Globalization and its Impact on Higher Education in India

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Abstract—Education is the backbone of a nation where higher education occupies the apex of educational pyramid in the formal process of Indian education. Globalization increased the demand for education in two parts. The first is the economic rising payoffs to higher education to global, science based, knowledge and intensive economy make university training more of a necessity to get good jobs. The second part is socio-political, demographic and democratic ideals increase pressure on universities to provide access to groups that traditionally have not attended universities. Knowledge society, information and communication technologies, the market economy, trade liberalization and changes in governance structures elements of globalization have a significant impact on Indian higher education. India’s higher education sector has failed to map the future demand for various skills, Global Competition and Competitiveness as higher education system in India suffers from acute paucity of funds, lack of autonomy, burden of affiliation. Besides these higher education has been affected by-policization, poor quality of intake, heterogeneity of student population, communication gap between universities and colleges, unsystematic growth of institutions, managerial inefficiencies, overcrowded classroom, wastage in instructional hours, poor course design, inadequate student service, inadequate material resources, inefficiencies in teaching, lack of training facilities for educational administrators and teacher. Now the students have easy scope to acquire higher education because a lot of colleges and universities are opened for higher education. But contribute to national development urgent steps will be taken to protect the system from degradation. Therefore along with quantitative expansive of education quality must be maintain in relation to the global market. We should encourage foreign universities to come to India to setup in collaboration with existing Indian institutions, colleges to promote global research activities for sustainable development. It will also improve our educational standards as well as solve the burgeoning problem of enrolment. Opening Indian higher education to foreign competition will benefit us and boosts our growth.

Keywords—Knowledge society, information and communication technologies, the market economy, trade liberalization and Global Competition and Competitiveness.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is the backbone of a nation. So education should be acquired from the cradle to grave. Higher education occupies the apex of educational pyramid in the formal process of education. Generally it comprises of three stages- graduate, post graduate and research programme i.e. M.Phil and Ph.D. Higher education also comprises of general, technical, commercial, medical, engineering, law and other professional degrees and diplomas. Therefore the scope of operation of higher education is extensive and intensive. It is intensive in the sense that, it provides a broad prospective of opportunities to the students about almost all the aspect of our life. In the recent year efforts have been made by the commission to regulate the growth of higher education as well as the establishment of new universities and colleges with a view to ensuring that, higher education grows to meet the genuine needs of the society for trained manpower with appropriate level of professional training. Globalization increases the demand for higher education and for educational quality.

The globalization is not a new but is an old age concept which was first introduced by Adam Smith in the year 1776 through the book titled Wealth of Nations. The word globalization connotes where all the nations join their hands with each other and create a kind of socio-economic environment to do business or any commercial, cultural and educational activities in which every participant nation should be benefited. Globalization means more competition not just with remains in the same countries but throughout all over the world. Globalization increased the demand for education in two parts. The first is the economic rising payoffs to higher education to global, science based, knowledge and intensive economy make university training more of a necessity to get good jobs. The second part is socio-political, demographic and democratic ideals increase pressure on universities to provide access to groups that traditionally have not attended universities.

Globalization indeed sounds exciting and makes one feel great and global in many respects such as approach, attitude and changed mind set to compete at international level and finally look for an elevated quality of life. Knowledge society, information and communication technologies, the market economy, trade liberalization and changes in governance structures elements of globalization have a significant impact on higher education. Therefore nations across the world have been striving to create the right educational environment to promote effective teaching and learning to achieve the unique requirements of globalization.

II. HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Higher education is an educational level that follows the completion of a school providing a secondary education. Higher education includes teaching, research, exacting applied work and social services activities of universities. The primary role of higher education is increasingly to transform students by enhancing their knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities while simultaneously empowering them as life longitudinal and reflective learners. The higher education system in India grew

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rapidly after independence. By 1980, there were 132 universities and 4738 colleges in the country enrolling around five per cent of the eligible age group in higher education. Today, in terms of enrolment, India is the third largest higher education system in the world, behind China and the USA, with 37,000 institutions and 729 universities. Higher education in China having the highest enrolment in the world (nearly 23 million), is organized in only about 2,500 institutions. While the average enrolment in a higher education institution in India is about 500-600 students, a higher education institution in the United States and Europe would have 3000-4000 students and in China this would be about 8000-9000 students. This makes the system of higher education in India a highly fragmented one that is far more difficult to manage than any other system of higher education in world. However, other than a handful few institutions of national importance providing high quality higher education, the system is failing to produce wealth creators and creative, intellectual leaders who are much needed in all sectors of the society. India’s higher education sector has failed to map the future demand for various skills, Global Competition and Competitiveness.

III. FRAMEWORK OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

The present format of Higher Education in India was started in 1857 with the inception of universities in the three presidency towns. At present, India possesses a highly developed higher education system which offers facility of education and training in almost all aspects of human’s creative and intellectual endeavors such as arts and humanities, natural, mathematical and social sciences, engineering, medicine, dentistry, agriculture, education, law, commerce and management, music and performing arts, national and foreign languages, culture, communications etc. For smooth conduction of higher education in India we have the following framework.

1. Academic Framework
   - Undergraduate level- After 12 years of schooling education bachelors degree is offered in two streams-liberal i.e. three years of degree course in arts, science and commerce and professional course i.e. agriculture engineering, medicine, pharmacy.
   - Postgraduate level- Masters Degree is normally of two years duration in both the liberal and professional course.
   - Research programme- A research programme i.e. M.Phil and Ph.D is taken after completion of master degree.
   - Diploma- Diploma course are also available at the UG and g level.

2. Institutional Framework
   The degree and diploma awarding institutions in India for higher education are Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed Universities, Private Universities, Open Universities and Institutes of National Importance.

3. Regulatory Framework
   The institutions imparting higher education at different levels are regulated by University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), India Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Bar Council of India (BCI), Distance Education Council (DEC).

IV. PROBLEMS FACED BY HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

Higher Education in India is more privatized than any advanced countries. A large number of institutes are private and self financed. Most private institutes however concentrate on market driven disciplines such as Medical, Engineering, Management, and ignore social science and pure science.

The License Raj continues to flourish in Higher Education sector in India causing confusion and uncertainty in the regulatory environment. Conflicts between multiple regulatory authorities are the standard norm. Major weaknesses are perceived to be bureaucracy, lack of de-regulation or related policies and lack of autonomy with respect to admissions, course curriculum, among others. Autonomy (instead of affiliation) needs to be provided to Deemed and Private Colleges there by encouraging flexibility. Public Private Partnerships are required for sustained inputs from Industries to deal with the human resource requirements. Frequent political involvement and infringement of academic processes should be regulated, which results in lowering of academic standards raising the entry barriers for various jobs well above acceptable levels. Another major setback will be withdrawal of tax benefits which characterized the not-for-profit entities and redeployment of funds for creation of capital / infrastructure etc., which will be greatly affected. Capacity Constraint Prestigious institutions are not able to accommodate all aspirants when compared to International Universities. As compared to China, an investment in building capacity is negligible (AICTE, 2007).

According to the results of a special survey 'Higher Education: Free degrees to fly(see Economist, February 26th-March 4th, 2005, pp63-65), higher education is already a global business. The days when higher education was a matter of national policy and government regulation are rapidly fading. Higher Education provisioning is now globalised and in many ways, a commercialized affair and the way that the State had in the goings on is vastly diminished, while private profit seeking companies have entered the education business, even government-controlled universities are seeking independence from governmental authority. However, many countries including India continue to control the fee structure of their universities causing financial stress to foreign students, who are generally made to pay much higher fees than local students. This has resulted in many universities openly soliciting entry of foreign students. To facilitate this process they have even tailored their courses to international requirements besides appointing agents abroad and publicizing the offers widely in the media. Hence a University is no longer a place where students apply to study. Universities are now actively pursuing students, especially foreign ones using a wide variety of strategies to market their courses. The student is now the customer or client. With globalization, Universities are
spreading their reach beyond geographical and political borders.

Besides the above the development of higher education has been affected by privatization, poor quality of intake, heterogeneity of student population, communication gap between universities and colleges, unsystematic growth of institutions, managerial inefficiencies, overcrowded classroom, wastage in instructional hours, poor course design, inadequate student service, inadequate material resources, inefficiencies in teaching, lack of training facilities for educational administrators and teacher.

V. Globalization and its Impact on Higher Education in India

Globalization has a multidimensional impact on the system of higher education in India. It has underlined the need for reforms in the educational system with particular reference to the wider utilization of information technology, giving productivity dimension to education and emphasis on its research and development activities because education is an important investment in building human capital. The higher education system in India suffers from acute paucity of funds, lack of autonomy, burden of affiliation. On the other hand the effect of globalization on education brings rapid developments in technology, communication and knowledge economy.

1. Globalization and economic reforms in India have yielded significant changes in the role of state and restructuring of social welfares education, employment, agriculture and health system. In higher education it was always the monopoly of middle class and elite groups of the society.

2. Privatization of higher education- There has been an increasing trend towards privatization of higher education in India. The quality and content of the education are industry oriented due to privatization. In this day age of globalization and privatization with competition and to meet the new challenges of the 21st century higher education should be radically transformed. India is required to set up a chain of educational institutions which are accredited, globally acceptable. We should also keep in mind that quality can come only from quality teachers and quality infrastructure, under quality leadership.

3. Women education- Women literacy rate has grown over the three decades. Women education plays a very important role in the overall development of the country and improving the quality of life at home and outside.

4. Commercialization- Impact of globalization is commercialization of higher education due to which self financing courses have been introduced which has deprived many from getting higher education especially in countries like India where illiteracy still prevails and education is a dream to many. The existing policy of globalization of higher education is motivated by profits rather than social justice or the policy of the government. Its goals therefore are to meet the demands of the market.

5. Teacher education- In the global society today the aspects of rapid change, lifelong learning, flexible routes of learning and the use of technology have a major impact on all the areas of teacher education. Major steps to be taken qualitative expansion, value based, competency based and ICT based teaching learning.

6. Knowledge- The impact of globalization on higher education is the transition to a knowledge society towards universities as knowledge-centers.

7. Skill- Higher education is seeking ways to meet the demands and challenges put forth by globalization. Higher education today is expected to produce skilled and trained workforce who can compete in this global market.

8. Education policies- Globalization also impact the education policies on higher education in India. In the last two decades Indian government has formed various committees, commission and also different kinds of economic bodies came to existence like NAAC.

9. Entry of Foreign Universities- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is important tool of globalization. As government lack of funds FDI is allowed into higher education. The foreign universities is expected to bring the quality infrastructure in teaching, research as well as physical infrastructure. This will attract large scale foreign investments into India and also to an extent reverse brain drain. However, the government will have to create a level playing field for all institutions and also ensure that other factors are considered. Their entry should also increase the qualities in research areas and so on, rather than focus on undergraduate programs.

10. Communication- The effects of globalization on education bring rapid developments in technology and communications. It changes the role of students and teachers and producing a shift in society from industrialization towards an information-based society.

11. E-learning- People with disability get benefit from globalization only if they endowed with knowledge, skills, capabilities and rights needed to pursue their basic livelihoods. The introduction of technology into the classroom is changing the nature of delivering education to students is gradually giving way to a new form of electronic literacy, more programs and education materials are made available in electronic form, teachers are preparing materials in electronic form; and students are generating papers, assignments and projects in electronic form. Video projection screens, books with storage device servers and CD rooms as well as the emergence of on-line digital libraries are now replacing blackboards. Even exams and grades are gradually becoming available through electronic means and notebooks are starting to give way to laptops. Also, students can be examined through computer managed learning systems and do tutorial exercises on a computer rather than in a classroom.

VI. Conclusion

The higher education is treated as the educational pyramid at present times. Now the students have easy scope to acquire higher education because a lot of colleges and universities are
opened for higher education. But contribute to national development urgent steps will be taken to protect the system from degradation. Therefore along with quantitative expansive of education quality must be maintain in relation to the global market. Therefore the only slogan of today’s higher education will be taught according to requirement. Higher education provisioning is a fairly capital intensive process. It is generally accepted that higher education contributes more to individual career building rather than wider public good. Universities should make provisions to provide loan and fellowship for research atmosphere and building. The need for financing of higher education for students, especially those coming from low income households needs special attention. We should encourage foreign universities to come to India to setup in collaboration with existing Indian institutions, colleges to promote global research activities for sustainable development. It will also improve our educational standards as well as solve the burgeoning problem of enrolment. Opening Indian higher education to foreign competition will benefit us and boosts our growth.

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