



Short Communication

Growth of Higher Education in India

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Abstract

In India the central Government and the state Governments are trying to nurture talent through focusing on the expansion of higher education. In the Year 1950-51, there were 30 universities and 695 colleges. This number has increased to 634 Universities and 33023 colleges upto December 2011. Though the number of colleges and institutions related to higher education has increased but there is disparity in the growth of higher education at the national level In India. In the process of expansion of higher education the problem of disparity has been also arised. It is responsibility of the U.G.C. to make more effective regulation over the higher education system in India. Merely growth of higher education will not serve the basic purpose of education policy. It is necessary to see that the Universities and colleges should provide quality education to the masses. In some Universities and colleges there is poor infrastructure, lack of skilled manpower, which are barriers in providing quality education to the age group of 18 to 22. There are also malpractices and unhealthy practices in some institutions related to the higher education. The U.G.C. should made effective regulation and try to control such malpractices.

Keywords: Higher Education, UGC, Educational Disparity.

Introduction

The 21st century is the age of knowledge-based economy, and the center-stage of change. Higher education has not escaped the impact and is in the process of challenge, thereby challenging the traditional system of education. The disparity in wealth and quality of life between the developed and developing world has been attracting the attention of the world. The exponential growth of population in the developing countries is matched by the exponential growth of knowledge in the developed world¹.

All developing countries the efforts are being made by the respective Government to promote higher education. Central Government and state Governments are trying to nurture talent through focusing on the number of Universities and Colleges for expansion of higher educations. In the Year 1950-51, there were 30 universities and 695 colleges. This number has increased to 634 Universities and 33023 colleges upto December 2011. The following table reveals the growth of higher education in India.

In the table 1 the number of institutions related to higher education upto 2011-12 is shown. It indicates that there is expansion of high education In India. The Central and state Government have taken initiatives to promote higher education. In the year 2011-12, the number of Universities and Colleges was 690 and 35539 respectively in India.

Table 1:
Number, Nature and Category of Institutions (2011-12)

Sr. No.	Types of Institutions	Number
1	Central Universities	44
2	State Universities	306
3	State Private Universities	145
4	Deemed Universities	130
5	Institutions of National Importance Plus other Institutions	60
6	Institutions established under state legislative Acts	5
Total		690
7	Total Colleges	35,539
Grand Total		36,229

Source: Economic Survey of India, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.

Table 2:
Expenditure on Higher Education

Year	Expenditure % of GDP
2006-07	1.14
2007-08	1.09
2008-09	1.23
2009-10	1.25

Source: University Grants Commission, New Delhi (2012).

The table no. 2 indicates percentage of GDP in expenditure on higher education in the year 2006-07 was 1.14 which increased to 1.25 in the year 2009-10. It means there is increasing

expenditure on higher education by the central Government. Due to this increasing expenditure there is growth in the institutions which is providing higher education to the masses. Though there is increasing expenditure by the central Government in India but comparatively it is less than the developed countries.

Table-3
Growth of Higher Education institutions in India (Dec. 2011)

Year	No. of Universities	No. of Colleges
1950-51	30	695
1960-61	55	1542
1970-71	103	3604
1980-81	133	4722
1990-91	190	7346
2000-01	256	12806
2010-11	564	33023

Source: University Grants Commission, New Delhi (2012).

Table-4
Statewise Number of Universities and University level institutions listed by the UGC

Sr. No.	States/ Union Territories	Total (Dec., 2011)
1	Andhra Pradesh	46
2	Arunachal Pradesh	03
3	Assam	10
4	Bihar	21
5	Chhattisgarh	15
6	Delhi	25
7	Goa	02
8	Gujarat	36
9	Haryana	22
10	Himachal Pradesh	18
11	Jammu Kashmir	11
12	Jharkhand	12
13	Karnataka	42
14	Kerala	19
15	Madhya Pradesh	28
16	Maharashtra	44
17	Manipur	03
18	Meghalaya	09
19	Mizoram	03
20	Nagaland	04
21	Orissa	19
22	Punjab	17
23	Rajasthan	48
24	Sikkim	05
25	Tamil Nadu	59
26	Tripura	03
27	Uttar Pradesh	58
28	Uttaranchal	19
29	West Bengal	26
30	Chandigarh	03
31	Puducherry	04
Total		634

Source: University Grants Commission, New Delhi (2012).

Table 3 shows the growth of higher education institutions (Universities and Colleges) in India for the period 1950-51 to 2010-11. In the year 1950-51 the number of Universities was 30 which went up to 564 in the year 2010-11. The increase in the Universities during the period was 18 times. In the year 1950-51 the number of colleges were 695 which increased to 33023 in the year 2010-11. The increase in the colleges for the above mentioned period was 47 times. This growth in the Universities and Colleges was due to massive efforts and policy decisions were taken by the central government and the state government.

Though the number of colleges and institutions related to higher education has increased but there is disparity in the growth of higher education at the national level in India. Table 4 reveals the disparity in the growth of Universities and University level institutions in the country.

The table no. 4 indicates that the total statewise Universities and University level institutions were 634 in December 2011. Universities and University level institutions were highest in Tamil Nadu (59) followed by Uttar Pradesh (58). It means 18% Universities and University level institutions were in these two states. There is statewise disparity in case with all these institutions related with higher education.

Region wise Distribution of Colleges

In the process of expansion of higher education the problem of disparity has been also arisen. There is also regionwise imbalance in the distribution of colleges. The maximum numbers of colleges were distributed in the southern region, which has resulted into concentration of colleges in particular region. The data for the period 2000-01 to 2004-05 has related that nearly one third (33%) colleges were established in the southern region. The numbers of colleges located at the central region were 22% followed by Western region were 19%, Eastern region 11.5%, Northern region 10.5%. The lowest numbers of colleges were located at North-East region. The percentage was 3.5. The data related to region, percentage of colleges and population in the age group (18-22) is shown in the table 5.

Table-5
Regionwise Distribution of Colleges

Region	Percentage of colleges	Population in the age group (18-22) (in crore)
Southern Region	33	2.90
Central Region	22	4.70
Western Region	19	4.26
Eastern Region	11.5	3.56
Northern Region	10.5	-
North-East Region	3.5	0.60

Source: Higher Education in India, U.G.C. (2008).

From the table no. 5 clear that there is uneven distribution of colleges related with the population in the age group (18-22). The central government and the state governments should interfere in the uneven distribution of college. Because such

type of uneven distribution of colleges will not serve the basic purpose of India's education policy. In other words such skewed pattern of distribution of colleges will be a barrier in the balanced socio-economic development of the country. Such type of concentration of higher education in particular region should be avoided. The Central Government should take initiative to establish colleges in those regions where there is no proper proportion of the population and the number of colleges.

Conclusion

The central government and the state governments are making more provision to promote higher education. In the Eleventh Five Year Plan the total provision of Rs. 44,000 cr. was made for higher education. In the Twelve Five Year Plan the total provision of Rs. 1, 80,000 cr. is made for higher education. Such provision is made to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) related to the higher education. It is responsibility of the U.G.C. to make more effective regulation over the higher education system in India. Merely growth of higher education will not serve the basic purpose of education policy. It is necessary to see that the Universities and colleges should provide quality education to the masses. In some Universities and colleges there is poor infrastructure, lack of skilled manpower, which are barriers in providing quality education to the age group of 18 to 22. There are also malpractices and unhealthy practices in some institutions related to the higher education. The U.G.C. should made effective regulation and try to control such malpractices. The Universities and Colleges should provide sufficient employable skills so that employability can improve. In the era of globalisation there are more weightage for competitiveness. India's higher education should be more reliable, competent so

that the coming generations can be more competent to face the challenges in their life.

On the eve of a new century, there is an unprecedented demand for and a great diversification in higher education, as well as an increased awareness of its vital importance for sociocultural and economic development, and for building the future, for which the younger generations will need to be equipped with new skills knowledge and ideas⁶.

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