

Higher Education in Karnataka: Growth of Commerce Education

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Abstract

Education is one of the important factors to the development of a country. It should be transformed to the needs of the time and changing scenario of the world. It provides an opportunity to critically reflect upon the social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. India needs more efficient and educated people to drive our economy forward. There are many Indian around the corner who known for their capabilities and skills. To develop India as an education hub or to become a prosperous partner in global economy, but Karnataka has to qualitatively strengthen education in general and higher education with research and development in particular. This paper is mainly focused on the growth of higher education: an overview of commerce education in the state of Karnataka. We try to find out the initiatives taken by the state government to raise level of commerce education.

KEYWORDS: Higher education, commerce education, growth and performance

Introduction

Throughout history, education has been one of man's most important activities. In fact, man cannot carry on government, family life, religion, or earn a living without some sort of education. Education includes all the ways in which one person deliberately tries to influence the behaviour of another person. Informal education involves learning from people such as family and other agencies in the social and physical surroundings. The Commerce Education in India has changed in the last one decade. In fact, Commerce Education started with a view to prepare the manpower requirements of the industrial world at large. As a field of study, Commerce Education is almost a century old. It was first started in India in the year 1889. In the pre-independence era, it was treated as a centre for attraction with limited objectives of providing clerical and accounting personnel with an emphasis on business methods which widen due to the growth in trade, commerce and industrialization and then became a part of the main stream of higher education in India.

Now day's rapid expansion and innovation of the business system coupled with competition in higher education, the importance of commerce education as a field of knowledge is degrading day by day. In some colleges and universities in India, it is felt necessary to redefine this stream of knowledge and implant a new life in it. Education is an effective vehicle for producing the required skills to maintain economic growth. The benefits of education range from human to economic, social and cultural. At present most of the major industries of the world are controlled and owned by the developed western countries. To overcome lack of entrepreneurship in India, it is imperative for us to promote Advanced Commercial Education in our country.

Higher Education in Karnataka

Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) is an index which measures the enrolment in higher education of the population in the age group of 18-24. The survey has been conducted in Karnataka Jnana Aayoga (KJA) and its recommendations on higher

education; in Karnataka has a GER of 12.2 per cent with the GER for males being higher than for females. It means that 87.8 per cent of young people in the same age group are not getting a college education. If we compare the GER of other countries like China it is 22 per cent, Brazil 73 per cent, UK 59 per cent and USA 82 per cent. Of course the rest of India is no better but then the rest of India cannot be our benchmark.

Karnataka should set its own standards and lead the rest of India. The GER in the northern part of Karnataka is even more pathetic, Gulbarga is 4.85 per cent, Hubli Dharward is 6.89 per cent! There is a need for a wholesale change in the entire strategy. This lack of investment in education is also reflected in the low level of per capita income outside Bangalore city. Today, there are many jobs being created in the formal sector in Karnataka with a large number of jobs being filled by candidates from outside the State because of the low percentage of skilled and educated people being produced in the State. The GER in the northern part of Karnataka is even more pathetic, Gulbarga is 4.85 per cent, Hubli Dharward is 6.89 per cent! There is a need for a wholesale change in the entire strategy. This lack of investment in education is also reflected in the low level of per capita income outside Bangalore city. The situation needs to be remedied and drastic action taken if Karnataka has to regain her rightful place in India and elsewhere.

This can only be done by increasing the GER, improving the quality of education and overall greater investment by the State in higher education. The study also brings out the reasons for the low GER and dropout rate in higher education. Thirty four per cent of the respondents cited economic reasons for the low GER with 20 per cent giving family as the reason. It is obvious that means continues to plague our young people when they choose their future. The investment in higher education and human development is totally inadequate for a state like Karnataka which boasts of a revenue surplus and a low debt to GSDP. The fiscal position can support a massive investment but what are lacking are the vision and the will. Our leaders are too willing to spend more money on subsidies and the like to get votes to stay in power but seem unwilling to invest in the only area which gives the largest returns to society, higher education.

Present Scenario of Commerce Education in India

Among the three primary academic streams, Commerce is one besides Humanities and Science. Rapid Industrialization and fast growth of the service sector has opened up a huge number of avenues and opportunities for the students with commerce background. There are number of colleges 38,498 and 760 universities all across India. Among these more than 6,000 Commerce colleges in India provide the students with the scope to gather knowledge in various fields like Trade and Business, Marketing, economics, industrial and fiscal policies, Accountancy, Finance, Business Administration etc. As the Indian Economy is growing very fast, there is requirement for talented professionals who can contribute towards the Indian Economy. Different commerce colleges all over India, serves this purpose wonderfully well. They offer both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in commerce.

Table -1: Top 10 Commerce Colleges in India – 2017 Ranking

Rank	Name of the College
1.	Sri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), Delhi
2.	Christ College, Bangalore
3.	Lady Shriram College for Women, Delhi
4.	Loyola College, Chennai

5.	Hans Raj College, New Delhi
6.	St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bengaluru
7.	Hindu College, New Delhi
8.	Ramjas College, New Delhi
9.	Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru
10.	Madras Christian College (MCC), Chennai

Present day commerce education as a part of higher education has explored to a great extent. The main objective of commerce education was to provide manpower with good knowledge of different functional areas of business so as to support the functional specialists in the business firms. Besides, few more objectives were also added to the objectives of commerce education like encouraging the research activities of trade, commerce and industries, to conduct the educational programmes for teachers, persons in business and consultancy services for business firms and the government agencies.

Table - 2: Percentage Enrolment in various Disciplines at under Graduate level in Higher Education 2014-15

Discipline	Under Graduate
Arts/Humanities/ Social Sciences	40.24
Engineering and Technology	15.89
Science	15.38
Commerce	13.98
Education	3.25

Data Source: Ministry of HRD, Government of India (website: <http://mhrd.gov.in/statist>)

The new areas are integrating day by day. Some of the Committees or Commissions for improving commerce education in India are highlighted here.

1. The University Education Commission 1948 - 49 was constituted by the Government of India. The Commission was headed by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan has importance given to the Commerce Education should be professional with more practical training.
2. The First Five Year Plan (1951-55) has also emphasized the Commerce Education as a professional education. The necessity of delivering lectures by the industry experts and dynamic leaders in the university and colleges has been identified so as to provide proper industry interface with the commerce students.
3. In 1961, the Special Committee of Commerce Education was constituted by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao. The Recommendations emphasized that the commerce students be given special attitude such as development of personality trait, acquiring specialized knowledge that are serviceable in the field of commerce and industry.
4. Third Five Year Plan (1961-65) the Commerce Education has been identified under the heading of Technical Education. Again in 1981, Mathur Committee reinforced the objectives of Commerce Education with the recommendation of proper training of the post graduate commerce students so as to suit for the key managerial positions in the business firms.

Present Scenario of Commerce Education in Karnataka

Karnataka State is a fast growing economy and this growth is largely based on the knowledge base of the society. The State has embarked on significant reforms in

the education sector with increased public investment to ensure access, equity and quality in education, with community involvement. The quality of commerce education depends on the resources like highly qualified faculty, well-designed curriculum, good physical ambience and the very crucial support of well-stocked and maintained library and information centre. The commerce education is a part of general education at secondary and intermediate level in the colleges.

As a stream of study, after the 10 years of schooling commerce is available as an option in 10+2 or the higher secondary level. This paves the way for higher studies in the commerce related subjects. The undergraduate and postgraduate education in commerce is offered at colleges spread all across Karnataka and its suburb. Specializations are offered at the post-graduate levels. For this reason, it is necessary to explore the commerce education in Karnataka, the following table given below to the enrolments of across courses in pre – university level in Karnataka state for the year 2015-16.

Table - 3: Enrolments across Courses in Pre-University (2015-16)

Stage	Arts	Commerce	Science	Total
I Year (No's)	2,04,770	2,37,784	2,00,978	6,43,532
II Year (No's)	1,61,453	1,91,494	1,63,561	5,16,508
Proportions (%)				
I Year	31.82	36.95	31.23	100
II Year	31.26	37.07	31.67	100

Source: Dept. of PUE

Table - 4: Pass Percentage at Pre-University Level across Courses for academic Year 2014 - 15

Performance	Arts	Commerce	Science	Total
Appeared (No's)	2,29,633	2,08,651	1,72,039	6,10,323
Passed (No's)	1,17,394	1,39,932	1,12,148	3,69,474
Percentage	51.12	67.06	65.19	60.54

Source: Dept. of PUE

In 2015-16 Pass percentage at pre-university is about 65.19% in science courses and commerce is about 67.06%. The difference of commerce and science is 1.87% that it shows that, many students very much interested jointed commerce stream.

Table - 5: Enrolments across courses for the year 2015 - 16

Courses	BA (BA & BSW)	B.Sc (B.Sc & BCA)	B.Com (B.Com & BBM)	Total
Number of Students	2,31,854	64,354	2,32,186	5,28,394
%	43.88	12.18	43.94	100

Source: Dept. of PUE

The above table analysis that the enrolments across courses in Karnataka state. No. of students have been increased at 43.94% in B.Com degree and B.Sc at 43.88%. Difference is that 0.09% that means commerce education improved. The craze for commerce education has considerably increased due to its utility in almost all the fields of economic activities particularly after globalization and liberalization. Because for the main reasons are to get job opportunity in commerce filed is more than other filed.

Need of Restructuring Commerce Education University Level of Karnataka

In Karnataka state many University have shown interest in restructuring the curriculum of Commerce education in accordance with the changing present scenario. Year by year it started several allied courses in the colleges with regular commerce degree to attract the students to commerce education the courses like B.Com in Banking and Insurance, B.Com in Accounting and Finance, B.Com in Marketing. From the year 2010 there are lot of changes in syllabus for degree level courses due to Globalization of commerce education. They started introducing of information technology and computer applications in most of the syllabi to cope up with the changing world. E-commerce is made a specialized subject. Ecommerce can be studied as vocational subject too. UGC in its eleventh plan guidelines directed the Universities in the country implement the Choice Based Credit System (Semester Scheme) in both the undergraduate and post-graduate programme. UGC have showed interest in restructuring the curriculum of Commerce education in accordance with the changing world scenario. The following table shows that the number universities running Karnataka state. These universities offered commerce programmes in UG and PG level.

Table – 6: Number of universities offered commerce courses in UG and PG Level

Government Universities	Deemed Universities	Private Universities
University of Mysore	BLDE University	Alliance University
Bangalore University	JSS University	Azim Premji University
Karnataka University	KLE Academy of Higher Education	Dayananda Sagar University
Gulbarga University	Christ University	M.S Ramaiha University
Mangalore University	Jain University	PES University
Kuvempue University		Reva University
Karnataka State Women's University		KLE University
Tumkur University		Presidency University
Davanagere University		
Rani Channamma University		
Vijayanagara Srikrishnadevaraya University		

In Karnataka many universities applied CBSE pattern of course programme. Each course in a programme shall carry certain number of credits, which normally represent the weight age of a course and are a function of teaching, learning and evaluation strategies such as number of contact hours, the course content, and teaching methodology, learning expectations, etc. In the proposed programmes, the credits shall be based on the number of instructional hours per week, generally 1 credit per hour of instruction in theory and 1 credit for 2 hours of practical or project work or internship per week. Based on these, a two year or four semester post-graduate degree programme will have 22 to 26 credits per semester and a total of 100 credits per post-graduate degree programme.

Karnataka is a leading state in field of standard education. About 239 colleges have been established here which are providing excellent education in field of Commerce. In Karnataka commerce education has gone in for quantity rather than quality, due to the pressure of demand and reached the present stage. The system of commerce education was producing a prototype of manpower, where as developing economy required wider capabilities, hence for many jobs suitable persons were not available. There is a mismatch between type of capabilities demanded and the types of capabilities developed among students by the education system.

Now a day's need for redesigning and diversifying the undergraduate and post graduate programs in Universities colleges. If the courses are designed as per the requirements and students are trained on those lines, then the courses become relevant and product saleable, instead of preparing the courses in an all pervasive manner without any market in mind. Earlier industry used to recruit and train them to suit their requirements. But now they want readymade products. Hence commerce student should also be provided with computer lab, commerce lab, field visits, practical reports as in Science subjects, assignment record, practical training, leadership etc. Elicit the industry needs and requirements are the helpful things to suit change in the structure of commerce Education.

Conclusion

There is a need to make commerce graduation programme in universities level of Karnataka more meaningful and purposeful. Commerce Education is facing innumerable problems today which affect the course objectives, course content and course conduct. These problems need serious attention and close scrutiny. Therefore, there is a need for an all-out effort to re-orient and re-designing the commerce education in universities level in such a way that it will be relevant for today and tomorrow. By making relevant and practical oriented Commerce Education, it may be impacted global competitiveness to commerce students.

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