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**OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES EXISTING IN INDIAN HIGHER  
EDUCATION: A NEEDED PARADIGM SHIFT**

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**Abstract**

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**“ Education is not preparation for Life; Education is Life itself.” *John Dewey.***

Education is the mainspring of the creation and development of society and nation through fostering of human personality. It is a universal fact that in this period of knowledge and globalization, the most decisive role in the creation of a powerful and well developed nation is of the educational world only. Generally, higher education is shaped by the knowledge, analysis, research and application of methods through which a generation rich in knowledge has to be created which is composed of highest human values such as equality, harmony, scientific perspectives and humanity etc. To fulfill these, it is expected and indispensable that by teaching and training the youth of the society, they can be turned into high level sociable creatures.

As India strives to compete in a globalized economy in areas that require highly trained professionals, the quality of higher education becomes increasingly important. Higher education is extremely diverse and the challenges and issues faced by higher education institutions are just as diverse.

This paper aims to identify emerging predicaments, challenges and suggestive panacea in the field of Higher Education This paper also presents a bird’s eye view of the structure and salient features of higher education sector prevalent in India by analyzing the current scenario, the existing issues and challenges of higher education system. Finally the paper concludes by suggesting some recommendations based on the underlying principles of education with dynamic and positive viewpoint, focusing mainly on strategies that can be employed that is modern, liberal and can adapt to the changing needs of a changing society, a changing economy and a changing world.

**Keywords - Higher education, Panacea, Challenges and Predicaments**

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**Introduction :** Education is the most important weapon for the betterment of humanity as well as in bringing modernization in civilization. In every regime education is considered to be the most essential pillar that holds whole nation together and leads the country towards ultimate success. Education can be perceived as a human asset that enhances knowledge, skills, talent, abilities and capabilities in making person's life much more valuable. When we talk about quality education it is the excellence of knowledge and information that spreads from educational professionals and platforms to make bright future. It is desire of every individual to spend a comfortable life by following ethics of life, and education is considered to be the only key that can fulfill this statement. Higher education plays an important role in the all around development and growth of an individual as well as the nation. It imparts in-depth knowledge in different aspects of life. Further, it not only broadens the mental abilities of the individual within a narrow specialization but also gives a wider perspective of the world around. The main goal of higher education system is to educate, to train, to undertake research and to provide services to the need of the community. In the context of globalization, the scope and demand for higher education is increasing day by day and this demand can only be fulfilled by the quality higher education.

The Indian growth rate in the last two decades can directly be attributed to the higher educational system. Our country needs to regress towards transformation of Universities and higher technical education institutions to completely bring its reformation. For this, we need to safeguard the interest of young researchers and must provide a stronger platform for research and ensure quality education.

Indian higher education is in need of serious profound reforms. We need to enforcing higher standards of transparency, strengthening of the vocational and doctoral education pipeline, and professionalization of the sector through stronger institutional responsibility would help in reprioritizing efforts and working around the complexities.

## Challenges in Higher EducationIn India

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- **Paucity of resources:** India's expenditure on higher education remained largely stagnant as a percentage of its total budget hover around an average 1.47% over 12 years to 2018-19. The massive enrolment in higher education is managed by state universities and their affiliated colleges. However, as compared to central

universities these state universities receive very small amounts of grants. The central universities and their colleges utilizes nearly 65% of the University Grants Commission (UGC) budget and only 35% is been utilised by the state universities and their affiliated colleges.

- **Teaching calibre:** The quality of teacher matters. In fact, it is the most important factor that influences student achievement. One of the major concern of deteriorating condition of INDIAN higher education system is the exiguously handled state of teaching at this level. Unskilled, untrained educators are being employed for the sake of casual teaching that some or the other way hamper with the interest of the learner.
- **Teacher vacancies:** UGC in its letter ( dated 4 June 2019) to all Universities, colleges and Deemed-to be Universities expressed its concern over the shortage of quality teaching faculty in Higher education system which however is affecting the quality of higher education. According to All India Survey on Higher Education 2017-18, the number of total teachers at University level is around 1.58 lakh out of which 63.6% are males and 36.4% are females. At college level, the number of teachers are 10 lakh with 57% male teachers. In Standalone institutes, total number of teachers is 1.20 lakh with 59.02% male teachers. Looking at female per 100 male teachers, there are 57 teachers at University level, 75 and 69 female teachers per 100 male teachers at college and Stand Alone Institutions, respectively. In different types of Stand Alone Institutions, the number of female teachers per 100 male teachers is varying significantly as there are only 47 female teachers per 100 male teachers in Technical/ Polytechnic Institutions, 68 in Teacher Training, 62 in PGDM Institutions and 22 in Institutions under Ministries which is the lowest. Shortage of quality teaching faculty in HEIs is one amongst the many issues presently confronting the higher education system in the country. This is also affecting the quality of higher education. Therefore, these guidelines should be followed by Higher Educational Institutions to ensure timely filling up of vacant faculty posts with appropriately eligible and competent candidates .
- **Mushrooming of Low Quality Institutes:** Due to mushrooming of many Low quality institutes the educational standard in higher educational sector has been affected beyond words. Low quality institutes get easy grants and permission and thus make huge profits disregarding what is expected most out of it viz. effective learning environment. They

focus is more on marketing and their lucrative business is to make use of high advertising tool to fetch maximum admissions which apparently hampers the spirit of higher education, meant to produce qualified and skilled professionals.

- **Lack of skill based learning**

Due to lack of wisdom and awareness towards vitality of skill based learning students prefer routine way of education. Skill based learning is significantly important as it focuses more facilitating manual competencies thereby providing exposure to practability and usability.

- **Lack of relevant opportunities**

We feel privileged studying in some of the best academies, but the relevancy of these institutions were a far cry from most of the renowned organizations. We could easily reason among ourselves like why none of the single Indian Universities exist in worlds top ratings? Our institutions aim more at forcing knowledge in the minds of the young learner who apparently force fed plenty of textbooks with relatively lesser time on hand on project based learning. Due to lack of relevant training opportunity students remain unemployable.

## Panacea to Higher Educational Problems

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- **All** Universities and colleges should have clearly defined mission, goals, and objectives guide faculty, administration, staff, and governing bodies in making decisions related to planning, resource allocation, programs and curriculum development, and definition of program outcomes. These goals and objectives ought to specialize in student learning, , other outcomes, and institutional improvement.
- The budget should be appropriately allocated by the govt. to cater the need of burgeoning youth population in higher education to compete globally.
- Funds should be mobilized in state universities channelized through industries, companies, donations etc.
- Various Faculty Development Programmes should be organized at the University level. These programmes should encourage faculty members to participate in various sessions conducted under the programme and highlight their calibre that may help in improving and enhancing the quality of education at higher level.
- In order to maintain the quality of education, regulatory arrangements should be by the accreditation committee at the higher educational level. Basic minimum standards should

be guaranteed to meet the demand. The National Board of certification ought to act as a catalyst towards quality improvement and quality assurance of upper technical education..

- There is need to encourage various reputed rating agencies and associations in the process of rating our Universities and institutions. A sturdy rating system will rise healthy competition among universities and would help in improving their performance.
- Collaboration between Indian and International higher education institutes must be promoted by government, accompanying association between research laboratories for better quality and collaborative research.
- There should be a multidisciplinary approach in higher education so that students knowledge may not be restricted only up to his own subjects

## Conclusion:

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Education is a process by which a person can form and strengthen his body, mind and character by bringing his head heart and mind together thereby enabling oneself to develop an all around personality. Higher education in India has expanded very rapidly in the last six decades after independence yet it is not equally accessible to all. Higher education in India has distended very rapidly within the last six decades .India is a country with immense human resource potential, to utilize this potential properly is the issue to be discussed. The biggest challenge is to utilize the benefit from the available opportunities in order to withstand the deteriorating quality of higher education in India.

There can be so much said about our education system as a tall hill that we as a nation have to climb to reach at the top. Reform is the need of the hour. It should not be name sake but should be enough to bring change in the field of education. There is a need to have innovative and transformational approach implemented in primary to higher education level to make Indian educational system globally more relevant and competitive.

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