

# Higher Education System: Growth, Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

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**Abstract:** The world has understood that the monetary achievement of the states is specifically controlled by their instruction frameworks. Training is a Nation's Strength. A created country is definitely an informed country. Indian advanced education framework is the third biggest on the planet, alongside the United States and China. Since freedom, India as a creating country is disagreeably advancing in the instruction field. Despite the fact that there have been parcel of difficulties to advanced education arrangement of India yet similarly have part of chances to conquer these difficulties and to improve advanced education framework much. It needs more prominent straightforwardness and responsibility, the job of schools and colleges in the new thousand years, and rising logical research on how individuals learn is of most extreme imperative. India need very much talented and exceptionally taught individuals who can drive our economy forward. India gives exceptionally talented individuals to different nations in this way; it is extremely simple for India to exchange our nation from a creating country to a created country. The present examination expects to feature the difficulties and to call attention to the open doors in advanced education framework in India.

**Keywords:** Education, Opportunities, Challenges, Colleges, Universities

## 1. Introduction

India's advanced education framework is the world's third biggest regarding understudies, by China and the United States. In future, India will be one of the biggest training centre points. India's Higher Education area has seen an enormous increment in the quantity of Universities/University level Institutions and Colleges since freedom. The 'Directly to Education Act' which stipulates obligatory and free training to all kids inside the age gatherings of 6-14 years, has achieved an upset in the instruction arrangement of the nation with insights uncovering a stunning enrolment in schools in the course of the most recent four years. The inclusion of private part in advanced education has seen exceptional changes in the field. Today over 60% of advanced education organizations in India are advanced by the private area. This has quickened foundation of establishments which have started in the course of the most recent decade making India home to the biggest number of Higher Education organizations on the planet, with understudy enrolments at the second most noteworthy (Shaguri, 2013). The number of Universities has expanded multiple times from 20 of every 1950 to 677 out of 2014. In spite of these numbers, global instruction

rating offices have not put a large number of these establishments inside the best of the world positioning. Likewise, India has neglected to create world class colleges. Today, Knowledge is control. The more information one has, the more enabled one is. Be that as it may, India keeps on confronting stern difficulties. In spite of developing interest in training, 25 percent of its populace is as yet unskilled; just 15 percent of Indian understudies achieve secondary school, and only 7 percent alumni (Masani, 2008). The nature of training in India whether at essential or advanced education is altogether poor when contrasted with real creating countries of the world. Starting at 2008, India's post-auxiliary foundations offer sufficiently just seats for 7 percent of India's school age populace, 25 percent of showing positions across the nation are empty, and 57 percent of school educators need either an ace's or PhD degree (Newsweek, 2011). Starting at 2011, there are 1522 qualification giving designing universities in India with a yearly understudy admission of 582,000 (Science and Technology Education, 2009) in addition to 1,244 polytechnics with a yearly admission of 265,000. Be that as it may, these foundations face deficiency of personnel and concerns have been raised over the nature of instruction (Mitra, 2008). Regardless of these difficulties advanced education arrangement of India similarly have parcel of chances to conquer these difficulties and have the capacity to make its character at global dimension. Be that as it may, it needs more noteworthy straightforwardness and responsibility, the job of colleges and schools in the new thousand years, and rising logical research on how individuals learn is of most extreme vital. India gives exceedingly talented individuals to different nations subsequently; it is simple for India to exchange our nation from a creating country to a created country.

## 2. Growth of higher education sector

In India As higher education systems grow and diversify, society is increasingly concerned about the quality of programmes, public assessments and international rankings of higher education institutions. However, these comparisons tend to over emphasize research, using research performance as a yardstick of institutional value. If these processes fail to address the quality of teaching, it is in part because measuring teaching quality is challenging (Hernard, 2008) India has been always been a land of scholars and learners. In ancient times also, India

was regarded all over the world for its universities like Taxila, Nalanda, Vikramshila and its scholars. By independence India had 20 universities, 500 colleges enrolling about 2, 30,000 students. Since independence India has progressed significantly in terms of higher education statistics. This number has increased to 659 Universities and 33023 colleges up to December 2011-12. Central Government and state Governments are trying to nurture talent through focusing on the number of Universities and Colleges for expansion of higher educations. There is no doubt to the fact that much of the progress achieved by India in education has come from private sector. In fact the public sector and private sector is not in opposition to each other but they are working simultaneously in Indian education sphere. UGC is the main governing body that enforces the standards, advises the government and helps coordinate between center and states. The chart 1.1 & 1.2 shown below depicts the growth of universities and colleges in India from 1970 to 2012 respectively. The number of universities has grown more than six times in last four decades and the number of colleges has been increased from 3603 in 1970-71 to 33000 colleges in 2011-12. The growth of universities and Colleges in India from 1970 to 2012 Chart

### 3. Challenges

In Higher Education in India It is our 69th year of independence still our education system has not been developed fully. We are not able to list a single university in top 100 universities of the world. Various governments changed during these six decades. They tried to boost the education system and implemented various education policies but they were not sufficient to put an example for the universe. UGC is continuously working and focusing on quality education in higher education sector. Still we are facing lot of problems and challenges in our education system. Some of the basic challenges in higher education system in India are discussed below: Enrolment: The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of India in higher education is only 15% which is quite low as compared to the developed as well as, other developing countries. With the increase of enrolments at school level, the supply of higher education institutes is insufficient to meet the growing demand in the country. Equity: There is no equity in GER among different sects of the society. According to previous studies the GER in higher education in India among male and female varies to a greater extent. There are regional variations too some states have high GER while as some are quite behind the national GER which reflect a significant imbalances within the higher education system. Quality: Quality in higher education is a multi-dimensional, multilevel, and a dynamic concept. Ensuring quality in higher education is amongst the foremost challenges being faced in India today. However, Government is continuously focusing on the quality education. Still Large number of colleges and universities in India are unable to meet the minimum requirements laid down by the UGC and our universities are not in a position to mark its place among the top

universities of the world. Infrastructure: Poor infrastructure is another challenge to the higher education system of India particularly the institutes run by the public sector suffer from poor physical facilities and infrastructure. There are large number of colleges which are functioning on second or third floor of the building on ground or first floor there exists readymade hosieries or photocopy shops. Political interference: Most of the educational Institutions are owned by the political leaders, who are playing key role in governing bodies of the Universities. They are using the innocent students for their selfish means. Students organise campaigns, forget their own objectives and begin to develop their careers in politics. Faculty: Faculty shortages and the inability of the state educational system to attract and retain well qualified teachers have been posing challenges to quality education for many years. Large numbers of NET / PhD candidates are unemployed even there are lot of vacancies in higher education, these deserving candidates are then applying in other departments which is a biggest blow to the higher education system. Accreditation: As per the data provided by the NAAC, as of June 2010, "not even 25% of the total higher education institutions in the country were accredited. And among those accredited, only 30% of the universities and 45% of the colleges were found to be of quality to be ranked at 'A' level". Research and Innovation: there are very nominal scholars in our country whose writing is cited by famous western authors. There is inadequate focus on research in higher education institutes. There are insufficient resources and facilities, as well as, limited numbers of quality faculty to advice students. Most of the research scholars are without fellowships or not getting their fellowships on time which directly or indirectly affects their research. Moreover, Indian Higher education institutions are poorly connected to research centers. So, this is another area of challenge to the higher education in India. Structure of higher education: Management of the Indian education faces challenges of over centralisation, bureaucratic structures and lack of accountability, transparency, and professionalism. As a result of increase in number of affiliated colleges and students, the burden of administrative functions of universities has significantly increased and the core focus on academics and research is diluted (Kumar, 2015).

### 4. Opportunities

In Higher Education India is a large country, with an estimated population of young people aged between 18 to 23 years to be around 150 million. The sheer size of the market offers huge opportunities for development of the higher education sector in India. India now boasts of having more than 33,000 colleges and 659 universities, which has been quite a remarkable growth during the last six decades. The year 2012 witnessed 21.4 million enrolments, which makes India the 3rd largest educational system in the world. Unfortunately, the educational infrastructure of India is inadequate to handle such huge volumes. In spite all the government spending in the

educational sector, it is just too insufficient to meet the growing requirements. Therefore, higher Education sector has now been identified as one of the promising areas for private and foreign investments. It offers immense investment opportunities in both non-regulated and regulated segments (Nexus Novus, 26 July, 2013). Indian higher education system is growing very fast irrespective of various challenges but there is no reason that these Challenges cannot be overcome. With the help of new-age learning tools, it is easy for country like India to overcome these problems and bring a paradigm shift in the country's higher education sector. With such a vibrant country with huge population properly educated, the possibilities are endless. If knowledge is imparted using advanced digital teaching and learning tools, and society is made aware of where we are currently lagging behind, our country can easily emerge as one of the most developed nations in the world. There are opportunities for strategic engagement and capacity building in higher education leadership and management at the state level. There are opportunities for India to collaborate at national and international level on areas of systemic reform, including quality assurance, international credit recognition, and unified national qualifications framework. Equality of educational opportunity in higher education is considered essential because higher education is a powerful tool for reducing or eliminating income and wealth disparities. The idea of equalizing educational opportunities also lies in the fact that "the ability to profit by higher education is spread among all classes of people. There are great reserves of untapped ability in the society; if offered the chance they can rise to the top. A great deal of talent of the highest level is, in fact, lost by an inegalitarian system of education" (Balachander, 1986). The need to enhance the employability of graduates is presenting entry points for collaboration in enterprise education and entrepreneurship, links with industry, research skills and the wide range of transferable skills, including English. The emerging interest in Indian higher education institutions in the vocational skills market provides areas for potential engagement with international partners. There is a need to build stronger relationships and increase mutual understanding in higher education by increasing support and participation in platforms (conferences, workshops, seminars) which enable debate and dialogue with other countries of the world. (British Council, 2014).

### 5. Suggestions

*Improving the System of Higher Education:* There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approach from primary to higher education level to make Indian educational system globally more relevant and competitive. Higher educational institutes need to improve quality and reputation. There should be a good infrastructure of colleges and universities which may attract the students. Government must promote collaboration between Indian higher education institutes and top International institutes and also generates

linkage between national research laboratories and research centres of top institutions for better quality and collaborative research. There is a need to focus on the graduate students by providing them such courses in which they can achieve excellence, gain deeper knowledge of subject so that they will get jobs after recruitment in the companies which would reduce unnecessary rush to the higher education. Universities and colleges in both public private must be away from the political affiliations, Favouritism, money making process should be out of education system etc. There should be a multidisciplinary approach in higher education so that students' knowledge may not be restricted only up to his own subjects.

### 6. Conclusion

Education is a process by which a person's body, mind and character are formed and strengthened. It is bringing of head, heart and mind together and thus enabling a person to develop an all-round personality identifying the best in him or her. Higher education in India has expanded very rapidly in the last six decades after independence yet it is not equally accessible to all. India is today one of the fastest developing countries of the world with the annual growth rate going above 9%. Still a large section of the population remains illiterate and a large number of children's do not get even primary education. This is not only excluded a large section of the population from contributing to the development of the country fully but it has also prevented them from utilizing the benefits of whatever development have taken place for the benefit of the people. No doubt India is facing various challenges in higher education but to tackle these challenges and to boost higher education is utmost important. India is a country of huge human resource potential, to utilize this potential properly is the issue which needed to discuss. Opportunities are available but how to get benefits from these opportunities and how to make them accessible to others is the matter of concern. In order to sustain that rate of growth, there is need to increase the number of institutes and also the quality of higher education in India. 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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