution of learning and at the end of a course of study, a named degree, diploma or certificate of higher education. Indian higher education system is the third largest in the world after US and China. UGC (University Grant Commission) is the main governing body in the tertiary level which is responsible for coordinate, determine and managing of the higher education in university. UGC set up Act 1956, which promote the university education in India.

Higher education is really important as it provide comprehensive knowledge, scientific and humanistic allowing graduates' awareness and capacity for service to the ratio and professional performance of excellence. India has over 998 university with 54 central universities, 361 private universities and 159 institutes of national importance like AIIMS, IIMs, and IITs etc. In a survey its found that southern India dominates the country in terms of total number of colleges including private and government. Andhra Pradesh has the most number of colleges that is around 3775 then Karnataka, Maharashtra etc..

Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in India is 27.1 ie, calculated from 18-23 years of age group. Male population in GER is 26. 9 for female its 27.3 for Scheduled caste it is 23.7 and for Scheduled Tribal it is 18.0

as compared to national GER. For 2019 -2020 it seems poisoned to fall below the ministry of education is aimed to achieving 32% by 2020.

Due to online courses there is more opportunity for student empowerment. Types of universities in India are:

- Central University
- State University
- Deemed University
- Institutions of National Importance.

Regulatory system of higher education in India are:

- *UGC(University Grant Commission)*

It's the main regulatory body of higher education which gave funding, establishing standards and analysing growth in higher education sector.

- *All India Council for Technical Education*

It coordinate plans and develop the technical education in the country.

3. CHANGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

The face of higher education in India is facing a drastic change due to privatization, increased cost of education, competition in the sector etc. are some of the reason for change. In year 2015, the number of Universities are, it had a increase to 864 in 2019 and from 2022 it increases to 988.

- By the introduction of NEP there are several changes happened in schools level and higher level education. National Education Policy 20220 outlines the vision of new education in India. It replaces the previous National Policy of Education 1986. Some of the biggest highlights or changes are:

1. A single regulator for higher education institutions
2. Multiple entry and exists in degree education in degree courses
3. Discontinuation of MPhil programs
4. Low stakes board exam
5. Common entrance exam for universities

One of the major highlights which put forward is no UGC, AICTE, NCTE as the same way science, arts, commerce get blurred that is there is no rigid separation between arts and science between curricular and extra curriculum etc..

- Greatest innovation and technology has lead to a paradigm shift which focuses more on the inclusive development of learners. With the introduction of technology students have found new ways to connect with the teachers and increase student engagement. Technology helps to make the process of learning easier in higher education.

E.g.: chalk board were replaced by smart classes, online classes etc.

- Experimental and more project: New learning process not only focuses on the book oriented study they also focused on skill development so that they provide more experiments and practical learning. Experiment is now become an important part of the education.

From conventional to modern education India has facing a rapid change from book learning to online learning, blended learning, experimental learning it is facing a paradigm shift.

4. CHALLENGES FACING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

India will be the largest education sector in the world in the coming years. For growth, challenges are inevitable as every sector faces a lot of challenges. Education institutions also had to face a lot of challenges like quality of education, privatisation, skilled labour etc... All this is to be considered because education sector contribute to the economic development which needs to be handle with care:

- Teaching quality

Absence of employable skills is a major issue facing in higher education sector. Less skilled and educated teachers are placing in some colleges   and also teachers with zero experience were recruited based on their influence and money this will eliminate highly skilled and well trained teachers. This is a major issue faced in higher education sector because teachers want to be a role model to students.

- Corruption in education system

Now a days money is the major element in every field there is a view that everything can be influenced by money in some case this is true as every job especially in higher education students gets most of the admission through management basis. This will decrease the seat for students who are apt for that. Today education sector is also becoming a business.

- Economic difficulties

Most of the students in India was in a middle class or lower middle class everyone will face financial problems during higher education and this students were facing challenges to meet the normal life expenses. So in a private

college the students will face so much economic problem in fact students cannot only depends on this part time job for there daily needs.

- **Financing**

Financing is the big issue faced in the education sector as most of colleges were not recurring proper fund for their development. But India is already spending for the education sectors development

- **No project based learning and strategy**

Education is not only about book learning or what we study from book its all about practical exp. It can be done through doing projects, internship etc. Most of the colleges is doing such programs for their student development. In outside country, study is all about project works and all in India marks are valued instead of their practical knowledge. It's a major challenge faced in Indian higher education.

- **Political factor**

Education sector is now influenced by political parties. Actually they influence the youngsters and encourage them to organise on political basis. Political parties exploit the students for their political benefits. Political influence is really bad and it influences the students negatively.

- **Low GER**

GER means Gross Enrolment Ratio. GER shows the number of students who got enrolled for higher education. In India around 15% of GER in Indian Higher Education sector which is relatively low. This figure shows the number of students got enrolled for higher education. The reason behind this low figure may be financial constraints or any other reason.

5. OPPORTUNITIES AND SUGGESTIONS

Indian education system has become the third largest in the world. Despite of all challenges it face, it has improved a lot in terms of classroom, giving importance to curriculum activities etc. as like it has provide more opportunities to the students for improving their contribution of national development. We should seize out the opportunities in front of us.

There are several opportunities for strategic human resource development and ability to build a higher education leadership and capacity building in state level. There are opportunities in nation to collaborate with international institutions this will helps to improve the employability of students. Higher education also helps to realize the untapped skills of an individual. Employee in all the field of education 'll be educated and experienced with the contributions of higher education. Youngsters will be more familiar with the digital platforms as digital audience has progressed tremendously and new age learning tools are quite appealing due to the interactive nature.

Education provide a platform to students to speak and present their opinions freely without having a stage fear. Seminar, workshops, conference, internship, live projects, practical learning etc.. enable them to be more experienced. Equality of education opportunity is really essential for the economic development which will lead to a better tomorrow.

There are several faults happening in the education sector which can be improved a lot.

The suggestions to overcome the challenges are:
- More importance to technology in education
- Encourage more innovation and creativity
- Give more importance to personalized education
- The teachers should be more experienced as well as educated. Training should be given to teachers at proper interval.
- Teachers should change the attitude towards teaching and be professional in nature.
- Ensure quality education to students without inequality
- Implement innovative and transformational higher education with proper infrastructure facility
- College of both private and public Universities or colleges or institutions should be free from political factors
- Education is a service and not a business. Favouritism, money motive, self-focused system must be eliminated
- Education should be multidisciplinary so that the limitations regarding education can be eliminated.

6. EMERGING TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT

Technology development and innovation of new trends has contributed a lot to the development of higher education. Technologies like gamification through augmented and virtual reality is one of the markable fact in the last year as well. Courses designed around these technology give motivation to learn and develop concretes kills outside the classes.

- *Online education*

Due to the pandemic the only benefit we got is the introduction and usage of online learning, now it is familiar to everyone. Each and everyone is skilled to use it. It provide a benefit of distance learning. It's more convenient

so most of the Universities prefer online learning for short courses. Due to the introduction of online learning, youngsters also show an interest to learn more through online.

- *More focus on quality rate and admission rate*

Now the government is given more focus on quality of every institute and students enrolment. In last 2years, the compound annual growth rate is 3.6% around 724 students per institutions. By 2030 it is expected to have 1400. This number will be depending on basis of state.

- Increased women enrolment

India has the highest education system but when we look at the women enrolment. But its show in a research that it will increase in the next few years

- Emerging foreign destinations

Now after COVID all the countries are back to normal and all the countries were recruiting students for jobs most preferred countries like US, Canada, Australia etc. Indian students are expected to move to new destination like abroad.

- Growing demand for international market

As mentioned above, the demand for international courses and jobs are increased everyone prefer international courses nowadays for more career opportunities, part time job, financial stability etc.

- Focus on skill development

Even there are millions of graduates passed their college but a few have the skill for the job. The main reason behind this is that most of them lack the basis skill. To overcome this our government is planning to focus on skill development. It is also works on bringing a new skill development and entrepreneurship etc..

- Introducing AI in higher education

College are expected to develop a course curriculum which can ensure education and research in the country. Every private institutions are starting start-ups using AI

Higher education is not only the means of providing opportunities for human resource but also to enhance the quality for human resource development. It also plays an important role in supplying a large number of huge quality talents to society. Main objectives of higher education is the socio-economic development. To achieve this universities should focus on the HRD practises. Many universities have given various practise for human resource development.

7. CONCLUSION

After Independence there has been a significant change in Indian education but is facing a lot of challenges in order to develop the higher education. To raise the rate of enrolment there is need for more colleges, institutions etc.. To attain national, regional or international quality more components like better faculty, technology etc. are necessary. Its the time to restructure some of the changes happened in the education sector then only highly skilled, educated, workforce can be build. If the youngsters are educated and trained they can get job outside country. So this in turn make a shift from developing to developed country.

It can be said that Indian education system is facing a lot of changes this in turn leads to challenges for the education sector. As same, lot of development had happened in the last few decades but this time is quite important to make a drastic change.

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