Opportunities, Suggestions & Future challenges of Indian Higher Education system

Dr. Arti Sharma
Sr. Assistant Professor
Royal Educational Institute

ABSTRACT

 Indian Higher Education system is third largest in the world, next to the United States. Higher Education system plays an important role for the country's overall development**.** Education in Asian countries has experienced fast advancement when post-freedom period. The world has realized that the economic success of the states is directly determined by their Education systems. Although there have been lot of challenges to higher education system of India but equally have lot of opportunities to overcome these challenges and to make higher education system much better. India provides highly skilled people to other countries therefore; it is very easy for India to transfer our country from a developing nation to a developed nation. The current study aims to highlight the challenges and to point out the future opportunities and suggestions in Higher Education system in India.

KEYWORDS:- *Higher Education system, Education, Future Opportunities, Challenges*.

INTRODUCTION

India has the third largest higher education system , next to the United States in the world in terms of size and its diversity and largest in the world in terms of number of educational institutions.

There is no doubt to the fact that much of the progress achieved by India in education has come from private sector. In fact the public sector and private sector is not in opposition to each other but they are working simultaneously in Indian education sphere. UGC is the main governing body that enforces the standards, advises the government and helps coordinate between center and states.

In future, India will be one of the largest education hubs. The 'Right to Education Act' which stipulates compulsory and free education to all children within the age groups of 6-14 years, has brought about a revolution in the education system of the country. If we talk about higher education in terms of level, it means to gain higher educational qualification by the teaching-learning process in the Higher Educational Institutes such as colleges and universities. Moreover Higher Education imparts knowledge, develops the student's ability and also give him/her a wider perspective of the world around.

There are several regulatory bodies and research councils which are responsible for the higher education in India.

Regulatory Bodies:
University Grant Commission (UGC)
All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
Research Councils:
Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR)
National Council of Rural Institute (NCRI)

Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)
Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)

OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

There are many opportunities in India's higher education system, including:

- **Experimental learning**

  Indian institutes are investing in providing students with opportunities to learn through real-world experiences, such as visits to industrial sites.

- **Digitalization**

  The pandemic has brought online education to the forefront, and the new education policy aims to improve the standards of distance learning. This includes measures like online courses, digital repositories, and credit-based recognition of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

- **Deemed universities**

  These are high-performing institutes that the Central Government has deemed to be of equivalent standing as universities.

- **Private universities**

  Some smaller, private universities have better resources and are providing more resource-rich educations to a small number of students.

- **Bengaluru**

  This city is considered an educational paradise, especially for those who want to study law.
  However, there are also challenges in India's higher education system, including:

- **Regional disparity**

  Most premier universities and colleges are located in metropolitan and urban cities, which can lead to regional disparity in access to higher education.

- **Low quality of education**

  This can lead to rote learning, lack of employability, and skill development.

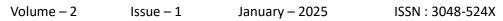- **Inadequate investments**

  There is limited availability of funding and facilities for supporting students.
  India is a large country, with an estimated population of young people aged between 18 to 23 years to be around 150 millions. The sheer size of the market offers huge opportunities for development of the higher education
  sector in India. Unfortunately, the educational infrastructure of India is inadequate to handle such huge volumes. In spite all the government spending in the educational sector, it is just too insufficient to meet the growing requirements. Therefore, higher Education sector has now been

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Royal Educational Institute, Ghaziabad

identified as one of the promising areas for private and foreign investments. Unfortunately, the educational infrastructure of India is inadequate to handle such huge volumes. In spite all the government spending in the educational sector, it is just too insufficient to meet the growing requirements. Therefore, higher Education sector has now been identified as one of the promising areas for private and foreign investments.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION:

- There is a need to focus on the graduate students by providing them such courses in which they can achieve excellence, gain deeper knowledge of subject so that they will get jobs after recruitment in the companies which would reduce unnecessary rush to the higher education.

- There should be a multidisciplinary approach in higher education so that students knowledge may not be restricted only upto his own subjects.
- Government must promote collaboration between Indian higher education institutes and top International institutes and also generates linkage between national research laboratories and research centers of top institutions for better quality and collaborative research.

- There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approach form primary to higher education level to make Indian educational system globally more relevant and competitive.

- In higher educational institutes Industrial co-operation must be their for the development of curriculum, organizing expert lectures, internships, live projects, career counseling and placements.

- Higher educational institutes need to improve quality, reputation and establish credibility through student exchange, faculty exchange programs, and other collaborations with high- quality national and international higher educational institutes.

FUTURE CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA
They tried to boost the education system and implemented various education policies but they were not sufficient to put an example for the universe. UGC is continuously working and focusing on quality education in higher education sector. Still we are facing lot of problems and challenges in our education system. Some of the basic challenges in higher education system in India are discussed below:
- **Faculty:** Faculty shortages and the inability of the state educational system to attract and retain wellqualified teachers have been posing challenges to quality education for many years. Large numbers of NET / PhD candidates are unemployed even there are lot of acancies in higher education, these deserving candidates are then applying in other departments which is a biggest blow to the higher education system.
- **Accreditation**: As per the data provided by the NAAC, as of June 2010, "not even 25% of the total Higher Education Institutions in the country were accredited. And among those accredited, only 30% of the universities and 45% of the colleges were found to be of quality to be ranked at 'A'

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Royal Educational Institute, Ghaziabad

- level".
- **Research and Innovation**: there are very nominal scholars in our country whose writing is cited by famous western authors. There is inadequate focus on research in higher education institutes. There are insufficient resources and facilities, as well as, limited numbers of quality faculty to advice students. Most of the research scholars are without fellowships or not getting their fellowships on time which directly or indirectly affects their research. Moreover, Indian Higher education institutions are poorly connected to research centers. So, this is another area of challenge to the higher education in India.
- **Structure of higher education**: Management of the Indian education faces challenges of over centralisation, bureaucratic structures and lack of accountability, transparency, and professionalism. As a result of increase in number of affiliated colleges and students, the burden of administrative functions of universities has significantly increased and the core focus on academics and research is diluted (Kumar, 2015).
- **Enrolment**: The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of India in higher education is only 15% which is quite low as compared to the eveloped as well as, other developing countries. With the increase of enrolments at school level, the supply of higher education institutes is insufficient to meet the growing demand in the country.
- **Equity**: There is no equity in GER among different sects of the society. According to previous studies the GER in higher education in India among male and female varies to a greater extent. There are regional variations too some states have high GER while as some is quite behind the national GER which reflect a significant imbalances within the higher education system.
- **Infrastructure**: Poor infrastructure is another challenge to the higher education system of India particularly the institutes run by the public sector suffer from poor physical facilities and infrastructure. There are large number of colleges which are functioning on second or third floor of the building on ground or first floor there exists readymade hosieries or photocopy shops.
- **Political interference**: Most of the educational Institutions are owned by the political leaders, who are playing key role in governing bodies of the Universities. They are using the innocent students for their selfish means. Students organise campaigns, forget their own objectives and begin to develop their careers in politics.

CONCLUSION

Higher education in India has expanded very rapidly in the last six decades after independence yet it is not equally accessible to all. India is today one of the fastest developing countries of the world with the annual growth rate going above 9%. Still a large section of the population remains illiterate and a large number of children's do not get even primary education. In this paper we have presented the present situation of India in higher education sector. We also identify the challenges like demand-supply gap, lack of quality research, problem of infrastructure and basic facilities, shortage of faculty etc in the higher education. The implementation framework for twelfth plan aims to focus on improving quality of state institutions, to revamp financial aid programs, to interlink expansion, equity and excellence. To improve the higher education system we need to improve teaching pedagogy, build synergies between research and teaching, facilitate alliance of higher institutions among themselves, research centers and industries. No doubt India is facing various challenges in

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Sr. Assistant Professor
Royal Educational Institute, Ghaziabad

higher education but to tackle these challenges and to boost higher education is utmost important. India is a country of huge human resource potential, to utilise this potential properly is the issue which needed to discuss. Opportunities are available but how to get benefits from these opportunities and how to make them accessible to others is the matter of concern. In order to sustain that rate of growth, there is need to increase the number of institutes and also the quality of higher education in India. To reach and achieve the future requirements there is an urgent need to relook at the Financial Resources, Access and Equity, Quality Standards, Relevance, infrastructure and at the end the Responsiveness.

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