

Make India an International Hub for Higher Education – An Exploratory Study

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Abstract

In this study, an effort is made to explore the education matrix of India. The study revealed that present system of education focused more on academic examination but not on holistic development of the students. Therefore, there is urgent need for reorientation of the present Indian higher education system. In order to sustain the estimated rate of growth, there is need to increase the number of institutes and also the quality of higher education in India

1. Theoretical background

Education is not only for academic examination, employment and economic empowerment but also for human development. Education should make every individual capable physically, mentally, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. A research study conveys that Education has been found to be significantly related to the human development index. W. Edwards Deming, one of the world's greatest management and quality guru, when asked, what his one point recipe for sustainable development of the economy? He said that "HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IS IMPORTANT.

Higher Education in the present era is stimulated by economic consideration. Cut throat competition to achieve material success has made man mechanical. Rat race in the field of education and economic life can be seen in terms of insecurity, distrust, lack of fellow feeling etc. leading to discontent, frustration, sexual harassment, crime, drug abuse and suicide. The only solution to overcome this challenge is the introduction of good governance in Higher Education. The world renowned management guru, LATE PROF. C.K.PRAHALAD, stated that good governance is one of the fundamental requirements for inclusive growth of any economy.

Countries like tiny Singapore (population 5.3m) are planning to have 150,000 foreign students. Australia (population 28m) has nearly 400,000 foreign students and earns about \$14 billion per year! India (population 1,225m) has about 27,000 foreign students and has NO PLANS for any regulated increase, because of 'Controls' in Higher Education.

Lack of capacity and quality encourage 260,000 Indian students to leave India every year for foreign universities resulting in a foreign outflow of about Rs.75,000 Cr. per year. Assume 50% for 2 year Masters and 50% for 4 year undergraduate course, at any given time 460,000 students leave India per year!

Student bank loans are only Rs. 40,000 crores at present; this has a scope to go up to more than Rs. 100,000 crores once the quality of education improves within the country, in line with international standards. India requires additional 15,000 to 20,000 PhDs per year, the present structure may not be able to deliver. R&D in India is suffering!

2. Higher Education System in India – An Over View

Over the last two decades, India has remarkably transformed its higher education landscape. As a result, India has been able to provide low-cost high-quality education for students of all levels, with the effective use of technology with well and a student-centric learning-driven model of education, India has bettered its enrolment numbers.

In today's classrooms, the student is an active participant in the education process and the role of a professor is that of a facilitator as opposed to an instructor.

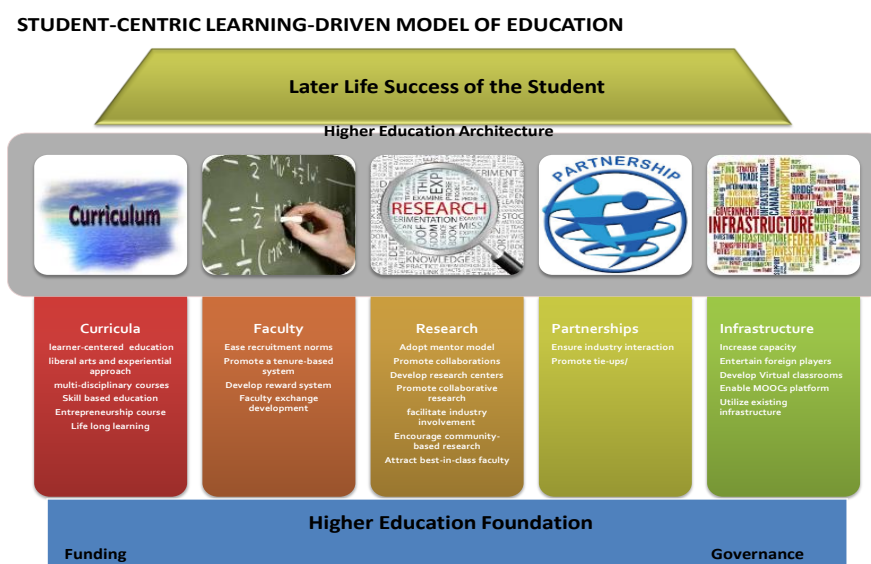
The instruction is designed to engage students in learning experiences that not only enable them to learn content but also to develop greater passion for learning enabling them to ‘learn to learn’ and to be lifelong learners.

Over the years, such emphasis on learning enabled Indian graduates to be independent and critical thinkers. Increase in collaborations between Indian and foreign universities for faculty support and curriculum design, joint research, student faculty exchange and twinning programs.

To build a 21st century model for higher education that is of high quality, yet equitable and affordable and makes India a role-model for a higher education system that is not just the best in the world but the best for the world.

3. The Road to Realize the Vision

We believed that to convert the India’s vision statement into potentiality, India needs three types of institutes – Foundation institutions, Career-focused institutions, Research-focused institutions



3.1 Strategies

If Indian education has to achieve excellence, quality, innovation and cutting edge R&D, the first step would be to deregulate and unchain the **Goddess of Learning**. Competition will induct quality, lower cost, innovation and excellence. Capitation fees will vanish once Higher education is decontrolled & 'Controls' are removed. The actual fees will come down due to competition. Poor students could get highly subsidized education. Deserving poor students will get scholarships and loans!

If Higher education is deregulated, like I.T., there is no reason why India would not earn US\$ 40 to US\$100 billion per year and provide at least 10 to 20 million additional jobs in the field of education alone!

3.2 The potentiality of India

- Current status – Gross enrollment ratio: 22.5% , On 2030 – gross enrollment ratio: 50%
- Current status - Only 10% of general graduates and 25% of engineers and MBAs are employable
- On 2030 - 90% of graduates readily will be employable ,Single largest provider of global talent
- Current status - Only 4 Indian institutes in the top 400 universities in the world, No institutes in the top 200 in the world, On 2030 - 20 Indian universities in the top 200 in the world
- Among the top 5 countries in terms of research papers and citations, Among the top 5 countries in terms of number of PHDs
- 5-6 Nobel laureates across categories from the Indian higher education system, India has set itself the target of establishing 10,000 community, colleges by 2030
- In order to sustain the estimated rate of growth, there is need to increase the number of institutes and also the quality of higher education in India.

To sum up, with well and a student-centric learning-driven model of education, India can improve its enrolment numbers. Reorientation of higher education in India will facilitate to make India an International hub for higher education and attract global learners from all over the world and makes India a role-model for a higher education system that is not just the best in the world but the best for the world.

Let us hope that all these efforts would lead to one magnificent phenomenon that all of us are longing to see – which also is the very purpose of Education – a smile on the face of the student.

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