

Progress and Prospects of Higher Education in India

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Abstract

Education is a life-long process, which by increasing experiences brings desired changes in a person's behavior. Education is the main source of development of any nation. Proper development of human resources is necessary for the development of any country. The important work of development of human resources can be possible only through education. Higher education has an important place from the point of view of development of human resources. Education is the source of light, which shows us the true path in different phases of life. Higher education is that form of education, which provides functional and behavioral specialty to man, that is, higher education orients man towards the specialty of life. For the sustainable development of a country, higher education is a main source for various walks of life such as social, political, cultural, scientific and technical etc. Universities and higher educational institutions create scientific and technical knowledge through their research and higher training, and help to transfer, disseminate and adapt this knowledge throughout the world, wherever it is created. Thus higher education is also an indicator of progress and prosperity of a country.

Keywords: Higher Education, Colleges, Universities, Privatization etc

Introduction

Higher education provides the basis for technological discovery and innovation. Supply of high quality skilled manpower to the economy. Modernity prevails in the society through the outputs of the higher education system. It provides the basis for social leadership, acts like a mantra in promoting universal values like humanity, tolerance, international goodwill etc. Therefore its importance and development cannot be denied.

The history of education in India is very old. When there was not even a trace of the so-called developed countries of the world, since then we had got the form of esoteric texts like Vedas. All the knowledge and science contained in them have not been revealed even today, that is, education in India is not the gift of foreigners, but India has been very prosperous in the field of education. There is no exotic plant of learning in India, there is no country in the world where the love of learning has originated so early or has exerted such a lasting and powerful influence.

Indian civilization is one of the oldest civilizations of the world. On the basis of the available evidence, it can be said that the Indian civilization was advanced

and prosperous in comparison to other civilizations of the world even at that time. Surely, the contribution of education must have been in the root of the prosperity of that time, because education and society are dependent on each other. The seed of education was sown in India in the distant past about 400 years ago. Visions of its harmonious form are from the beginning of the Vedic period. The basic reason for this was probably the oral form of the then education system, because the development of the Indian script system took place much later and after that the texts were scripted. All the literature prior to this was passed orally to the next generation and continued to prosper.

It is clear from the history of India that the political scenario of India has been of many ups and downs which also made its impact on the social system of India. Because of which there were many changes in the Indian education system as per the time and the spread of education continued continuously.

Higher Education in Independent India

In the ever-changing new social and political conditions of independent India, there was a need for such an education system which would provide a new direction to the youth so that they could give India a definite place in the world. Keeping this objective in mind, the Government of India appointed the

University Education Commission under the chairmanship of Dr S Radhakrishnan. The main objective of the commission was to present a report on Indian university education and to suggest reforms and expansions that were desirable to meet the present and future needs of the country.

Objectives of University Education Commission

1. To create citizens who make democracy successful,
2. All round development of the students,
3. To create the spirit of national discipline, international understanding, spiritual development, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity,
4. To create leaders who are visionary and courageous,
5. To create such youths who can take leadership in political, administrative and business sector,
6. Coordinating various types of knowledge among the students of the university and giving opportunities and means to achieve it, along with knowledge, giving opportunities for spiritual development,
7. Communicating the country's culture and civilization among the youth,
8. To pay attention not only to the mental development of the students but also to the physical development,
9. To prepare such personalities in India who can represent healthily in the fields of politics, administration, business, industry and commerce etc.
10. To establish the ideals of morality and good behavior among the youth of the universities and to develop the qualities of character, personality and discipline etc.

On the occasion of the convocation ceremony of Allahabad University, the then Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had said, "The responsibility of the university is to develop humanity, tolerance, logic, ideas and search for truth. H. Hetherington, in his book *The Social Function of University*, has described the work of the university as the exploration of that comprehensive form of knowledge which can be helpful in the development and progress of various areas of human culture.

Thus, it is clear that the aim of the university is not only to provide bookish knowledge to the students, but also to develop an entirely new vision of continuous thinking, contemplation and exploration to the students here, which not only develops the all-round development of the person but also helps the society. And also be helpful in fulfilling the needs of the nation and develop such consciousness among the youth that can make them real human beings full of all human qualities. If the university performs its duties properly, then the welfare of the nation and the people can be done. But at present the purpose of universities has remained just bookish knowledge. The circumstances of the country have changed, but the objective of higher education which was set by the British to serve their own interests, continues even after independence. Even today the aim of the Indian graduate remains only to get a degree and for him this degree is no more than a certificate to appear in competitive examinations. Today's student takes admission in graduation classes only for the purpose of holding degree and not for the development of knowledge and personality.

Thus we can say that after independence there has been a rapid growth in the field of higher education in India quantitatively but not qualitatively.

Reasons for Progress of Higher Education in India

- ▶ In the beginning we had to import intellectual ideas, new techniques etc. from foreign countries, we had to depend on them for our progress, so we had to leave dependence on others for our own progress.
- ▶ Higher education was needed for the development of its own ideas, inventions, new techniques, its educational structure, its curriculum. For this approach rapid progress was made in higher education.
- ▶ India need educated manpower for their implementation, as well as we need educated human resources for planned economic development. To fulfill this need, the progress of higher education was greatly affected.
- ▶ People who were suppressed backward for many years or centuries, attention was paid to the progress of higher education to bring them into the mainstream of the country.

- Increase in literacy rate due to universalization of primary education required more number of secondary schools and in the same way more number of higher educational institutions was needed to provide higher education to the students coming out of them. To fulfill this need, emphasis was laid on the progress of higher education.

Privatization of Higher Education in India

Privatization refers to a sector in which there is no involvement of the government. Opening of private higher education institutions by reducing the participation of the government in the field of higher education is called privatization of higher education. Privatization of higher education in India basically means reducing the economic share of the government.

Extreme Privatization- In this type of privatization there is interference of the government but it is very less.

Strong Privatization- In this type of privatization of higher education, the management of higher education is public, but the entire funds are arranged by private institutions (fees of students, among others).

Moderate Privatization- Under this, finance for higher education is arranged from other government sources.

Pseudo Privatization - It means that management of higher education by private institutions on government expenses.

Conclusion

Higher education has an important place from the point of view of development of human resources. Education is the source of light, which shows us the true path in different phases of life. Higher education is that form of education, which provides functional and behavioral specialty to man, that is, higher education orients man towards the specialty of life. For the sustainable development of a country, higher education is a main source for various walks of life such as social, political, cultural, scientific and technical etc. Universities and higher educational institutions create scientific and technical knowledge through their research and higher training, and help to transfer, disseminate and adapt this

knowledge throughout the world, wherever it is created. Thus higher education is also an indicator of progress and prosperity of a country.

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