## Challenges before Higher Education in India

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**Abstract**

During the past twenty years, a new paradigm of the function of higher education in society has gradually emerged. As The shape of global culture and economic balances have shifted as we made our way into the 21st century. States must provide the necessary financing so that universities can carry out their public-service function. Current needs suggest that we must learn to view the world and therefore education, in a new way. Complete revamp is needed to meet the present demand and address the future challenge that India is about to face. New initiatives like Hackathon, curriculum reform, anytime anywhere learning through SWAYAM, teacher training are all aimed at improving quality. These need to be effectively implemented.

To reap the diverse culture demographic dividend and to maintain peace and social harmony among them quality education with values are the necessary area to focus. So the Challenges of Higher Education for higher education special reference with India are discussed in the present paper.

**Key Words:** higher education

During the past twenty years, a new paradigm of the function of higher education in society has gradually emerged. In their places has been put a view of higher education in which universities are meant to serve society, primarily by supporting the economy and promoting the quality of life of its citizens. While it is true that universities still retain their

role as the "conscience of society," the critical function of universities has been displaced in favour of a more pragmatic role in terms of the provision of qualified manpower and the production of knowledge.

Our imperfect world is advancing relentlessly towards uncertain future scenarios, and we must try to redirect it towards sustainability, that is, towards a new way of doing things in order to improve our environment while at the same time achieving justice, social equality and economic stability. However change is impossible without learning, just as learning is impossible without change.

**Our Current Scenario**

India's higher education system is the world's third largest in terms of students, next to China and the United States. In future, India will be one of the largest education hubs. India's Higher Education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of Universities/University level Institutions & Colleges since independence. The diverse and heterogeneous society of the new millennium is characterised by a series of internal crises in the welfare state.

Despite these challenges higher education system of India equally have lot of opportunities to overcome these challenges and have the capability to make its identity at international level. However, it needs greater transparency and accountability, the role of universities and colleges in the new millennium, and emerging scientific research on how people learn is of utmost important. 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 Need for a New Education**

In the beginning, education and the ideals it embodied aspired to create a "perfect" citizenry. Later, the objective shifted to ensuring that citizens were well-trained, and more recently it shifted once again to the awakening of the critical spirit. Today, the ideal is creativity: the capacity to learn and a lifelong willingness to face new things and modify learned expectations accordingly; there can be no learning without re-learning, without the revision that must be undertaken when we realise the weakness of what we thought we knew. In a knowledge society, education is the capacity to be creative in an environment of

particular uncertainty, the capacity to properly manage the cognitive dissonance that gives rise to our failure to comprehend reality (Innerarity, 2010). Therefore, in the world of liquid modernity, we must move away from sporadic education and towards lifelong learning.

## Reformulation of Higher Education

Current needs suggest that we must learn to view the world and therefore education, in a new way. Higher education has in the past demonstrated its crucial role in introducing change and progress in society and is today considered a key agent in educating new generations to build the future, but this does not exempt it from becoming the object of an internal reformulation.

At the international level, there are two main challenges. The first is the role of supranational organisations such as UNESCO in advancing the prospection of trends and improvements, as well as in promoting networking and twinning programmes among institutions.

The second international challenge is to encourage international cooperation between institutions in order to share knowledge across borders and facilitate collaboration, which, furthermore, represents an essential element for the construction of a planetary (Morin, 2009) and post-cosmopolitan citizenship (Dobson and Bell, 2006)

States must provide the necessary financing so that universities can carry out their public-service function. States may also enact laws to ensure equality of access and strengthen the role of women in higher education and in society.

The following are the challenges faced by universities and other institutions of higher education:

- Changes in universities as institutions and at the level of internal organisation. These changes should aim to improve the management of resources (human, economic, etc.) and be restructured to improve internal democracy. Universities must continue their mission to educate, train and carry out research through an approach characterised by ethics, autonomy, responsibility and anticipation.

- Changes in knowledge creation. Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches should be taken and non-scientific forms of knowledge should be explored.

- Changes in the educational model. New teaching/learning approaches that enable the development of critical and creative thinking should be integrated. The competencies common to all higher-education graduates should be determined and the corresponding expectations should be defined. In a knowledge society, higher education should transform us from disoriented projectiles into guided missiles. Teaching and learning must be more active, connected to real life, and designed with students and their unique qualities in mind.

1. The Rising Cost

- One of the primary issues facing higher education is the rising cost of education balanced against the benefit of a college degree.

- As valuable as a college education is, the cost is often the first and most important factor people face in weighing the value of universities.

- Forbes reports that the rising cost is amplified by a diminishing field of well-paying job opportunities. The result? Many recent graduates are underemployed and face massive student loan debt.

2. Declining Completion Rates

- With increasing costs for college, it shouldn't come as a surprise that there's also a rise in the number of students who don't complete their degrees.

- Less than fifty percent of students complete their degree within six years. Although many of these students transfer and complete their education at another university, a large number never finish. This includes both two-year and four-year's institutions. As many as one in three students drop out entirely and never finish their degrees.

- A college education is considered the primary mark of a well-educated workforce. The low completion rates are an indicator that the United States lags behind other countries with higher rates of completion.

3. Growing Privatization of Public Colleges and Universities

- State funding for colleges and universities has steadily decreased since the beginning of the 21st Century.

- This trend is nation-wide and is expected to continue. As funding for higher learning institutions decrease, universities must seek funding from private sources. Some universities have even made some of their high-profit programs, like business schools and law schools; fund themselves through a combination of student tuition, businesses and other private sources.

4. New Methods and Curricula

- In other matters, the changes in teaching methods and curricula bring challenges. By and large, teaching methods are moving away from the old-fashioned model of lectures aimed at passive audiences.
- Universities also recognize that uniform methods of learning and evaluation are becoming outmoded. More student-centered forms of criteria are being used to evaluate learning and success. Team teaching and peer-led teaching models are also emerging as alternatives to the old professor/student dynamic.

5. The Role of the University, Free Speech and Campus Civility

- As is apparent to anyone who watches the news, these issues aren't going away anytime soon. The university has historically been an oasis of freedom of speech and freedom of expression for students and faculty alike.
- It's been the mission of higher education in the United States to ensure that these freedoms are treasured in institutions of higher learning.

**Challenges in the Higher Education System in India**

The problems that confront higher education in India today are low rates of enrolment, unequal access, and poor quality of infrastructure and lack of relevance.

1. Presently, education standards of higher education, research and innovative skills for novel ideas are not on par with international community in most of the universities of India.
2. There is an increasing gap between education and employability. Many of industrial persons complained about the quality of students coming from colleges. Mostly, students are lacking in job skills.
3. As per recent studies, around 50% of faculty are working in colleges based on contract. In long term, teaching with contract faculty has serious implications on quality and research.

4. Many of private colleges started to receive funds from UGC and fee refunds from state governments. Specifically, in south India every year, there were many seats vacant in engineering.

**Measures needed to improve innovation in universities:-**

- Research cannot be improved merely by regulating universities, instead they need efforts to create enabling atmosphere for which it is imperative to grant more autonomy, better funding and new instruments to regulate work ethic.

- New initiatives like Hackathon, curriculum reform, anytime anywhere learning through SWAYAM, teacher training are all aimed at improving quality. These need to be effectively implemented.

- As India wants to transform its universities into world class institutions, it must safeguard the interests of young researchers and thousands of temporary faculty members by expediting the permanent appointments in a time-bound framework and transparent manner.

- Establish world-class multidisciplinary research universities

- Create a master plan for every state and union territory

- Each state must establish an integrated higher education master plan to provide an excellent education for all its residents.

- Attract the best and the brightest talent to be faculty members

One of the fundamental changes India must institutionalize is a radically new compensation and incentive structure for faculty members. A flexibility to pay differential salaries based on market forces and merit must be part of this transformation.

**Conclusion:**

- The global culture and economic balances have shifted as we made our way into the 21st century.

- The strict divide between public and private has been blurred and new relationships between the private sector and public sector have unfolded in response to global changes.

- These shifts and changes are reflected in some of the issues and challenges facing higher education as we enter 2020.

- Additionally, the cultural and political climate of the country is being challenged at some fundamental levels, and with this comes disagreement and conflict.

- These issues, disagreements and conflicts also present challenges to higher education for the coming year.
- Of course, universities have always faced a variety of challenges and have always managed to find solutions. We should expect that to be the case with these challenges. Thankfully, we live in a country where learning matters. We can be confident that universities will be present to both educate us and enlarge our minds.
- On top of this, it's essential to remember that education is critical. Those who miss out on higher learning often find their opportunities limited. Even though many universities are confronting challenges, we shouldn't expect to see a decline in higher education.

Coordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education falls under the union list as per seventh schedule of our Constitution. When considering the nation as a whole it is evident that rural India still trying hard to enter the higher education sector.

The total population between the ages of 15 and 24 in India is 234 million. If India is to meet its 30 percent GER target by 2020, about 40 million students would be enrolled in the higher education system in 2020.Currently, and around 18.5 million students are enrolled in the higher education sector. The problem is that as increasing numbers come out of the high school system, we just don't have the capacity to absorb them into the college system. There is a massive mismatch in the supply-demand, of proportions that have never been seen anywhere or anytime in the world before.

Thus a complete revamp is needed to meet the present demand and address the future challenge that India is about to face. To reap the diverse culture demographic dividend and to maintain peace and social harmony among them quality education with values are the necessary area to focus. Our goal to be a world power, the resolving and restructuring of higher education is must, then only we will be able to harness the human potential and resources of nation to the fullest and channelize it for the growth of the nation. In the Union Budget for the financial year 2018-19, Education sector has witnessed an increase of almost 4% in terms of funds allocation. The Union Cabinet has taken a decision recently to give due importance to the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2013 to provide strategic funding to eligible State higher educational institutions. 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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