EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION

This paper aims to identify emerging issues and challenges in the filed of Higher Education (HE) in India, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. Once we realized that the India is the highest HE-System itself. I have tried to focus on the issues related to student and issues related to largest academic system in the third world, with more than of five million students taking HE in more than 12000 colleges & universities. India is also the third world research super power, spending a large amount over it (8%) the planning and reform of higher education itself is very difficult problem as it is primarily dominated by the most dominant politicians, who run the institution as the commercial & profit making industry. An educationist have rightly pointed out that the Indian Higher Education in contradictions pockets of research are substandard colleges, the best graduated are successful in the world market but unemployment at home is a reality for many. Scholarship is often superseded by politics and in many institutions crisis is the norms.

Emerging Issues

No doubt that India faces today a number of problems pertaining to illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, crisis of moral and spiritual values. But in the last few years every individual, a parent, guardian, teacher, administrator or nation is concerned with the problem of student unrest is as under:

1. The participation of students in demonstrations, strikes, processions, mass meetings, walk outs, setting libraries on fire, damaging laboratories and university properties, indulging in ragging like activities on campus. These are the nation wide issues emerged out of students' unrest.

2. Economic difficulties: The majority of students come from the ordinary class and many of them are unable to provide for their minimum necessities of life. Economic miseries have grown due to the rising prices, habits of wasting money on luxuries. Students hold part time jobs in order to pay for their educational expenses and must divide their attention between a job and university career. These are some of the causes of students' unrest. It is very difficult to enumerate all the causes of student unrest as they cover a wide spectrum of spheres.

3. The student in modern society is involving more intensely in social change. The modern student is breaking away from the traditions and restrains, new culture and new thinking – Gandhi-giri for Gandhi's philosophy, *Anna-giri* for Anna Hajare's anticorruption mission is coming into existence on the campus.

4. Glamour on the campus affordable or not for that purpose our students are ready to go an extreme.

5. The techno savvy generation of students has arrived and their increased potential and aspiration for techno based learning cannot be overlooked and therefore, keeping pace with this new generation learners is emerging as one of the most important issues in Higher Education.

6. The concept of effective governance in HE sector needs to be thoroughly innovated to be able to effectively deal with the new challenges confronting on us.

7. The poor performance of the universities in research- It has been observed that India shows poor status in research and development, research per million is just 194 which is very low compared to other countries.

8. Low expenditure on Higher Education figures related to expenditure on higher education is not satisfactory.

9. Status of Higher Education in India Even though the HE system of India is third largest in the world but it has many issues like:

    i)   Access to the higher education system is still restricted to a small portion of the society.

    ii) Low public expenditure on HE as percentage of GDP.

    iii) Large rural-urban divide in access and

    iv) Shortage of faculty and poor infrastructure

    v)   are required to be focused in proposed action plan in Higher Education in India.

Emerging Challenges

Education, Commission, 1964-66 rightly pointed out, saying, 'The destiny of India is being shaped in her classrooms.' In fact, classrooms are the places where the future citizens of the country are reared, trained, educated and motivated to accept the new challenges and to face the changing situations.

"Indian higher education, has grown dramatically in the past six decades but this expansion has been largely unaffected by the many plans and proposals to guide it. At the same time that expansion has been the hallmark of higher education and systemic reforms have largely failed, there has been much change in Indian Higher Education of this change has been negative deteriorating standards for much of the system, student political activism, the like and there is little doubt that there characterizations are correct...." (UGC & Higher Education system in India, by-Sharda Mishra)

The system of Indian Higher education is the second largest in the world which fulfills the educational needs of millions of students who come from different sections of the society because it is the student community that can help to generate healthy academic atmosphere in institutions of higher learning. No doubt that India faces today a number of problems pertaining to poverty unemployment disappearance of moral and spiritual values. But in the last few decades a nationwide problems/challenges have emerged in Higher Education system in India they are discussed as under.

In the globalized economy, the competence and the quality of our product have to meet the world standards. Globalization is progressing so rapidly that we have no alternative rather than to accept the fact and that the Higher Education has been playing crucial role in preparing ourselves for task.

Our heterogeneous education system, based on geographical, rural-urban, rich-poor set up has posed in great challenge for the educational institutions. Varieties of colleges, universities, technical institutions have produced and different types and quality of Education. Some of them are really imparting qualitative education while a few others are doing the dirtiest job. Thanks to UGC, for publishing the list of such a fake Universities and Institutions indulging in educational malpractices.

Another challenge that Higher Education has to face is the **teaching of English in the multilingual context**. Language has been accepted as a major vehicle for conveying thoughts and feelings and there by storing our experiences and establishing relationship in the society yet, the teaching of languages in general and the teaching of languages of instruction in particular is taken for granted which is unacceptable in the multilingual milieu of globalized world. Therefore, the use of languages other than English in higher education needs to be viewed creatively. Most important of all, there is a need to improve language competence in general.

Interference of political factors:

Most of the Institutions, imparting education (Aided-non-aided) are owned by the dominant political leaders, now playing key role in governing bodies of the Universities. They have established their own youth cells and encourage students' organization on political basis. They exploit the students' energy for their political purposes. The students forget their own objectives and begin to develop their careers in politics.

Lack of Moral values:

Rapid growth of science and technology and subsequent industrialization has caused a great and danger to our old moral and values. The younger generation's dissatisfaction and revolt is the outcome of a decaying system of values.

Economic Difficulties:

Is one of the most troublesome changes that the present higher education system has imposed on the communities? The numbers of students are coming from the ordinary classes; many of them are unable to provide the minimum necessities of life for themselves. Economic miseries have grown due to the rising prizes, habits of wasting money on luxuries, increasing population, shortage of food supply, corruption, selfish etc. students hold part time jobs in order to pay for the their educational expenses and must divide their attention between a job and College/University education. Near about seventy five percent of the total students community today, have been facing the financial problems. Earn while learn scheme cannot adequately support student to face economic challenges.

CONCLUSION

The Higher Education system is witnessing significant transformations and reforms. The globalization of economic activities and development in science and technology accelerate the emergence of new types of higher education institutions. On several occasions, however, resources have been found to implement significant new initiatives in higher education. The

establishment of the institutes of technology few decades ago is an example. The IIT have proved highly successful in terms of providing high quality higher education in specific fields. They have, when compared to the traditional colleges and universities, been quite expensive.

In general, however, funds have not been available for significant reforms in the mainstream sector of higher education i.e. the colleges and universities.

Higher education in India plays many roles. It is of extraordinary importance to many and reforms are often seen as significant threats to specific, social arrangements that provide benefits to powerful groups.

The politics is the result and most often the changes are not implemented language has been a similar issues in which government attempted to solve in difficult social and political problem through policy relating to higher education. To conclude, Higher education in India is an extraordinarily important part of modern Indian society and it is intertwined in the political and social systems of the society. It is in need of change, development and important. In order to effectively plan for reforms and improvement, it is necessary to have in realistic perceptions of what is possible and what is not.

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