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Current Scenario of Higher Education in India: Challenges and Suggestions

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Abstract: Education plays an important role for the country's development which includes social, economic and industrial etc. Indian higher education is the third largest in the world. We should make it according to the time and changing scenario of the world. India needs to focus on education for more educated and efficient people to drive our nation. In order to develop our country India as a digital nation we have to strengthen higher education with research and development .This paper is mainly focused on the current scenario of higher education in India. This paper aims to identify issues and challenges in the field of higher education in India.

Keywords: Indian higher education, Current scenario, issues, challenges

I. INTRODUCTION

India is a developing country that's why to achieve our goal we have to strengthen our higher education system. India is ranking 35th in global education rankings of 2020.National Education Policy 2020 can completely change our education system for good because it crafted well according to the requirements of the 21st century. By 2030, India will have the largest population of youth .NEP 2020 helps in utilizing this demographic dividend .And it can also make India knowledge of the world by attracting foreign students. India will be transformed as a global study destination by allowing top 100 universities of the world to open colleges in India. To promote high –quality research in education institutes, National Research Foundation (NRF) will be established to support and to fund research. Research and development in universities will be according to the research and development in the relevant industries.

A. Objectives of the study

1) To analyze the current scenario of higher education system in India.
2) To identify issues of higher education in India.
3) To identify the Challenges of higher education in India.
4) Suggestions for improving quality of higher education and Conclusion.

B. Current Scenario of Higher Education System in India

Table 1: Higher education expansion in India

Year	Number of Universities	Number of Colleges	Enrollment(million)	GER (%)
1950-51	27	578	0.2	-
1960-61	49	1,819	0.6	1.5
1970-71	102	3,277	2.0	4.2
1980-81	132	4,577	2.8	4.7
1990-91	185	6,627	4.4	5.9
2001-02	260	11,146	8.8	8.1
2011-12	621	34,908	28.5	19.4
2016-17	864	40,026	35.7	25.2
2017-18	903	39,050	36.6	25.8
2018-19	993	39,931	37.4	26.3

Data Source: Varghese (2015) and AISHE, various years

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The 1990s also marked a policy shift with the government inviting greater private sector participation in higher education **(**Anthony 2016) .As government investment in primary education increased, its role as the main provider of higher education diminished **(**Garima2017). Focus also shifted towards cost recovery in HEIs and making public sector HEIs self-sufficient **(**N V 2015).The last two decades saw an increase in the number of affiliated private colleges as well as deemed universities. The former became an important source of revenue for universities that charge an affiliation fee.

The latter allowed private colleges to operate as universities and award degrees. Therefore, there was a drastic increase in the number of institutions and enrolment in higher education from 2001-2002 to 2011-2012.

Enrolment tripled from 8.8 million to 28.5 million while the GER doubled from 8.1% to 19.4%. The frenetic growth of higher education institutions and enrolment has continued in the last five years with over 6,000 institutions and six million students being added to the higher education system from 2011-2012 to 2016- 2017.

Under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan 2.0 (RUSA) the Ministry of Human Resource Development has set a target of achieving 32% GER by 2022. Going by the current growth rates, this target is likely to be met in the next few years.

II. ISSUES RELATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION ARE

The present system of education has to face some challenges /issues which are as follows:

1) *Teaching Quality:* The first issue that higher education in India is facing is decreasing teaching quality Teachers are not well trained and qualified for the job they are assigned to. Some colleges recruit young graduates as professors who have no experience or knowledge. So this is a big problem.
2) *Financing:* Financing is also an issue with higher education in India. Yes India is already spending very much on higher education and it can't spend more. However if the quality of higher education has to be improved then more financing is needed.
3) *Privatization:* Privatization is also a big problem that higher education faces. Privatization of higher education is the way to go. However just privatization is not going to solve the problem. You need to foster the culture of creativity, imagination and learning new skills in young students.
4) *Quota System:* Debating quota system is very controversial. But if you are being honest then I must tell you quota is not good for the quality of higher education. Talent and merit is more important than your identity. However quota system is still a challenge
5) *Political Factor:* Political influence is also a bad thing and an issue with higher education. Governing bodies do not want any political influence or interference in their affairs.
6) *Moral Issues:* Younger generation is not interested in serving their country and they are more interested in just taking up a job and a hefty pay package.
7) *Costly Higher Education:* Very minimal amount of subsidy is provided for higher education so if student seeks to get chances of higher education still he misses out because of lack of economical resources.
8) *Research and Development:* Research and higher education are complementary to each other. Moreover, India's higher education institutions are poorly connected to research centers. So this is the area of challenge to the higher education in India.

III. PROBLEMS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

1) *Gap in Supply and Demand:* India's gross enrollment rate (GER) is just 19% this is not good. GER is 6% below the world average and at least 50% lesser than developed world like Australia and US. This has to change if we have to really improve state of higher education in India.
2) *Mushrooming of Low Quality Institutes:* Mushrooming of low quality institutes all over the country is not good for higher education. These new colleges lack capacity and they are all about fleecing money from students and their parents. There is too much glamour and less quality of education.
3) *No Based Learning:* Higher education lack project based learning. Young graduates need to learn new skills especially vocational skills that can give them job. So we are not focusing on project based learning at all. Just theory is not enough; we also need practical knowledge is also.
4) *No Strategy:* There is no strategy for higher education in India. We don't have foreign students coming to the country and studying here. Government has no plan for this. Thus, it is a big problem.

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IV. MEASURES ADOPTED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

By adopting following measures we can solve the problems of higher education:

1) *Adoption of Technology:* Effective use of technological tools in teaching has many benefits. It will solve the many problems of infrastructure quality.
2) *Teacher Training:* Teachers' training remains one of the most chaotic neglected and deficient sectors of India's vast education system. This needs to be changed as they virtually hold the destiny of the future generations in their hands.
3) *More Government Spending:* India targeted towards devoting 6% share of the GDP towards the educational sector, the performance has definitely fallen short of expectations. Also funding is needed to be spending on building infrastructure.
4) *Inclusive Education System:* Growth in education sector should incorporate all sections of society like rural, urban poor, woman, backward classes etc.
5) *Quality Education:* Education provided should meet needs of student. E.g. education provided to hearing impaired or slow learners. It should allow them to enhance their skills and get better employment options.
6) *Affiliation of Colleges:* Affiliation of colleges will be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism will be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.
7) *Foreign Universities in India:* NEP (National Education Policy) has paved the way for foreign universities to set up campus in India.Internationalisation of education will be facilitated through Institutional collaborations as well as student and faculty mobility. This will allow the entry of top world ranked universities to open campus in India.
8) *Education Policy:* Educational policy need frequent update. It should cover personality development aspect of student It should also imbibe values of culture and social services.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper we have presented the current scenario of higher education in India .we also identify the challenges like demand - supply gap ,lack of quality research ,problems of infrastructure and basic facilities, shortages of faculty ,etc. in higher education. To improve the higher education system in India ,we need to adopt new-new technology, provide training to the teachers,Govt has to spend more on higher education ,and time to time education policy should be updated etc.Thus by adopting above things we can maintain the scenario of higher education in India. As a conclusion we can say that the needs of higher education cannot be met by the Government alone. It needs the participation of the Government, the private providers and perhaps selective participation of foreign universities.

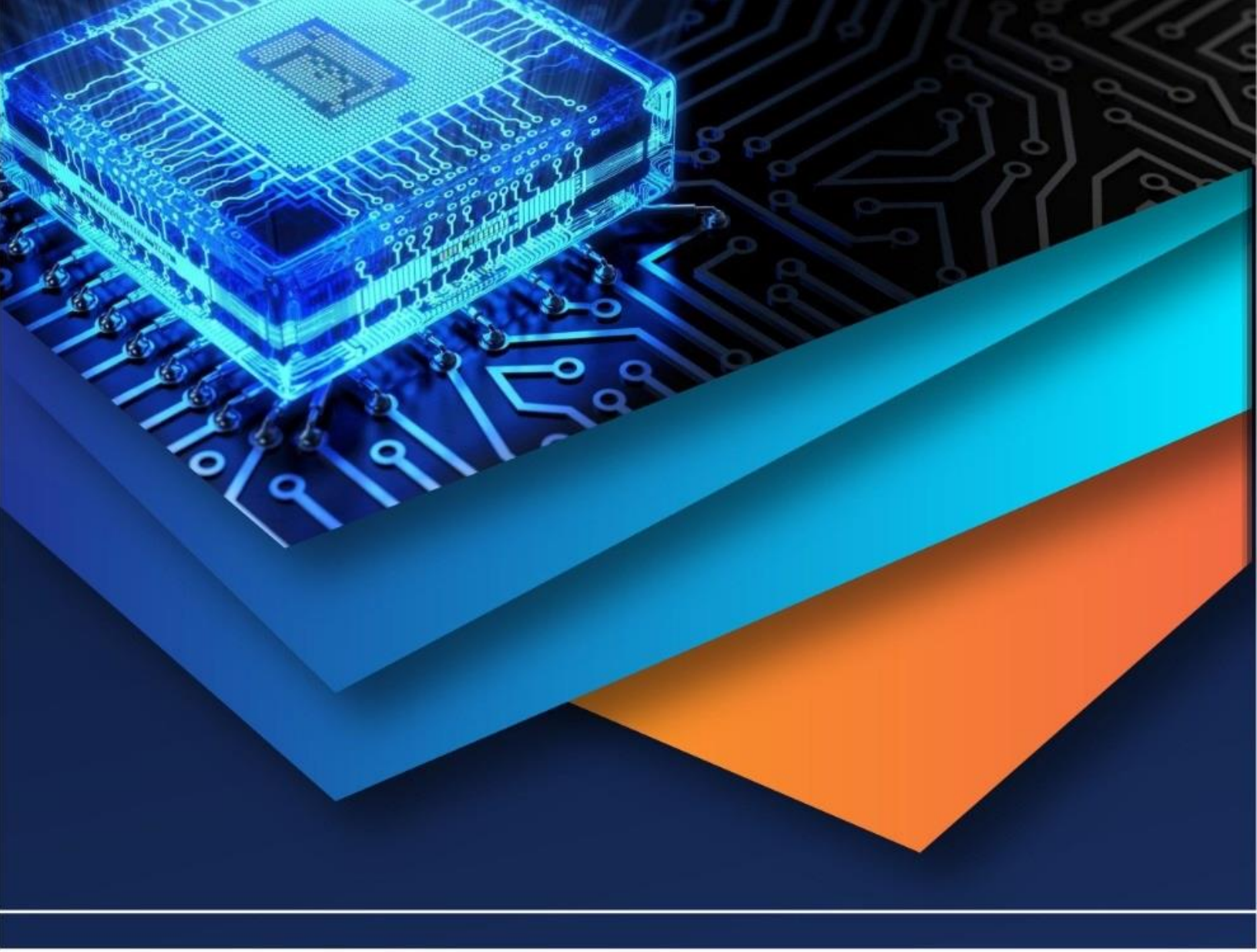
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