

## Awareness towards Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan among the Higher Education Students in Jharkhand

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### Abstract

Government of India has launched its ambitious programme 'Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan'(RUSA) to revamp the higher education in the country. RUSA is a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) launched in 2013. Through RUSA, it aims mainly to provide central funds to states public universities and colleges across the country with the objective to help the move towards achieving key result area of equity, access and excellence in higher education. With respect to planning and funding approach, some key changes are envisaged such as that funding will be more impact, norm based and outcome dependent; various equity related scheme will be integrated for a higher impact. RUSA aims to attain higher levels of access, equity and excellence in the State higher education system with greater efficiency, transparency, accountability and responsiveness. Hence, present paper aims at specifying the awareness towards Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan among the higher education students in Jharkhand. RUSA is an excellent opportunity to the State Universities to upgrade educational and research ambience of infrastructure, knowledge resources and skill development expertise to produce quality manpower.

**KEYWORDS:** RUSA, CSS, Higher Education, Equity, Access, Excellence

### Introduction

Education is central to development. It plays the most significant role in the life of the individual as well as in the growth and prosperity of a nation, particularly higher education. Higher education is of paramount importance for economic and social development. It has long been recognized as a major contributing factor to social, cultural and intellectual life of society by providing and improving those skills, competencies that are required in different spheres of human activity, ranging from administration to agriculture, business, industry, health and communication, and extending to the arts and culture. Developed countries of the world attach great importance to higher education. International evidences show that economically advanced countries with universalized secondary education that provide a fair degree of access to higher education have a gross enrolment ratio ranging from 40% to 90%. The converse is also true. No country with a low enrolment ratio of 10% to 15% and low quality of higher education can become an advanced country economically, politically or socially. Thus, the consciousness of the need to ensure access, equity and quality in higher education has been increased worldwide, India included.

Though the contribution of higher education to development is quite significant, India, like many other developing countries, has been unable to pay adequate attention to it due

to indulgence in other various unavoidable circumstances. As a result, higher education was either ignored in policy planning exercises or special measures were initiated to reduce the intensity of public efforts in it, or both. It resulted into deteriorating condition of Indian Higher education system. To many, higher education in India today is in alarming condition, serves no purpose and has failed to meet the needs and challenges of the present day world. Various commissions and committees appointed to study the problem of higher education in India have come out with drastic comments against the way in which the system of higher education has developed in our country. The growth of the system has brought it to a critical point. Higher education is now in state of crisis, due to uncontrolled expansion, inadequate inputs in terms of money, material and talent, falling standards in a large population of institutions, wakening of discipline and dysfunctional ties created by the adverse effect of socio-economic problem, a lack of relevance, and significant because of undue political interference by subjecting universities to political pressure and lack of national consensus in dealing with such situations.

The quality assurance is one of the central issues in higher education debates today. Thus, there have been planned efforts at improving standards in higher education by the central agencies. These efforts are with respect to three dimensions of higher education, viz access, equity and quality. RUSA is the most recent effort in this direction.

### **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**

Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) (Hindi for "National Higher Education Mission") is a holistic scheme of development for higher education in India initiated in 2013 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The centrally sponsored scheme aims at providing strategic funding to higher educational institutions throughout the country. Funding is provided by the central ministry through the state governments and union territories (UT), which in coordination with the central Project Appraisal Board will monitor the academic, administrative and financial advancements taken under the scheme.<sup>1</sup> A total of 316 state public universities and 13,024 colleges will be covered under it.<sup>2</sup>

### **The salient objectives of RUSA are**

1. Improve the overall quality of state institutions by ensuring conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adopt accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework.
2. Usher transformative reforms in the state higher education system by creating a facilitating institutional structure for planning and monitoring at the state level, promoting autonomy in State Universities and improving governance in institutions.
3. Ensure reforms in the affiliation, academic and examination systems.
4. Ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions and ensure capacity building at all levels of employment.

5. Create an enabling atmosphere in the higher educational institutions to devote themselves to research and innovations.
6. Expand the institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establishing new institutions, in order to achieve enrolment targets.
7. Correct regional imbalances in access to higher education by setting up institutions in unserved & underserved areas.
8. Improve equity in higher education by providing adequate opportunities of higher education to SC/STs and socially and educationally backward classes; promote inclusion of women, minorities, and differently abled persons.

### **Components of RUSA**

1. Creation of Universities by way of up-gradation of existing Autonomous Colleges
2. Creation of Universities by conversion of colleges in a cluster
3. Infrastructure Grants to Universities
4. New Model Colleges (General)
5. Up-gradation of existing Degree Colleges to Model Degree Colleges
6. New Colleges (Professional)
7. Infrastructure Grants to Colleges
8. Research, Innovation and quality improvement
9. Equity Initiatives
10. Faculty Recruitment Support
11. Faculty Improvement
12. Vocationalization of Higher Education
13. Leadership Development of Educational Administrators
14. Institutional Restructuring and Reforms
15. Capacity Building and Preparation, Data Collection and Planning
16. Management Information System
17. Support to Polytechnics
18. Management Monitoring Evaluation and Research (MMER)

### **Jharkhand RUSA**

**Jharkhand** was given status of State in November 2000 with geographical boundary defined under Constitution. At present, it has 24 districts with population around 300 lakhs. The State is richest in Mineral and Natural resources in the Country but lacks in basic Amenities. A number of national, international and state agencies have studied the status of higher education and the outcomes were prescribed with recommendation. Universities at Jharkhand are spreading their motto of “**education to all**” in the naxalite infected, economically and educationally backward and tribal area of Jharkhand particularly in Chhotanagpur, Palamau, Dumka, Kolhan Divisions of Jharkhand. The Universities have the responsibility for the development of power of mind and promotion of moral, intellectual and social values in the simple people of the region irrespective of

age of the learner. These Universities are Vibrant Centers for promoting rational outlook and nurturing scientific temper among youth. The basic objective of these Universities like any University is to “Create a Vibrant Knowledge Society”. The Universities with their meager human and economic resources at hand are striving hard in their commitment to expand the frontiers of knowledge for the advancement of society.

### **The Over view of Jharkhand Higher Education is as Follows.**

In Higher Education Student Enrolment Ratio, Student teacher ratio and other indicators are far below the national average.

- The population is regularly increasing by the average rate of 2.20 % as such the number of students in the age-group 18-23 years is also increasing over time however, the infrastructure and human resource did not enhanced accordingly.
- The Higher Education Institutions with proper teacher student ratio and proper infrastructure was maintained any-how up to 1975.
- The College's were capable of accommodating around 45000 students in 30 Colleges spread over geographical jurisdiction of Jharkhand in 1975.
- Now in 2015 Jharkhand has 5 State University and one Agriculture University and a Central University accommodating approximately **381457** students in different institution with marginal increase in number of faculty.

Today Infrastructure at these institutions are not enhancing many folds to bear the load of enrolment. Hence, the basic rationale of the study is to assess the awareness of higher education students in Jharkhand. Considerably, RUSA is expected to become the answer to the growing educational needs in Jharkhand.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- To study the awareness among the students towards RUSA
- To find out the extent for quality education college students
- To investigate the outcomes of RUSA in Higher Education
- To find out the challenges in higher education faced by the students in Jharkhand

### **Hypotheses**

- Students of higher education in Jharkhand are aware towards RUSA
- RUSA initiatives are suitable for the upliftment of Higher Education.

### **The Population**

A population can also be defined as group of individuals with at least one common characteristic which distinguishes that group from other individuals. It is also termed as

universe. Here, the population consisted the students concerned with higher education in Jharkhand.

### Sample

A sample is the subset of population containing the characteristics of a larger population. A good sample must be representative of entire population. In present study purposive-cum-incidental sampling was used for selection of sample. It is practical, economic, efficient and yields generalizable result. A sample of 60 students was collected for statistical treatment.

**Table No.1. Some Particulars About Respondents Of Questionnaire.**

S.N	Variable	Category	No. of students	Total
1.	Gender	Male	30	60
		Female	30	
2.	Educational Status	Undergraduate	30	60
		Post graduate & others	30	
3.	Category	General	20	60
		Schedule Caste	20	
		Schedule Tribe	20	
4.	Inhabitation	Rural	30	60
		Urban	30	

It is obvious from the above table that while drawing the data gender, educational status, category and inhabitation were taken into consideration, so that sample may be representative and having the value of the forecast.

### Methodology used

The present study is based on the descriptive method which describes and interprets what exists at present. It is one of the most popular and widely used research methods in education. It helps to explain educational phenomena in terms of its conditions or relationships that exist at present. It is the only means through which opinions, attitudes, suggestions for improvement of educational practices and other data can be obtained in a well planned way. Descriptive method is more than just a collection and compilation of data. It involves classification, analysis, evaluation and interpretation of data.

Present study is related to awareness towards RUSA. So, on basis of nature of problem descriptive cum survey and ex- post facto method has been used. The researcher has purposively selected 60 students belonging to different state universities and colleges of Jharkhand.

### Findings of the Study

By the analysis of the primary data it is found that-

- 46(70.67%) respondents (students) are aware towards RUSA and accepted that RUSA may able to uplift the quality of higher education in Jharkhand.
- Average 40% respondents accepted that RUSA can uplift the educational status and quality of education.
- Average 85% respondents accepted that lack of grants or delay in grants, less number of permanent faculties, lack of infrastructure, corruption in education and lack of awareness against education among OBC's, SC's and ST's; are the main challenges in higher education.

**Table No.2.Socio-economic status of respondents**

S.N	Variables	Frequencies and percentage			Total
1.	Gender	Male 30(50%)		Female 30(50%)	60(100%)
2.	Educational Status	UG 18(30%)	PG 36(60%)	NET and Ph.D 6(10%)	60(100%)
3.	Category	GEN 20(33.3%)	OBC 20(33.3%)	SC/ST 20(33.3%)	60(100%)
4.	Inhabitation	Rural 30(50%)		Urban 30(50%)	60(100%)

**Table No.3. Views of respondents towards awareness on RUSA**

S.N	Cagteory	Responses and percentage			Total
		Yes	No	Unanswered	
1.	General	12(60.0)	06(30.0)	02(0.10)	20(33.3)
2.	OBC	18(90.0)	02(10.0)	--(0.00)	20(33.3)
3.	SC/ST	16(80.0)	02(10.0)	02(10.0)	20(33.3)
	Total	46(70.67)	10(10.66)	04(0.67)	60(100)

**Table No.4. Views of respondents on RUSA can uplift the educational status and quality in higher education**

S.N	Factors	Responses and percentage			Total
		Yes	No	Unanswered	
1.	Can uplift quality	42(70.0)	8(13.3)	10(16.7)	60(100.0)
2.	Can uplift status	39(65.0)	12(20.0)	9(15.0)	60(100.0)
3.	Reduce less number of faculties	20(33.3)	18(30.0)	22(37.7)	60(100.0)
4.	Infrastructure	38(63.3)	6(10.0)	16(26.7)	60(100.0)

**Table No.5. Views of respondents on challenges faced by the students in higher education**

S.N	Challenges in higher education	Responses and percentage			Total
		Gen	OBC	SC/ST	
1.	Lack of grants or delay in grants	17	14	16	47(78.33)
2.	Corruption in education	13	13	16	40(66.67)
3.	Less number of faculty members	16	18	19	53(88.33)
4.	Lack of awareness against education among OBC's, SC's ST's	20	20	20	60(100.0)

## Conclusion

RUSA is considered as one of the affirmative step, which aims to change the Indian higher education landscape radically. The Total outlay of RUSA, which is to be implemented in next three FYP, is aimed at Rs. 99000 cr. out of which, Rs. 22855 cr. is being spent during the 12th FYP. Hence, RUSA is an excellent opportunity to the State Universities to upgrade educational and research ambience of infrastructure, knowledge resources and skill development expertise to produce international quality manpower. It should also be underscored that the upgraded colleges and universities would be mentored for high-quality research outputs with fund-associated expertise through RUSA.

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