

Higher Education: Issues and Challenges to Sustain in the Global World.

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Abstract

In this competitive world, only our higher education can take us ahead of others and can be considered as an important tool in transforming the economy of the country. The higher education in India is one of the largest systems in the world which is expanding leaps and bounds. As the nation's economy rests on the higher skills and transversal competencies, higher education should equip its students with the advanced skills and knowledge which is required for the present setup of their career and profession. The higher education should take measures to cater to the need of manpower of the country and should have good governance in the educational institutes. Furthermore, academic and administrative reforms are needed to be implemented without further delay to enhance the standards of higher education. These issues are extremely important and require immediate attention of the Government so that the higher education contributes to the maximum economic growth of the country. Policy makers are therefore needed to show political acumen and shake up governing bodies to wake up, and do whatever necessary to take higher education, to unreachable heights and thereby contribute to the development of the country at large.

Key Words- Higher Education, measures, Administrative reforms, Policy makers, curriculum economy.

It is a well known fact that Indian Education system has changed and expanded dramatically over the last few decades. There has been a considerable increase in the spread of educational institutes along with the enrolment at every stage. It is one of the largest systems in the world. In this competitive world, only our higher education can take us ahead of others and can be considered as an important tool in transforming the economy of the country. Henceforth, investing in higher education is highly rewarding in order to strengthen the society and the nation at large. Due to the growing pressure of liberalization, privatization and globalization, an interesting relationship has developed between education and economy of the world, so rightly has been called as the knowledge driven economy. Education is an important determinant of the economic well being and ensuring equal access to education is viewed as the basic responsibility of the nation.

In the present time, it is the higher education that can provide qualified and trained human resource to keep pace in the fast changing competitive world. It has been rightly said that higher education plays a vital role in the economic development of the country. It has the ability to impart in-depth knowledge and understanding so as to expose the students to new frontiers and knowledge in various walks of life. It is here that the exploitation of knowledge plays a predominant role in changing the economy of the nation. It is thus evident that the foundation of knowledge society can be built on the fabric of higher education only, as it contributes enormously to nation building. Indian economy has been impacted by its higher education in a systematic manner. The two have shared a casual relationship and continued to evolve in a correlated fashion and is considered to be an important and powerful tool in transforming the economy.

The higher education in India is one of the largest systems in the world which is expanding leaps and bounds. We all know that knowledge is the key driving force and the ability of any country to emerge as a global power depend largely on its knowledge resources. To foster this change, a systematic transformation is required which constitutes higher education as the main constituents.

Where does our educational Institutes stand in the global scenario is a million dollar question. The borders of education are expanding its horizon like a vast ocean but how to make the most of it is the question? How can the policies be framed? How can they take into account the global dynamics in respect to technology, industry, research activities, innovations are some of the pertinent questions that keep us haunting? This paper highlights and examines the various question and tries to find out some answers so as the students can withstand themselves in the global market.

As the nation's economy rests on the higher skills and transversal competencies, higher education should equip its students with the advanced skills and knowledge which is required for the present setup of their career and profession. The updated skills and competencies will be greatly beneficial to the students to seize upon the opportunities for the ever changing market. There can be no other option than higher education to counter attack the repercussion heralded by Globalization.

However the challenges of globalization are posing threats to the higher education system in our country. In an environment of global competitiveness, it is important that our students are as competent as any other graduates of other country. This means that unless the quality and standards of higher education is enhanced considerably and sustained through high level of innovation, creativity and regular monitoring, it seems difficult for the Indian students to stand in the global competition. Hence it becomes extremely significant to maintain sustainable assessments and develop mechanisms in order to maintain quality and standards of the academic programmes.

The higher education should take measures to cater to the need of manpower of the country and should have good governance in the educational institutes. It ought to be more vibrant, competitive, meaningful and relevant as well as the quality has to be improved, mainly in view with its vast population, which should be an asset rather than a liability.

In the globalized world, India is trying hard to take up the responsibilities of facilitating and promoting economic policies that are in consonance with the norms of the global free trade, tax norms, privatization of public sector, environment etc. In this process education also becomes one of the commodities of international trade and is thereby experiencing an unprecedented sea change. There are new developments everyday in science and technology, internalization of education, the competitive atmosphere in educational paradigm shift are all responsible for upliftment of educational standards. There are lots of issues challenging the growth of higher education which are all the more complex and multifaceted. These issues are extremely important and require immediate attention of the Government so that the higher education contributes to the maximum economic growth of the country. Quality enhancement dimensions are very essential to lead towards quality enhancement in higher education which is as follows:

There is the need to revamp and redesign, the curriculum, which should be as per the industry need, of the society that is ever changing.

Course content, curriculum and pedagogical approach also needs modification with the changing times.

The most crucial factor affecting the higher educational Institutes is Innovative pedagogical approach which has to be applied in teaching learning process.

There should be a strong link between, research, learning and teaching.

From teacher centric approach to student centric approach is to be formulated.

Non availability of quality teachers also affects the growth of higher education.

Appropriate student support and progression contributing to quality enhancement and resultant motivation is required for the desired results.

Nurturing a quality culture, which will create an atmosphere, that is conducive to strengthen quality of teaching.

Student centric approach will definitely involve Inter University and interstate programmes in curriculum to provide a platform for the students.

The higher educational Institutes should not forget to value Effective leadership and good governance as it is also one of the major factors to improve education system.

Innovation and research is the most integral part of higher education which should become the need of the hour, hence extra stress to be given for high class outcome. Lack of research culture results in mediocre and poor quality research.

Learner should be equipped with vocational and professional skills to be employable in the employability sector which will mobilize the economy sector.

It is a known fact that teaching is one of the significant components of higher educational Institutes and henceforth, there is an urgent need for improving it. Teacher's professional competence and commitment determines the quality of the education. However it is widely accepted that teaching quality has deteriorated in the coming years which in turn has contributed to the decline of overall quality of higher education. Also some workable models of public private partnership need to be developed so that the objective is achieved without compromising with the quality and excellence.

Furthermore, academic and administrative reforms are needed to be implemented without further delay to enhance the standards of higher education. In order to ensure continuous flow of talented and qualified teachers the needs of consolidation and expansion of higher education, a special drive is needed to attract talents to pursue teaching and research as a career.

Another important aspect is to motivate our teachers to give their best. This will help in improving the standards of education in the country. Hence, there lies an urgent need to bring forth rapid changes in knowledge technology and the methods of conducting academic related work in such a way so that the institutes of higher education meet the challenges of Globalization.

The faculty members should always update their knowledge skills and adapt and assimilate newer technologies and use them to win jobs to stand in the global competitions. They should keep themselves updated and maintain high skill levels and equip with new concepts to keep themselves abreast with the changing times. They should arrive at meaningful and tangible ways to bring education at par with the global standards. They need to be adaptive, constantly changing and using world class strategies.

The vision, mission, policies and procedures should be changed and replaced by newer ones to fulfill local as well as global demands. Policy makers have to come forward and take concrete steps for the improvement of our educational institutes by improving the quality of its functional components Hence, it is utmost significant to identify the contemporary issues and challenges that are to be taken up to improve the educational standards and thereby contribute to the economic growth of the country.

This is a big question as to why Indian colleges and Universities lack behind when the students and their wards are ready to pay enough in terms of money, time and energy? The answer to it are many which contributes to its decline in terms of old infrastructure, outdated curriculum dysfunctional and primitive knowledge and lack of creative endeavors which are the integral components of the Modern times. That's the reason why Indian Institutes stand low in world global vision.

Thus to achieve stable and sustainable growth, we need a well educated, well equipped and adaptable work force to cope up the rapid changes and challenges and ensure that people can return to learning throughout their

lives. Our higher educational Institutes must improve the provision, accessibility and quality of the careers and employment related guidance to the students which will enhance employment potentials of the learners.

Higher education is the key to India's future progress. The centre of University curriculum should include things to help the students develop openness and integrate them for deep appreciation of the world in totality. It has to be more inclusive in nature raising fundamental questions that is integrative of multiple domains looking at them from different perspectives. The college experience of the student must be such that it should be a transforming experience and inculcate in the students a passion not only for learning but for life itself.

This will be in the interest of overall benefit of the country and can be considered as an investment which will reap benefits for a longer period of time. Thus higher education can contribute to the overall development as well as the economic growth of the country. Policy makers are therefore needed to show political acumen and shake up governing bodies to wake up, and do whatever necessary to take higher education, to unreachable heights and thereby contribute to the development of the country at large.

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