

COMMERCIALISED HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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“Education is the manifestation of the divine perfection, already existing in man. Education teaches mankind, qualities, moral values and spirituality”.

Swami Vivekananda

Abstract:

India's higher education system is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China. Indian higher education has a complex structure challenged with many contradictions, still has great possibilities. Good education is seen as a stepping stone to a high flying career. Education System in India currently represents a great paradox. Every citizen of the country should get equal and quality education. When the days go, the education has also becomes commercialized.

Keywords; Higher Education, Commercialization, Quality of education, Educational Institutions.

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INTRODUCTION:

True education is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, moral, and social faculties, the four dimensions of life, for a life of dedicated service. Education is a systematic process through which a child or an adult acquires knowledge, experience, skill and sound attitude. It makes an individual civilized, refined, cultured and educated. For a civilized and socialized society, education is the only means. Its goal is to make an individual perfect. Every society gives importance to education because it is a panacea for all evils. It is the key to solve the various problems of life.

MEANING OF EDUCATION

“Life without education is meaningless and like the life of a beast. Every aspect and incident needs education for its sound development”. Education is a continuous and lifelong process. It starts from the womb of the mother and continues till death. It is the process of development from infancy to maturity. It includes the effect of everything which influences human personality. Education is the dynamic process which imparts knowledge to both children and the teacher. It teaches the value of mankind, qualities of discipline and moral character to the individual. It promotes human senses, mind, behaviour, activities; skills are trained in a constructive and socially desirable way. It directs and instructs an individual to fulfill his desires and needs for exaltation of his whole personality. Thus, education is a systematic process which promotes both individual and the society.

TRENDS IN GROWTH OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

The institutions of higher learning in India fall into the following broad categories:

- a) **Universities:** These are established by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature and are of unitary or affiliating type. They are called Central Universities and State Universities respectively.
- b) **Deemed to be Universities:** These institutions are given deemed to be university status by the Central Government on the recommendation of the UGC in terms of Section 3 of the UGC Act. Some of these institutions offer advanced level courses in a particular field or specialization while others award general degrees.

- c) **Private Universities:** These are established by various State governments through their own legislation.
- d) **Institutes of National Importance:** These Institutes are declared as such by the Government of India by an Act of Parliament and are empowered to award degrees. In some cases, such Institutes are also set up by the Government through an Act of State Legislation.
- e) **Premier Institutes of Management:** These are the Institutes that have been set up by the Central Government and are outside the formal university system. They offer Post-Graduate, Diploma Programmes which are equivalent to Master's Degree Programmes in area of management.

TABLE: NO: 1
TYPE OF INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

S.No	Type of Institutions	As on 2014
1.	Central Universities	44
2.	State Universities (public + private)	460
3.	Institutions of National Importance	67
4.	Deemed Universities (public +private)	129
5.	Affiliated colleges	35,539

Source: Data compiled from UGC website

While other universities in the country are established by the State Governments, a Central University in India is formed by the Government of India, by an Act of Parliament. The Government of India is responsible for arranging, allocating and distributing financial resources required by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for the establishment of Central Universities in India. Currently there are 44 Central Universities in India.

TABLE: II

ALL INDIA GROWTH OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Year	Number of Students enrolled
1985-86	4285489
1995-96	6574005
2001-02	8964680
2002-03	9516775
2003-04	9953508
2004-05	10481042
2005-06	11028020
2006-07	11602583
2007-08	12207085
2008-09	1,36,41,808
2009-10	1,48,13,155
2012-13	2,41,80,000

QUALITY OF EDUCATION:

Education was something that was always driven by devotion and thought. Helped by their own volition, teachers were successful potters moulding men and women into the embodiment of an intangible divine force, of rectitude. But the establishment of a commercial education system manufactures solipsists but does not nurture altruists.

Central issue of commercial education is changing role of the teacher. The most sacred, authentic and spiritual profession in the world is to be a “TEACHER”. From the time when education started its first phase of commercialization, the responsibilities of the teacher too, have been compromised. The teachers should be the role model for the future generation. The professionalist have to come out from static to dynamic nature.

In India, over the years, there have been high peak in starting professional and in general higher education institutions not only to meet the growing demands but also to realize the huge and quick profits potential. Education today is an object of business which has serious and negative effects on our society. The more one can pay, higher the education he can get. Every year, number of students going for higher professional education is increasing in India and therefore, good opportunity exists for few institutions to make money by offering such courses. Here, privatization alone is not the criteria to evaluate the commercialization of education.

EDUCATION MAKES A MAN:

The goal of education should be the full flowering of the human on this earth. According to a UNESCO study, “the physical, intellectual, emotional and ethical integration of the individual into a complete man/woman is the fundamental aim of education.” The goal of education is to mould the children into human persons committed to work for the creation of human communities of love, fellowship, freedom, justice and harmony. Students are to be molded only by making them experience the significance of these values in the school itself. Teachers could achieve this only by the lived example of their lives manifested in hundreds of small and big transactions with students in word and deed. A good education should make the student self dependent, a better citizen, a rational consumer and more than a good human being. But, in many cases, situations become worse and the students lack in knowledge, moral values, good profession, etc.

Questions arise here, Does the commercialized education teaches moral values and knowledge?

Lack of employability skills or employable talent among Indian graduates is the current problem in Indian job market. The reasons cited are lack of skills, obsolete syllabus, poor academic delivery, lack of work culture exposure and emphasis on just scoring marks instead of gaining knowledge. We are, thus, surviving with a mediocre higher education system in the global market. This is an open secret now with many industry bodies coming out with research reports and many eminent personalities expressing their opinions on the situation.

Experts talk

The following report states the employment status of higher education graduates.

- **Nasscom report** – According to Nasscom’s report of the 37 lakh graduates coming out every year only 25% of are employable in the IT-BPO sector. Especially when it comes to tech graduates only 35-40% are readily employable. Further, while the industry is updating itself very fast with the global market requirements our education system is still lacking behind.

- **The ‘Metro Man of India’ E-Sreedharan** According to him, we have enough number of engineering colleges producing lakhs of engineers every year. He quotes a survey according which only 12% of the current engineering graduates are employable, 56% can be made useful through further training and the remaining 36% were not even trainable. He emphasized the point that the present curriculum is not in sync with the industry needs, it is not even upgraded frequently to the changing industry needs. **He also mentioned that poaching and lack of integrity are two main issues with the current graduates who are doing jobs for the sake of remunerations.**

- **Prathibha Patil** - The former President of India expressed her views on Indian education system saying – “Our system must be revolutionized and the institutions must be revamped to go to the next level of the education ladder to produce a generation of skilled, educated, trained, productive and employable youngsters. As India is blessed with great number of young population, our education system must make sure to fully equip this generation before they enter the work sphere.”

- **India Labour Report – 2012** – It is a report compiled by Team Lease Services & Indian Institute of Job Training (IIJT). According to the report enrollment in higher education in India surged to 15.3 million up from 1 lakh in 1947. However, 58% of India’s graduates have some degree of unemployability and they lack formal on-the-job exposure.

- **National Employability Report – Engineering Graduates, 2011** – This report was released by Aspiring Minds, one of the leading employability measurement companies in India. They conducted a study specific to Engineering graduates which revealed that out of five lakh

engineers India produce annually, only 87,250 are employable for IT services sector; only 13,400 are employable for IT product sector, only 46,100 are employable for KPO sector etc. According to the study the increase in number of colleges is directly impacting the percentage of employable graduates every year. The report concluded saying improving the quality of education in the existing colleges is the need of hour.

CONCLUSION

Education today is an object of business which creates negative impact on welfare of the society. The more we pay more the higher education. This situation should change. If it is MBA 5 lakhs, engineering 40 lakhs, medical crores and crores. If the society provides education for the sake of crores, no one could expect the individual to be moral and knowledged. Contradictory, the teacher pays 30 to 50 lakhs to get settled in government institutions. To conclude, education in 21st century does not produces an individual with moral values, skill based, knowledge and a good citizen. Government should take initiatives to revolutionize the Indian Education Structure from the primary level.

“EDUCATION SHOULD MAKE A MAN RATHER MONEY”

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