

Higher Education Enrollment in India: Issues & Challenges

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Abstract

The higher education in India plays an important role in technological advancement and realization of extraordinary potential and this is helpful in the economic development of a developing nation like India. An increase in the higher education enrollment in India is beneficial for the overall country, on one hand it adds to the country's advancement on the other there is personal development in term of better communication, critical thinking skills, sense of accomplishment for the individual. The higher education enrollment in India has registered an increase in the past though it is not satisfactory. The present paper aims to study the higher education enrollment in India and also the obstacles in the path of higher education enrollment and to provide measures to increase the enrollment in higher education.

KEYWORDS : Technological Advancement, Realization, Critical, Obstacles.

Introduction :

India has the third higher education system after United States of America and China. In India the higher education is governed by the apex body called as the University Grants Commission (U.G.C.) which frames the rules and regulation, coordinates between the centre and the states and also advises the government from time to time. As per 2016 censuses, India has around 799 Universities in which there are around 44 central Universities, around 540 state universities, 90 private Universities and 122 deemed universities. India also has around 75 Institute of national importance in which there are IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, NITs, IESTs etc. Apart from universities India has a hub of degree colleges with a number exceeding 39071 (both private and Government, autonomous and aided.)

Higher Education Enrollment :

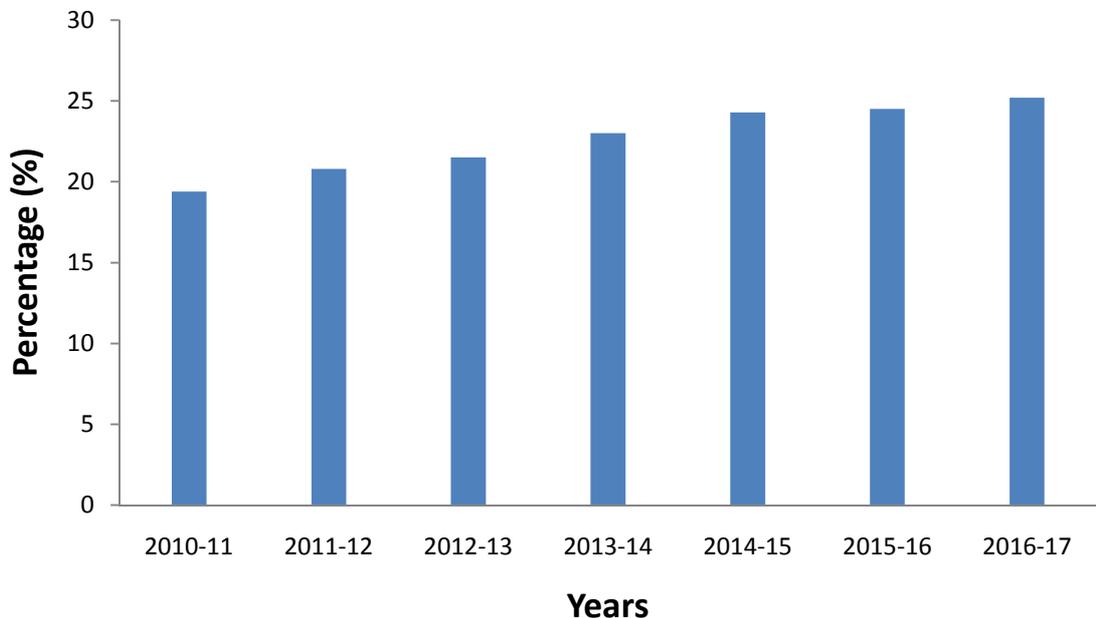
The gross enrollment ratio (GER) or the higher enrollment ratio in India is calculated between the age group 18 years to 23 years for the students who join college or Universities after the higher secondary schooling. India is facing serious problem of higher education enrollment. A large number of institution suffer from subpar quality and lack of funds for operation. Higher Education in India faces problems ranging from income and gender disparities in enrollment to poor quality of faculty and teaching. The higher education system lacks a large number of problems which when are overcome, it will increase the GER.

Problems faced by Higher Education in India :

- In order to educate young people, the challenge is to scale up our educational efforts. In India there are large number of educational institute but they all are mostly in urban areas which cater the needs of urban population. As large population are in rural areas where there are one or none colleges thus it is a problem to educate the rural and sub-rural population.

- Secondly, the syllabus taught in most of the colleges and universities are such which is not yet innovated. The syllabus drafted at the time of formation of university is the same till date, thus there is no innovation.
- In the 21 century, there is need of quality and research education. The Indian system of higher education lacks quality and emphasizes on quantity education. Our educational system should adopt bench marking technique for improving instruction models and administrative procedure in university/ colleges/ institute to move forward.
- Another problem is the high educational cost in India which is a serious problem which decreases the higher education enrollment. Courses like Medical, Engineering require huge fees by the candidates which is a heavy amount by an average India.
- The higher education system lacks with faculty problems, there is shortage of faculty members and also there is inability of the state educational system to attract and retain well qualified teacher.
- Most of the higher educational institutes are owned by the private persons who are political leaders. There is big government and political interference in the colleges and universities.
- There is also lack of accreditation, till date large numbers of college and private universities are not accredited by NAAC. Among those accredited only 30% of universities and 45% of colleges were found to be of 'A'level.

Total Enrollment in Higher Education in India : (U.G. level, P.G. level & Research) :



(Source : All India Higher Education Survey (AIHES) Released by HRD Ministry, Govt. of India)

The above graphical representation shows the total number of students enrolled in higher education in India at undergraduate level, post graduate and research level. The graphical representation shows the comparative enrollment year wise. In the year 2010-11 the percentage which was enrolled in higher education was 19.4% which slowly increased to 20.8% in the year 2011-12. Afterwards in 2012-13 it marked an

increase at 21.5%. Thereafter in 2013-14 and 2014-15 it was 23.0% and 24.3% respectively. In the year 2015-16 a small increase was noticed in the percentage at 24.5% and at last in 2016-17 the percentage raised to 25.2% (with an increase of 0.7%).

Conclusion :

From the above analysis it is clear that the total higher education enrollment in under graduate level, post graduate level and in research area is gradually and slowly increasing year after year but the increase is in such a limited quantity that it is not fulfilling the requirement. A large group of population is lacking higher education in India. There are various measures given below to solve this problem and to increase the higher education enrollment in India.

- There is a requirement to change the government policy for the higher education institutes. The fees charged in IIMs, IITs and IISTs is comparatively higher which should be reduced.
- The government should revise the minimum eligibility criteria in government jobs which is presently senior secondary, If it is increased to graduate level, more enrollment will be there in higher education.
- The government as well as the private higher educational institutes should improve the process of enrollment. It should be made easier through E-Admission enrollment process. The government colleges should switch on to E-Education and learning like IIMs, IITs etc.
- There should be strong control of the Indian government over private higher educational institutes/ colleges in term of the faculty employed by them and the quality of education provided by them.
- There should be strict control over the formation of student unions in colleges and universities which generally spoil the academic atmosphere and hinder the higher education.

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