# Higher Education System In Indian: Challenges & Suggestions

**[1]Dr. Dharma Ram Saran**

**Abstract**

Higher education system plays an important role for the country's overall development which includes industrial, social, economic etc. Indian higher education system is third largest in the world. The role of Indian higher educational institutes such as colleges and universities in the present time is to provide quality based education in the field of education, research etc to empower youth for self sustainability. This paper includes the key challenges that India is currently facing in higher education and also includes some initiatives taken by the government to meet those challenges.

**Key Words** : Higher education system, Empower, Self Sustainability.

## Introduction

Higher education means different things to different people. If we talk about higher education in terms of level, it means to gain higher educational qualification by the teaching-learning process in the higher educational institutes such as colleges and universities. Moreover higher education imparts knowledge, develops the student's ability and also gives him/her a wider perspective of the world around. Higher education becomes input to the growth and development of industry and also seen as an opportunity to participate in the development process of the individual through a flexible education mode

## [1]. Higher Education in India:

China and United States India has the third largest higher education system in the world in terms of size and its diversity and largest in the world in terms of number of educational institutions. After independence Indian higher education attain a massive growth[2].

In the Indian system, higher (tertiary) education starts after the 10+2 (i.e. ten years of primary and secondary education flowered by two years of senior secondary education). Framework of higher education in India is very complex. It includes various type of institutions like universities, colleges, institutes of national importance, polytechnics etc. Universities are also of different types like central universities which are formed by government of India, by an act of parliament which are responsible for arranging and distributing resources required by university grant commission(UGC), State universities, Deemed universities (aided and unaided) and Private universities[3].

India has a federal set-up and the Indian constitution places education as a concurrent responsibility of both the centre and state. While the centre co-ordinates and fixed standards in higher and technical education, school education is the responsibility of state [4]. Under the department of higher education there are several regulatory bodies and research councils which are responsible for the higher education in India.

**Regulatory Bodies:**

University Grant Commission (UGC)

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

Council of Architecture (COA)

Research Councils: Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)

Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR)

Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)

National Council of Rural Institute (NCRI)

Project of History of Indian Science Philosophy and Culture (PHISPC)

Challenges of Higher Education System in India:

• Gap between the Supply and demand: In higher education, India has a low rate of enrolment i.e. gross enrolment ratio (GER), at only 19%. If we compared to china and brazil GER is 26% and 36% respectively [5]

• Lack of Quality Research work: There is no shortage of funding for the top Indian Institutions such as IITs, IIMs and other institutes of national importance. However, budget for the Research is not under spent due to the insufficient good quality research work. Due to the limited focus on Research and Internationalization, very few Indian higher educational institutes are globally recognized.

• Number of Research papers published in India has increased continuously for the past few decades but reflected in low citation impact if compared with other countries like Germany, United States, China. and France

• Indian higher education is facing with the problem of poor quality of curriculum. In most of the higher educational institutes curriculum is out-dated and irrelevant.

• Shortage of Faculty and High Student-Faculty Ratio: In most of the state and central universities more than 30% of faculty positions are lying vacant. While the student enrolment in higher education is growing with faster rate in the last few years.

• Inadequate Infrastructure and Facilities: Apart from the highly recognized higher educational institutes in India most of the colleges and universities lack in the basic and high-end research facilities. Many institutes are running without proper infrastructure and basic facilities like library, hostels, transport, sports facility etc. which is desirable to rank the quality institution.

• Presently there is a very less collaboration of higher educational institutes with industries.

• Low employability of graduates is one of the major problems in India. Only a small proportion of Indian graduates are considered employable. Placement outcome also drop significantly as we move away from the top institutes.

**Initiatives taken by the government in the area of human resource development:**

• A project has been taken up to made a national digital library of eBooks on various subjects and topics and another set up through which highly qualified faculty of centrally sponsored institutions like IITs, IIMs and central universities would offer online courses free of cost.

• Another special scheme called "Udaan" for girl students has launched by the Central government. Under this scheme mentoring and scholarship will be provided to enable meritorious girl students to transit from schools to technical education without any difficulty and also to promote teaching and learning of mathematics and science at senior secondary school level by providing free resources

• The Central Government has also launched a scheme called Unnat Bharat Abhiyan for the promotion of technologies from the laboratory to the ground. Under the scheme, higher educational institutes would connect with villages in their neighbourhood and address the various problems faced by them. The scheme would particularly looking for the solutions for water management, organic farming, renewable energy, infrastructure and livelihood. IIT, Delhi is the coordinating institute of this scheme. About 130 villages have so far been adopted by IITs, NITs across the country under the scheme..

• Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan has launched to revive interest in the technology among youth through support for innovative learning based on observations and experimentation. The focus would be on learning outside the classroom through direct interaction with the environment around the educational institutions.

• Under the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) programme, India's ministry of human resource development and department of science and technology will "create a channel for US professors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to teach in Indian

academic and research institutions on short-term exchanges", as per the website of the US Department of State. Suggestions for Improving the System of Higher Education:

• There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approach form primary to higher education level to make Indian educational system globally more relevant and competitive.

• In higher educational institutes Industrial co-operation must be their for the development of curriculum, organizing expert lectures, internships, live projects, career counseling and placements.

• Higher educational institutes need to improve quality, reputation and establish credibility through student exchange, faculty exchange programs, and other collaborations with high-quality national and international higher educational institutes.

• Government must promote collaboration between Indian higher education institutes and top International institutes and also generates linkage between national research laboratories and research centers 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.

**Conclusion**

In this paper we have presented the present situation of India in higher education sector. We also identify the challenges like demand-supply gap, lack of quality research, problem of infrastructure and basic facilities, shortage of faculty etc in the higher education. The implementation framework for twelfth plan aims to focus on improving quality of state institutions, to revamp financial aid programs, to interlink expansion, equity and excellence. To improve the higher education system we need to improve teaching pedagogy, build synergies between research and teaching, and facilitate alliance of higher institutions among themselves, research centers and industries. This is necessary not only to take care of economic growth, but it is also essential for social cohesion and to empower the country's youth.

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