



Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's

# Sadguru Gadage Maharaj College, Karad

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## DEMOCRATIC STUDY CENTRE

Organised

One Day International Conference

On

Society, Polity & Economy in 21<sup>st</sup> Century



12<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

Sponsored by : RASHTRIYA UCHHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RUSA), DELHI

## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr./Ms. / Dr. Pujari Smita Rassaheb of R.G. Shahu college, Kolhapur. has participated/presented paper entitled Before Higher Education. In One Day International Conference on Society, Polity & Economy in 21<sup>st</sup> Century on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 organised by Democratic Study Centre in Sadguru Gadage Maharaj College, Karad.

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## 24. Challenges before Higher Education

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**“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”**

### **Abstract**

Higher education system plays an important role for the country's overall development. This paper includes challenges that India is currently facing in higher education and suggestions. The benefits of higher education have gone to upper 20% of population and disparities between poor and rich. Quality education, finance, technological changes, and empowerment of youth with skill are challenges of higher education system. Universities should provide modern technology, efficient and sufficient faculty with well equipped labs and revised syllabus as per the demand of time.

**Key Words:** Higher Education System, disparities

### **Introduction**

Education is the strength of every country. Progress of a country is possible only when its citizens are dynamic and responsible. These best scientists, doctors, teachers, builders, politicians are the products of best education system. Primary education helps in creating base for higher education and Higher education provides skilled manpower. India's Higher education sector witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of universities and colleges since independence. India in 2015 has world's second largest higher education system in terms of students. As per reports of Feb. 2017 there are 789 universities, 37204 colleges and 11443 standalone institutions.

### **Objectives**

1. To know the concept of higher education.
2. To highlight the challenges in Indian higher education.
3. To draw conclusions and suggestion.

### **Research and Methodology**

The present paper is based on secondary data collected through published books on higher education, magazines and information available on internet.

### **Concept of higher education**

“Higher education is an optional final stage of final learning that occurs after completion of secondary education.”

The core mission of higher education is to educate, train, undertake research and provide service to the community. Higher education pattern is after 10+2 education which includes UG, PG, professional courses (B.Com.IT), M.Phil, Ph.D. Higher education institutions provide general graduate, technical and professional education PG for the age group of 18-23, thereafter doctoral education.

### **Challenges before Higher Education**

#### **1. Technological Changes**

Our world is changing at an increasingly rapid pace. Software revolution is reshaping the economy, 50% of existing jobs can be replaced by software and automation. This shift is bifurcating the labour pool.

Online courses are replacing classroom teachers. (Swayam online course) Higher education for livelihood cannot be possible for academic scholars if they are not technosavvy. Moreover, they will not get expected job opportunities due to outdated methods of teaching and learning. Even though technical courses with an academic base are provided only the regular students are benefitted. Working class of student cannot complete these courses due to time and finance constraint.

#### **2. Quality Education**

The mainstream universities are lacking in quality that's why Indian Universities are not having a single rank in top 100 universities in the world. Only Indian Institute of Technology and related institutes garner international recognition. Quantitative growth at the cost of quality can hamper foreign students' inflow in Indian universities. Therefore, government of India has established UGC in 1953 and Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a centrally sponsored scheme in 2013 and as a result, at present the enrolment ratio is 25%. But still quality is the matter of concern. Poor infrastructure, lack of quality faculty members, outdated methods of teaching and increased knowledge of students are the challenges of higher education system. Therefore, in Feb. 2020 budget, government has made provision of 99000 crore for education.

### **3. Finance**

The Indian higher education system has always faced problem of shortages of funds. The growth of higher education is not possible without enhanced funding. For improving quality of education there is a need for increase in investment in higher education. The government financing is crucial for transformative system. Though there is substantial increase in the support for higher education magnitude of increase in funding is not sufficient for the massive expansion in higher education. Foreign investment and collaboration can change the scenario to some extent.

### **4. Efficient Faculty**

Inadequate Faculty members and failure of state educational system to retain efficient teachers pose challenge to quality education. Despite lot of vacancies, large number of NET, SET and Ph.D candidates are unemployed or under employed which is biggest blow to higher education system. As a result of increasing number of affiliated colleges, the burden of administrative functions of universities has significantly increase and resulted in the dilution of the core focus on academics and research.

Expert faculty is not interested in teaching on CHB basis in other cities, states. Even monthly payment is not paid on regular basis which discourage the faculty. Gender problem is also different on economic grounds. Girls can rely on family even after marriage for the cost of higher education but boys can't.

### **5. Expansion in Higher Education**

Though there is a remarkable progress in terms of growth of universities and colleges in India this pace of expansion is still not sufficient in view of the size of the population and area of the country. There is a need to expand the intake capacity by strengthening of the existing universities and colleges on large scale and establishing new institutions in large numbers. It would not be possible for the government alone to achieve the target of increasing gross enrolment ratio upto 30%. It would be therefore necessary that the private sector and the philanthropists have to come forward in a big way and join hands with the government.

### **6. Academic and Governors Reforms**

The academic reforms include changes in admission procedures in various courses, modification in assessment and examination methods, acceptance of grade and credit system, teaching assignments etc. It is realized that there is a need to bring a major component of internal

assessment through tutorials, seminars and presentation by students and subsequent reduction in the written component. It is strongly felt that the governance reforms are the need of the hour particularly in view of the changing scenario of higher education in India and cross country collaboration in this field.

### **7. Empowerment of Youth with Appropriate Skills**

Today 6,81,00,000 people are unemployed just because of lack of skills. India has witnessed the impact of recession. In order to overcome from such global slowdown skilled and adequate human resources must be prepared by higher education system. Skill development is the key factor for socio-economic growth of the country. The prime minister's council on National skills Development has laid down the core governing principles for operating strategies of skill development. Such skill development initiatives have to be multiplied to rapidly transform India from a degree seeking system to a skill acquiring system.

### **8. Promotion of Relevant Education**

The higher education must be relevant to the needs of society. In changing era, relevant education has become one of the important issue before the policy makers. It is attempted by introducing career oriented courses and by making changes in undergraduate and postgraduate syllabi to increase the employability of the students and also to meet the market demands. One of the objectives of the higher education system is to produce citizens who are competent to compete with the world in all spheres of life. Therefore the major challenge before the higher education is to produce manpower which can match requirement of the world on the one hand and also to meet the requirement of our society on the other.

### **Conclusion**

The higher education system of the 21<sup>st</sup> century should accept the challenges of changes and motivate their faculty and society to adapt accordingly. University should undertake intensive perception and reorient them to respond adequately to the emerging challenges to the changed economic scenario in the country. Though the government is taking initiative on financial grounds students have to show keen interest in higher education.

### **Suggestions**

1. Higher education should include more vocational courses. At the time of framing syllabus market requirements should be considered.

2. Modern techniques should be used in teaching and learning process. For this purpose, college infrastructure must be well-equipped.
3. More and more expert lectures and practice oriented approach can give fruitful results.
4. Board of studies should study different researches at national and international level and benchmark at the time of framing syllabus.
5. At regular intervals students engagement and performance in their subject should be checked.

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