

Privatization of Higher Education in India

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Abstract

The Government of India cannot be solving itself from the responsibility of providing higher education to its citizens. The Government is thus obliged to not only strive towards providing access to higher education to all its citizens but must also try and improve the quality of higher education in India. Due to scarcity of resources it is very difficult to meet the need of the people for further expansion of educational system. In order to provide these needs, a large investment is required. But in India lack of adequate funds, so there is a pressing need for privatization of Higher Education in India. Similarly in order to meet the growing needs of the student population for higher education in the country, it is an imperative for the Government to privatize higher education. The present paper study need of privatization of education, positive & negative aspects of Privatization of Higher education.

KEYWORDS: Privatization Of Higher Education, Education In India, Positive And Negative Aspects Of Privatization

Introduction:

Education is one of the most important needs of mankind. It helps man to teach values and apply the technical know-how in real life situations. Since the impact of privatization is penetrating all sectors of the economy, it is bound to affect education sector as well. The Government of India cannot be solving itself from the responsibility of providing higher education to its citizens. The Government is thus obliged to not only strive towards providing access to higher education to all its citizens but must also try and improve the quality of higher education in India. Due to scarcity of resources it is very difficult to meet the need of the people for further expansion of educational system. In order to cater these needs, a large investment is required. But in India lack of adequate funds,so there is a pressing need for the Private Sector to pitch in and that at the risk of privatization and monopolization of higher education by the Private Sector.

Objectives of the Study

1. To take the review of Indian higher education system.
2. To study the need of privatization of education
2. To assess the positive and negative aspects of Privatization of Higher education system.

Methodology

This study intended to examine the Privatization of Higher Education in India based on partially secondary and some extent of primary observation of the researcher. The data

has been collected and furnished from the official website of the HRD Ministry of India, University Grant Commission, Economic survey of India 2006-07, 2007-08 and other related research journals and books.

Review of Indian Higher Education System

The present format of Higher education in India was started in 1857 with the inception of universities in the three presidency towns. At present, India possesses a highly developed higher education system which offers facility of education and training in almost all aspects of human's creative and intellectual endeavors such as arts and humanities, natural, mathematical and social sciences, engineering; medicine, dentistry, agriculture, education, law, commerce and management, music and performing arts, national and foreign languages, culture, communications etc. Indian government has adopted policy of welfare state and providing facility of educational services to the people of India. Education has been a joint responsibility between the Union (central) and state governments. The Dept. of H. E lies within the Ministry of H. R. D. in the Union government. There has been phenomenal growth in the Higher Education System and a virtual explosion in the number of Universities and colleges. There were only 20 universities and 500 Colleges at the time of Independence. The following scenario shows the position of Indian university and colleges run by various institutions.

Table No-1
No of University and Colleges in India

Sr. No	University/ colleges	In the year 2010
1	Central University	42
2	State University	261
3	Private University	73
4	Deemed University	130
5	Autonomous Institutes	55
	Total	561
7	Total No of Colleges	31324
8	12 B Colleges	6257
9	2 F Colleges	6768

(Ref- as per HRD, Gov. of India)

Only 129 Universities and 2954 colleges/institutions have been accredited by NAAC till 2005 and some are reaccredited now.

Table -2
Student Enrollment & Faculties in India (in the year 2010-11)

Sr. No	Institutional Category	No of Students
1	Formal	146.25 lakh
2	In University	19.19 lakh(13.1%)
3	In affiliated Colleges	127.06 lakh (86.9)
4	Women Enrolment	(18.45%)
5	Women Enrolment in Professional Colleges	6.9 lakh
6	Faculty in University	1.0 lakh (14%)
7	Faculty in Colleges	5.99 lakh (86%)

(Ref- as per HRD, Gov. of India)

Need of privatization of education.

1. **Scarcity of funds:** In case of primary level of education, the state has been taken responsibility for the spread of literacy, especially in rural as well as urban areas. At the level of secondary, higher secondary and the college and university as well, public sector has played a dominant role in the development of education system. The demand for funds for the educational sector has to compete with the demand for resources for the other sector. It is, therefore, being felt that the private sector should be inducted in education so that it can share the burdens of the State in funding education.

2. **Knowledge Explosion:** The expansion of the horizons of knowledge is taking place at a rapid pace all over the world; the underdeveloped economies must keep pace with this explosion of knowledge. Knowledge industry is becoming a key factor in the process of development. So it is considered a necessary economic input and as such investment in education is treated as a factor contributory to human resources development. In this effort towards human resource development, the private sector is likely to be major beneficiary of the knowledge industry.

3. **Revolution of Information:** According to W.W. Rostow, the world is passing through the Industrial Revolution. This encompasses genetics, communications, robots, lasers and new industrial material and the various tools and products incorporating the microchip. Technological developments have increased the requirements of highly educated and well-trained technical manpower. The public sector is hampered by lack of resources and cannot meet the needs of industry and other sectors. Therefore, the private sector must be initiated in the programmes of training skilled manpower to take advantage of hi-tech opportunities.

4. **Prompt and effective steps in H.R Development:** Privatization can respond more promptly and efficiently than the public sector which is restricted with structural and operational inflexibilities to market signals or market demand for labour and take effective steps to promote human resource development to keep pace with the emerging requirements.

5. **Generate resources through privatisation:** Over the years, the public sector has failed to generate resources from the recipients of education. Education has become more or less a free public service. This has devalued education in the eyes of the recipients. Privatization, by charging the full cost or a substantial portion of the cost and at times, by charging cost-plus pricing for the service provided is likely to generate greater responsibility among the recipients of education i.e., the students. As a consequence, students are likely to insist on greater efficiency in teaching and improvement in its quality.

The positive aspects of Privatisation of Higher Education

1. **Remove Political Intervention:** In case of Private Universities, there would be minimal or practically no political intervention. This would be beneficial for the Universities in terms of being independent. The Universities would try and implement

new techniques, which would have otherwise been impossible without the permission of the State.

2. Meet Growing Needs of Population:The increasing demand for better quality higher education in India can be met only by Private Institutions complementing the Universities established by the State. The proportion of students opting for higher education in India is increasing at a rapid rate and the only feasible way out is the privatization of the educational system. The Government, with the Constitutional obligation to provide free and compulsory Primary Education, has increased the investment in Primary Education, as a result of which, the investment in higher education has proportionately decreased. In order to meet the growing needs of the student population for higher education in the country, it is an imperative for the Government to privatize higher education.

3. Removal of unethical Practices:Private Colleges that are affiliated to the Universities are independent as far administration is concerned. In case of Colleges established by the State, there may be unethical practices. There are innumerable cases which involve unethical practices in Government Colleges in India and many of them in the recent past. Private Colleges affiliated to Universities would run the risk of being stripped of their affiliation if they are caught engaging in such unethical practices by the relevant authorities.

4. Wide opportunities for students: Privatization of education provides various opportunities for the students such as vocational courses, diploma courses, interdisciplinary courses etc. which helps them for their career advancements. Courses will be diversified and students would have greater choices to select a particular course which suited to his interest, aptitude and ability.

5. Collaboration with foreign university: Private management of institutions are mostly prefer increase their Quality of higher education by the way of collaboration with foreign reputed universities at worldwide level.

6. Privatisation of university education will enhance mobility of teachers and therefore bring the homogeneity in teaching quality.

7. Flexibility in curriculum and evaluation: Private education in higher education throw deemed university it easy to follow flexible curriculum and continues evaluation than undesirable rigid system.

8. Competition for Quality enhancement: private institutions in higher education are competing with other institutions for increasing quality of education for the survive and attract student.

The Negative Aspects of Privatization of Higher Education

- 1. Fear of foreign monopoly:**If the Private Institutions are given too much independence, it would invariably lead to monopolization of higher education. This would lead to excess of problems such as a high fee structure, capitation fee, exploitation of professors, etc.
- 2. High amount of Capitation fee :**Most Private colleges although adhering to standard admission procedures like conducting entrance tests, interviews, etc. tend to admit

students by charging an very high amount as capitation fee. Merit invariably takes a backseat and those with the ability to shell out more money often tend to get admitted, without fulfilling the admission requirements.

3. **Lack of Govt. Control:** With the advent of privatization, there has been an enormous growth in the number of Private professional colleges. This rapid growth has no doubt contributed to a quantitative increase in the number of colleges providing higher education but this has been at the cost of quality, as the Government does not exercise sufficient control over 'unaided colleges'.
4. **Profit Making Motto:** With privatization, there is the risk of commercialization of education. Although a competitive atmosphere would be created, some colleges would concentrate on profit making rather than on improving the standard of education.
5. **Exploitation of society & staff:** Colleges which are privately owned and administered would exploit the teachers, professors, etc. by paying them amounts which are not in consonance with the amount specified by various regulating agencies of the State which regulate higher education, like the University Grants Commission, etc. This may lead to a slackening in the efforts of the aggrieved and may ultimately result in a fall in the standard of education.
6. **Illegal & Unethical Practices:** There have been a couple of cases in the recent past wherein colleges which received aid from the Government employed illegal and unethical practices, due to which the Government was forced to take over those colleges.
7. **Trend of Franchise & its Standard:** Foreign Institutions which have been allowed to enter into franchise with their counterparts in India have begun offering degrees, etc. These Foreign Universities may or may not be recognized in their parent countries due to which there is no control or restriction on the standard of education provided by these Universities.
8. **Small % of students opt for higher education:** A large number of students continue to go abroad for higher education. Only a very small percentage of the student population opts for higher education in India. This may be due to several factors which inter alia include the high fee payable, the capitation fee, the standard of higher education which is not as good as it ought to be, etc. Only 7% students reach up to the higher education.
9. **Increase in distance mode education:** With the advent of privatisation, there seems to be an emphasis on correspondence mode of education. This may not be conducive for a sound understanding of subjects.

Conclusion

nowa day there is definite trend towards privatization of higher education in India. Private enterprises could be encouraged to start professional institutions but it must be ensured that the entry of private enterprises into the scene does not lead to commercialization. The entry of Private enterprises would relieve the burden of the State in providing higher education to its citizens. Regulatory arrangement must be put in place before the private sector is allowed to enter the educational sector. However an improvement in the standards of higher education could be achieved only through a balanced relationship between the Public and the Private Sectors. Although

there are a couple of drawbacks with respect to privatization of higher education, it is sure to bring in competitiveness and on the whole restore the present educational system.

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