

Higher Education in India

Dr. Sarika Pradiprao Auradkar

Assistant Prof.-in-English,
Shankarrao Chavan Mahavidyalaya,
Ardhapur Dist. Nanded.

Introduction:-

Indian Higher Education is the third largest in the world after China and United States in terms of enrolment. However, in terms of the quality, Indian higher education has till to pass many tests to meet with global competence. There appears an endless list of Indian problems with the higher education system. The present Higher Education system of India is producing graduates that are without employment. The standard of Academic Research is near to the ground. If we look at the imbalanced teacher-student ratio, rigid Academic structure, improper obligation of subject choice options, interference of politics in education sector, corruption, lack of innovations and inadequate sources of public funding are some of its crucial problems. Due to such numerous system deficiencies, higher education system of India is suffering. There are various and distinct issues which decide the status and strength of the Nation. But our Education System's issues play most important role in the status of our Nation and overall economic growth of our Country.

Aims and Objectives :-

- i) To search different Issues of Higher Education with their Problems and obstacles
- ii) To search the importance and Implementation of Academic, Administrative and Gender inequality in Higher Education in India
- iii) To search Challenges and opportunities of Higher Education in India.

With above aims and objectives my intention to write this paper is to take self comprehensive review of the Indian higher education system and study its need by identifying gaps for the bright future of our Education. Looking to the present scenario of the higher education in India, I tried to study it critically and completely in my present

Research Paper. At the outset, if we look at the Research Oriented Initiatives in higher education, we may say that the real system of higher education in India was implemented by Britishers to serve their economic, political and administrative interests. But after independence, higher education system has been expanded tremendously. If we look at the structure of Higher Education System it consists of 282 private universities, 123 institutions as well as 367 states and 47 central universities. MHRD has taken many initiatives to achieve the objective of quality, equity and accessibility. So National Knowledge Commission in 2006 recommended that there is a need to focus on quantity and quality of Higher Education. National Knowledge Commission also reports on major areas of concern like expansion and accessibility of higher education, governance and administration, contents in terms of curriculum and examinations and regulatory framework, institutional architecture of universities, financing and in the faculty and Research. The most important issues tried to solve with the help of the Research Oriented Initiatives are like RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchar Shikshan Abhiyan), Inlibnet (Information and Library Network), NAD (National Academic Depository), IMPRESS (Impactful Policy in Social Sciences), MHRD (Initiatives on Promotion of Research and Innovations), and Shodhganga, e-Shodh Sindhu, Stride and Swayam Prabha etc. In this way innovation has become synonymous with evolution and progress in life. Education is the only way to effectively train the population not only to benefit from the exploits and fruits of innovation but also to actively participate and contribute to this crusade for creating a better, safer and healthier planet.

When we look at the barriers and challenges in Higher Education it is our duty to solve the problem of Gender inequality because it finds in all sectors. Gender is a social construct that impact

attitude, roles, responsibilities and behavior patterns of girls and boys, men and women in all societies. Education sector is one of the affected areas where we see inequality. Female participation in Higher Education is less progressive particularly in the rural areas in the present era. Somehow the literacy rate shows progressive form but what is the reality? Still now girls have been facing barriers while taking the education. It is because poverty, social, cultural norms and practices, poor infrastructure, violence and fragility. She is constructed by the society needs. Her image, her life is not her own but it is designed by male dominated society. Gender discrimination, child marriage, Dowry system, feeling of insecurity and parents psychology are the major reasons that throws her out from the educational system. In this way all knowledge is within the human mind and education is the only way to recovers it. Hence, Swami Vivekananda very rightly said, "To educate your women first and leave them to themselves, they will tell you what reforms are necessary." But what we see, that is different condition of women related to her education. The Urban female literacy rate is 64 percent and rural women literacy rate is half of it. In our India many states have large rural-urban differences in female literacy.

If we try to look at the changing dimensions of Higher Education then the role of education has been the key factor of human progress. Without education human society cannot sustain itself in a good manner. Though education has a long and hard history the purpose of acquiring knowledge has changed as per the change in time. Not long ago, education was the driving force for intellectual prosperity but today it has become the means of sustainability. The time is not far away, when education will be the only thing that can keep humans alive. Therefore it can say that the dimensions of education have changed significantly in a very short span of time. The same thing has been explained with the help of time In Past- Education is used for 'Brain' but at present-Education used for 'Bread'. Similar to this, in future-Education is used for 'Breath.'

There are many challenges before Indian higher education system. The present system is based on traditional or general education where the students only get their degrees but they don't get their dignity. The problem of unemployment is very

crucial. The Indian Universities and colleges are not able to provide market driven courses and thus it is felt that Indian higher education is no longer 'productive one'. Apart from employability there are some serious issues like equity, access, relevance and quality in higher education.

In our critical study if we look at purpose of my paper I may say that in our higher education many major Issues are there. At present, India is facing many basic problems in our Higher Education. These include inadequate infrastructure and facilities, large vacancies in faculty positions, poor faculty, low student enrolment rate, outmoded teaching methods, declining research standards, unmotivated students, overcrowded classrooms and widespread geographic, income, gender and ethnic imbalances. Apart from these deteriorating standards, there is reported exploitation of students by many private providers. Ensuring equitable access to quality higher education for students coming from poor families is a major challenge. Students from poor background are not academically prepared to crack highly competitive entrance examinations that have bias towards urban elite and rich students having access to private tuitions and coaching. Education in basic sciences and subjects that are not market friendly has suffered.

Research in Higher Education institutions is at its lowest ebb. There is an inadequate and diminishing financial support for higher education from the government and from society. Many college established in rural areas are non-viable, are under-enrolled and have extremely poor infrastructure and facilities with just a few teachers. There is an absence of a well informed reform agenda for higher education in the country. A few efforts made now and then are not rooted in the new global realities based on competition and increased mobility of students and work force.

But with my own study in my paper, I may suggest some remedies for improving higher education in India. The foremost need of making drastic changes in the higher education is need of interlinking the enrollment ratio of students with the number of colleges and universities in the country. Infrastructure is required in a huge number to cope up with the competition of many private and foreign universities in India. A great deal of effort is also required for creating value for the education. Today

there is more and more requirement of skills based and industry oriented education for creating employment opportunities. Expected changes in Higher Education are such as: i) Skill based education, ii) Vocational courses, iii) Industry-college/university linkages iv) Self Employment short term courses and v) Extensive use of technology in higher education.

Conclusion:-

At last, to conclude my research paper, I may comprehend in my mind the proverb of Swami Vivekananda, "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man." (Advaita 1985) It means, Education is the effective way to make the life progressive and changeable. It is like a strong weapon to overcome the calamities which impact upon our life. It helps us to improve our life in a better way. Education certainly determines the quality of an individual's life. Education improves our skill, knowledge, personality and attitude. It helps us to find out the needs and limitations of our life. It enables to express our thoughts and views. It also increases our innovative thoughts. Higher Education is the vital part of any economy. The growth and the development of any country depend upon the development of human resource of that country. The human development is also very crucial in developing the society and bringing harmony in the world. Therefore the modern methods of teaching, learning, evaluation, research and employment generation are required in a great number. This responsibility lies upon the shoulders

of higher education in our India but without Plagiarism.

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