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Hurdles of Higher Education in India

VIDYADEVI PATIL

Principal.

Abstract:

Now a days world is changing very fast. A paradigm change is under way and this posse many new challenges to the established education system and practices. The challenges is to produce skilled man-power with adequate knowledge and skill to effectively confront the existing social and economic realities of today. The higher education has gained in the changing scenario of the country in which education is being considered as the most powerful weapon to build up a competitive society in correspondence with the global knowledge economy. But such as endeavour has given way to certain realities which are to be settled and solved to give higher education in our country a desirable dimension and direction.

INTRODUCTION:

Education is one that provides the thrust in getting ahead and building up a powerful democratic society. India is today at a cross road of emerging as a major player in the global scenario. But this half way dream of the country will be realized once the problems of our education system are identified and remedial correctly. While India's strength lies in higher education in the emerging global knowledge economy, India's main hurdle to achieving development also lies in education, as the quality of education remains poor for the majority of population. Thus it is high time India recognizes the importance of reforms in higher education which is the key to the realization of the vision of an inclusive society and vibrant democracy.

MAIN HURDLES OF EDUCATION:

Equity and Quality:

In India there is complex disparity in terms of demography and where there is no well devised system to ensure quality of learning either in higher education institutions at the lower level, striking a balance between the two goal of access and quality is indeed a difficult challenge. In our country degree of exclusion is not some for different group and region so large number of eligible young are unable to take advantage of higher education. It is significantly low in case of certain group and region.

Ex – While the extent of environment is low in case of Muslims, Hindus, ST, SC, OBC, women, rural population it is relatively high in case of Jain, Sikhs, Christians, Upper castes, men, urban residents or in certain regions.

Several indicators would show that disparities and deprivation of various groups have only worsened over the years. Thus an inclusive education system is still far away dream for India. Also there is no efficient mechanism to access quality in our education system. There is not sufficient literature on the estimate of quality and excellence of our higher education system. The picture in general is that our higher education system produces graduates that are unemployable though there is mounting skill shortage in a number of sectors. The standards of academic research are low and declining.

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The significant expansion of our higher education institution has definitely led to the improvement in the enrolment rate but without having any benchmark to measure the possible outcome of such expansion in terms of academics standard of faculty and student, quality of research, innovativeness and creativity.

Statistics suggest that by 2025 India will have a middle class of perhaps 500 million and a significant number of these large groups will demand access to higher education, creating huge strains on the system.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION:

Internationalization of higher education is the impact of globalization, yet without ignoring the major concerns of a nation. India passed bill of Internationalization in March 2010, but the problem is that India is used to see public as the sole provider of education services. Our higher education architecture has evolved consistently with such a monopoly. Shaking off this legacy and shifting to market based system to provide a congenial atmosphere to foreign providers will not be as easy task. There will emerge lot of operational challenges. Cultural dissimilarity and unfamiliarity with local market condition will complicate the situation. This problem is categorized as information asymmetry which occurs when entities from entirely different markets creep in the system.

In China, degree-granting foreign institutions need to collaborate with a local partner. In India, this is not mandatory. It allows the institutions to function independently or in collaboration. But for sake of better management most providers will scout for partners a long and arduous task. In addition foreign providers will find it difficult to handle the involvement of central and state government when such are the problems on the part of the foreign providers that may hold bade their prospects in India, in Indian side, there are other apprehensions too.

Despite India's dominant presence in the region, its influence in shaping higher education is insignificant.

Indian students are not only migrating to advanced countries of the west but a growing number is also going to countries like Malaysia, Singapore and China that are emerging as global magnets for international students.

Few Indian universities have either facility to staff for international student. Some policy makers see a significant potential for India as much of the higher education system is taught in English. However without significant potential for India as much of the higher education system is taught in English. However without significant investment in infrastructure as well as a more coherent policy, Indian initiatives are unlikely to succeed.

EROSION OF CORE KNOWLEDGE AREA:

There is also apprehension of losing the current hold of Indian professional at the international level in long run. The reason being negligence in the core areas of knowledge. To catch with the changing global economic scenario, higher education in India has become markedly tilted toward professional learning. Our production of professionals and for that matter improvement in professional learning is phenomenal. But worrying thing is in term of research and the purely academic disciplines such as mathematics, physics and literature. These core areas of knowledge shape the citizenry's mind, provide the milieu out of which emerge the engineer and fertilize the intellect of the nation. If India is to be a global economic power house, it is essential to nurture this pure knowledge sector.

REMEDIES:

Here are some solutions as below

1. Education at the primary, secondary and college level which serve as the feeding sources of higher education.
2. There is no uniform standard of education either at the school or the college level. Instead a differential pattern of education system is underway, catering to the needs of different strata of the society. More anatomy should have to be granted to the institutions of higher learning with a mechanism of further decentralization so that they can devise new techniques of excellence.
3. Complete transparency in recruitment and in the functioning of executive/ Academic bodies may go along way in reforming our higher education setup.
4. There is also an urgency to review the university act in different states and revise the same in the light of

the new requirements and the challenges being faced by the state universities.

5. New information technology should be utilized more appropriately to enhance administrative efficiency.

6. A less clumsy regulatory framework has to be evolved to give direction to the much debated and controversial move towards privatization.

CONCLUSION:

India is a country which still continues to have the world's largest number of illiterates and malnourished in a country with widening disparities like India, higher education is viewed as an instrument for fostering social mobility and policies must be formulated accordingly. This makes the role of the government crucial. Since market fails to ensure equal distribution of resources, the job of the government has to remain proactive not only in regulating the market but also in evolving transparency and democracy in higher education. Good research and teaching cannot be bought with money. Internal motivation is its pre-requisite. While inflated salary structure is one of the means to attract talented people to the job, other factors like the level of satisfaction.

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