

## AN OVERVIEW: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Foziya Khan\*<sup>1</sup>, Dr. S.S. Sisodia\*<sup>2</sup>

\*<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, B. N. University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.

\*<sup>2</sup>Professor And Hod, Department Of Pharmacology, B. N. College Of Pharmacy,  
Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.

DOI : <https://www.doi.org/10.56726/IRJMETS45051>

### ABSTRACT

Every country's backbone is education. If a country's education system is incapable of contributing to its progress, it will not be able to survive in the competitive world. The higher education system is critical to the country's entire growth, including industrial, social, and economic development. India, being a developing country, has made steady development in the sphere of education since independence. Although India's higher education system has faced numerous obstacles, it also faces numerous chances to overcome these challenges and improve the higher education system. Higher education in India is a significant tool for developing a knowledge-based information society in the twenty-first century. In both quantitative and qualitative terms, the 'Higher Education' scenario has been steadily improving. This paper includes the current scenario, emerging challenges and issues and strategies to improve the quality of "Higher Education" in India.

**Keywords:** Education Challenges Strategies, Opportunity, Knowledge, Information.

### I. INTRODUCTION

In India, higher education is viewed as one of the paths to social strength and moral growth for the country. Higher education has long given people the opportunity to think about social, cultural, moral, economic, and spiritual issues. Higher education also contributes to national growth by providing specialized information and skilled individuals.[1]

India, behind the United States and China, has the world's third-largest publicly supported higher education system.[2] Despite having a long history of high-quality higher education, India has struggled to address the issues of access, equity, and quality until recently. Higher education is very important for a developing country like India as it promotes human growth.[1]

### II. CURRENT INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SCENARIO

Higher education is critical for providing high-quality education and advancing the country's economic prosperity.[3] After independence, India's higher education system has evolved in a remarkable fashion. University plays a key role in ensuring the vibrancy of our higher education system by developing, disseminating, and managing intellectual assets.[1]

As of 2020, India has over 1000 universities, with 54 central universities, 416 state universities, 125 deemed universities, 361 private universities, and 159 Institutes of National Importance, such as AIIMS, IIMs, IITs, IISERs, IITs, and NITs.[4,5,6,7,8,9,10] According to the MHRD, there are 52,627 colleges operating under these universities, including government degree colleges, private colleges, freestanding institutes, and post-graduate research institutions.[11]

### III. EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

India has always been a multi-cultural, multi-religious, and multi-lingual country. Every state has its own particular personality. Dealing with the diverse aspirations of such people in a democratic democracy is a difficult task for the Indian government.[12]

The Indian higher education system faces a number of fundamental issues, including:

**1. Teaching Quality:** The first difficulty that India's higher education faces is a decline in teaching quality. Teachers are unprepared and unqualified for the jobs they are given. As a result, this is a major issue. The challenge that Higher Education faces is teaching English in a multilingual environment.[13]

**2. Inadequate Value Education:** Schools and universities do not provide value education. Misuse of educational technologies, inventions, and innovations.[1]

**3. Poor Womens Education:** Women's literacy rates are significantly lower than men's.

Girls are discouraged from attending school, college, or university due to conservative cultural norms. Despite the government's efforts to encourage girls to attend school, such as providing midday meals, free books, and uniforms, girls' attendance is low. Even though the legal age of marriage is eighteen, many girls marry significantly younger. As a result, female dropout rates are high at the secondary level.[14]

**4. Political Factor:** Political sway is also a problem and a problem in higher education. Because they own the majority of educational institutions, the main political figures are now playing crucial roles in governing bodies of universities (Aided-non-aided). They have developed their own youth cells and support political student organization. They take use of the kids' energy for political gain.[13]

**5. Moral Issues:** Rapid advances in science and technology, as well as subsequent industrialization, have posed a serious threat to our traditional morals and values. The discontent and insurrection of the younger generation is the result of a deteriorating value system.[15]

**6. Corruption in Education:** The quality of education has been abused by corruption in the Indian school system. It is a major source of black money.[1]

**7. Economic Difficulties:** The majority of students come from ordinary families, backward classes, and villages, many of them are unable to provide for their families' basic needs, therefore their focus is split between part-time work and college/university studies.

**8. Curriculum Issues:** Indian higher education is beset by a lack of high-quality curricula. The curriculum in most higher educational institutes is obsolete and irrelevant. [16]

**9. Privatization:** Approximately half of India's higher education is provided by private institutions, the majority of which are unassisted and extremely expensive for students. It is also a significant issue.

**10. Financing:** Higher education in India is likewise beset by financial difficulties. Yes, India already spends a lot on higher education and cannot afford to spend much more. However, if higher education quality is to be enhanced, more funding is required.[17]

**11. Quota system:** Introducing a reservation and quota system for various groups in education degraded its quality. Even deserving general category candidates are overlooked, and due to quota constraints, we must choose someone from the restricted group.[18]

**12. No project based learning and Strategy:** Project-based learning is rare in higher education. Young graduates must gain new skills, particularly vocational skills that will help them find work. As a result, project-based learning is not a priority for us. It is not sufficient to have only theoretical knowledge; we also require practical knowledge. In India, there is no higher education strategy.[13,16]

#### IV. STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Knowledge is always regarded an important element in promoting the development of a country; economic progress of a nation is achievable if there is a dynamic growth in the education sector.[19] The following solutions are proposed to revitalise the higher education system and make it a proponent of state progress:

**1.** Colleges and universities should have a good infrastructure in order to attract students. Many students still lack access to the internet and Wi-Fi. As a result, it must be ensured that every college and university has a good infrastructure that will attract students.[20]

**2.** It is critical for both public and private institutions and colleges to be free of political meddling.

**3.** To make India's educational system more globally relevant and competitive, new and transformational approaches must be implemented from primary to higher education levels.

**4.** In order to meet society's demands, colleges and universities should offer need-based, job-oriented courses. Combinations of arts subjects and computer science, as well as science and humanities or literature, should be established so that students can work after being hired in some companies.

**5.** It is critical to provide financial help to economically disadvantaged groups and to provide possibilities for SC and ST students to pursue higher education.

6. We require more universities because our population is large and the number of universities now available is insufficient.

7. Admission to educational institutions should be based on merit rather than caste or religion. Financial aid to students based on caste and religion should be discontinued immediately.

8. Many schools and universities accept bribes from students in exchange for admission prospects. It needs to be halted right away.

9. Collaboration between Indian higher education colleges and top overseas institutes must be encouraged by the government. With the advancement of transportation and communication, there is an increasing emphasis on international cooperation and action to find appropriate answers to challenges in the global village.

10. The government should provide special funding to universities and colleges in underserved areas in order to repair infrastructure and foster innovation.

11. The manner of education must be student-centered and dynamic. New attitudes and skills must be instilled in teachers. Learning to learn, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to become must all be addressed by higher education methods.

12. Furthermore, in a large country like India, where the government is unable of meeting all of the demand for higher education, privatisation of higher education is a must.

13. In practise, it may be claimed that a woman's higher education is more significant than a man's. Higher education may assist women in moving forward, overcoming all forms of prejudice, and dealing with the issues that face her life, family, society, and country.[1,20]

## V. CONCLUSION

Education is the process of forming and strengthening a person's body, mind, and character. India is now one of the world's fastest developing countries, with an annual growth rate of more than 9%. A significant portion of the population is still illiterate, and many children do not receive even primary education. Without a doubt, India faces numerous obstacles in higher education, but addressing these challenges and boosting higher education is critical. Opportunities abound, but the question of how to reap the benefits of these opportunities and make them available to others is a source of anxiety. In order to maintain that rate of growth, the number of colleges as well as the quality of higher education in India must both increase. Financial Resources, Access and Equity, Quality Standards, Relevance, Infrastructure, and, finally, Responsiveness must all be reconsidered in order to meet and exceed future standards.

## VI. REFERENCES

- [1] Mandal D. Current Issues and Problems of Higher Education in India. International Journal of Research. 2021 Feb 9; 7(1): 22-30.
- [2] "India Country Summary of Higher Education". World Bank.
- [3] Hossain A & Mondal GC. History and Milestones of Higher Education in India. International Journal of Research and Analytical Review. 2019; 6(1): 978-983.
- [4] India 2009: A Reference Annal (53rd Edition). 237
- [5] "Statistics- Ministry of Human Resource Development". mhrd.gov.in
- [6] "Central Universities". Ugc.ac.in. Retrieved 6 June 2011
- [7] "List of State Universities". 27 May 2011
- [8] "Deemed University- University Grants Commission". ugc.ac.in. Retrieved 6 June 2011
- [9] "Private Universities- University Grants Commission". ugc.ac.in. Retrieved 1 August 2011
- [10] "The Institute of National Importance". Archived from the original on 7 October 2009
- [11] "Archived Copy". Retrieved 3 June 2020
- [12] Chahal, M. Higher Education in India: Emerging issues, challenges and suggestion. International journal of business Quantitative Economics and applied management. 2015; 1(11): 67-74.
- [13] Kumar, Anuj & Ambrish, Higher Education: Growth, Challenges And Opportunities, International Journal of Arts, Humanities and Management Studies. 2015; 1(2).
- [14] Malik MAUD & Jabeen H. Higher Education in India: Women Economic Employment, Why So Few Among So Many? International Journal of Economics and Financial Issues. 2020; 1(3): 191-200.

- 
- [15] Krishnan, D. K, & Thamarasseri, I. Contemporary issues in Indian education. New Delhi: Kanishka publishers. 2013
- [16] Sharma S & Sharma P. Indian Higher Education System: Challenges And Suggestions. Electronic Journal for Inclusive Education. 2015; 3(4): 3-4
- [17] Lakshmanasamy T. Financing of Higher Education: A Study of Policy Options: An Unpublished Ph. D. Thesis, Department of Economics, University of Madras, Chennai. 2001.
- [18] Sharanabasappa, C. B, & Kadamudimatha, B.S. A study on higher education in India: Issues, challenges and direction. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development. 2017;188-191.
- [19] British Council, Understanding India- The Future of Higher Education and Opportunities for International Cooperation, 2014.
- [20] Singh V & Sharma N. Development of Higher education in India. New Delhi: Alfa publications. 2008.
- [21] Swamy, V.C. Higher education in India. New Delhi: Viva Books private limited. 2010.