



Higher Education in India: Quality and Ethics

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Received 19.04.2013 Accepted 15.06.2013

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Indian representative, who went for study in the United States of America, when asked to President Kennedy, what is the cause of so much prosperity of America? Kennedy replied, every teacher in America looks at every student of America as a future president of America.

India's higher education system is the second largest in the world, after the United States. The main governing body at the tertiary level is the University Grants Commission, which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between the centre and the state.

Particulars	1950-51	2000-01	2010-11
Universities	30	256	564
Colleges	695	12,806	33,023
Teaching staff	23,549	4,11,628	8,16,966
Enrollment	3,97,000	1,17,05,000	1,69,76,000
Source: www.ugc.ac.in			

Table 1 shows that Indian higher education system has expanded at a fast pace by adding nearly 20,000 colleges and more than 5 million students in a decade from 2000-01 to 2010-11. As of December 2011, India has 43 central universities, 297 state universities, 129 deemed universities, 100 private universities, and 65 Institutes of National Importance and Other University Level Institutions 65. However, India has failed to produce world class universities like Harvard or Oxford.

We all agree that, education should be in line with the country's culture and progress. Unfortunately, this is not happening in the present higher education in India. There is a need to change many aspects of the present higher education system, based on the changing requirements of the modern world.

In this paper, the researcher has studied the growth of higher education in India and made an attempt to suggest on restructuring of courses and syllabus, research, quality of education, value-based education, autonomy of higher education, evaluation system, expenditure on education, of the country etc.

RESTRUCTURING OF COURSES AND SYLLABUS

Syllabus restructuring:

There should be -

- 1) **Upgrading of syllabus:** Based on the latest changes taking place all over the world.
- 2) **Coordination between courses:** Coordination between education of humanities, science and technical education.
- 3) **Social and civic responsibility:** Sensitization of the students to rekindle the sense of social and civic responsibility among them.
- 4) **Social work:** Social service should be encouraged and it should remain on a completely voluntary basis.
- 5) **NCC training:** All students should receive N.C.C. training.
- 6) **History of India:** Study of our cultural heritage and ancient wisdom should be made compulsory.
- 7) **Business education:** Business education should be made compulsory at all levels.
- 8) **distortions in the courses :** Any distortions in the courses, syllabus and chapters in which culture, traditions, religion or religious leaders are humiliated, should be removed immediately.
- 9) **Mandatory revision of syllabus:** Revision of the curriculum should be mandatory after every three years.

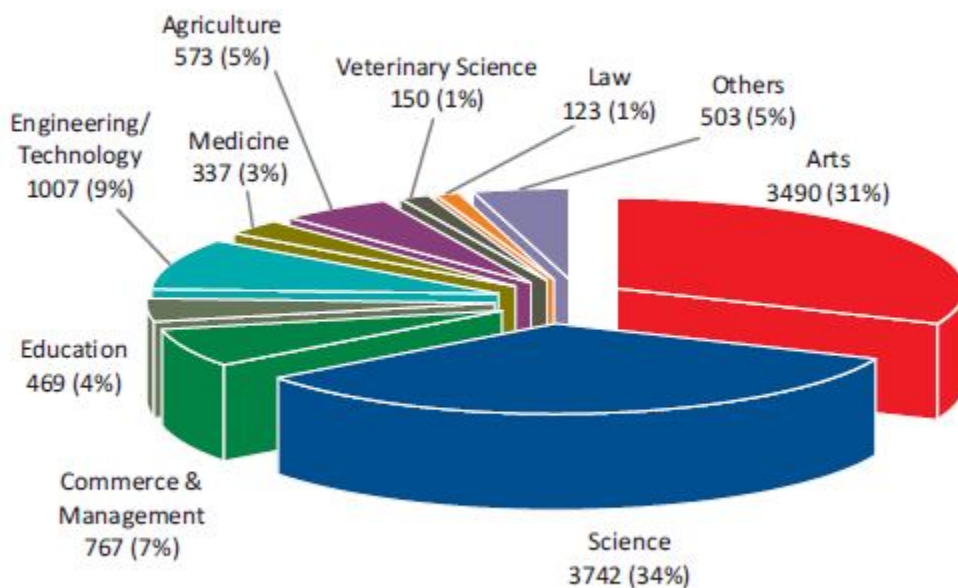
- 10) **Coordinate science and spirituality in the science curriculum:** According to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, we are witnessing several events occurring in India and abroad where science cannot find any solution. Development of science and technology is expanding, and if it is not coordinated with spirituality, it will lead to the destruction of humanity rather than development.
- 11) **Inclusion of special topics in curriculum:** In India, we have the curriculum and also the regional requirement. So we need to change the curriculum keeping in mind regional needs. The subjects are Terrorism and National Security; Economic imperialism and global recession; and Science - Spirituality and scientific approach
- 12) **Environment:** Inclusive national policy of education should be framed to include the students from rural and tribal areas. There should be regional composition of the course.
- 13) **Language:** Efforts should be made to promote studies and research in Indian languages; translate useful Indian literature to be into another language; and make higher education available in English and Indian language.

RESEARCH PROMOTION

Research

- **Promoting research work** - Increase in research spending, increasing quality in education, researchers to conduct research on the topics consistent with the need of society and country.
- In India we spend only 2.5 % of the national budget on Research, whereas China spends 4 to 9 percent on it. (UNESCO 2000)
- Research on Basic science topics is very limited, it should be promoted.
- India's share in scientific research is 2.1 percent, while China's share in it is 14.7 percent. (UNESCO 2000).

Faculty-wise Doctorate Degrees (Ph.D.) awarded during 2009-10*



* Provisional (Data pertains to 305 Universities / University level Institutions, out of 534)

- Exploitation of research students at various universities should be banned.
- Fraudulent practices in research and corruption should be stopped.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan commission, most important duty of a university is to maintain the highest standard of its teaching and examinations. In order to improve the teaching standard, well-equipped and well staffed colleges be established; refresher courses be organized by the universities for college teachers; lectures be carefully planned and supplemented by tutorials, library works and written exercises; there be prescribed text-books for any courses of study; attendance at lectures be compulsory for under graduate students as at present, tutorial instruction be developed in all institutions imparting university education, the teaching staff should be improved in quality and quantity to conduct tutorials.

Those university libraries should be greatly improved by the introduction of open access system and well-trained staff which include reference assistants.

Many teachers are still following the old methods and techniques of teaching. To improve the quality of education following measures should be taken:

1. **Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) course:** in service Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) course should be made compulsory, for senior college and university teachers, after one year of their regular appointment. They should be confirmed in service only after completing such course with satisfactory grades.
2. **Performance appraisal:** Continuous evaluation of teachers with PBAS and API score should be done.
3. **Training expenditure:** Cost of all types of education and training should be borne by government.
4. **Methods and techniques of teaching:** Changes and variations in the pattern of teaching should be taught.
5. **Up gradation of Training modules:** Regular training module should be upgraded to include the topics among others, the training of ethics, professional integrity to provide advanced knowledge; increase efficiency and capacity; provide directions to face the challenges of the information society and to find its solutions, and cultivate the feeling that education is not a business, it is an act of giving, it is the service to community, and it is not a profession, but mission.

VALUE-BASED EDUCATION

Values are those principles or standards, which help to better the quality of life. Values codify the dos and don'ts of behaviour. They form the basics of character formation and personality development. The values that spring from within or the core of the heart, like love, compassion, sympathy, empathy, tolerance, etc. lay the foundation for the external practiced values like honesty, discipline, punctuality and loyalty. The most important to remember is that "values are priceless, while valuables are priced."

In today's fast paced competitive world, man seems to have compromised on his values, integrity and character, in a bid to earn, use and possess more and more of material wealth. As a result, we see rampant corruption, unlawful activities, inhuman behaviour and immoral consumption, which is slowly breaking the very structure of our society, nation and the world. Therefore, there is an urgent need to re-introduce value based spiritual education dealing specifically with human values", to redesign the fabric of our educational system.

Value education module: According to Dr. Radhakrishnan Commission, the value education module should include the activities like, doing silent prayer, channelizing super energy of the students, making social work in the syllabus, mandatory National Cadet Corps (NCC) training, and teaching the cultural heritage and ancient wisdom of the country.

AUTONOMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Autonomy of education - Broadly, autonomy of an institution is the ability to take all decisions regarding functioning of the institution, within the overall framework and laws of the country. For a publicly funded Institution, financial autonomy is not possible. Hence, autonomy in granted colleges implies the ability to take all decisions related to academics. To grant academy-

- National education Commission, on the lines of the election Commission or courts, should be established under an Act of Parliament.
- The Commission should be of full-fledged academicians.
- Autonomy with accountability of the commission should be ensured.
- Appointment of VCs should be made by the National Commission.
- Educational system should be free from government control, altogether.
- Students should be provided an atmosphere free from any external interference, for studies.
- Universities, institutes and colleges should be under the control of society, and not the government.

EVALUATION SYSTEM

1. According to Dr. Radhakrishnan commission, to improve the examination system the system of grace marks should be abolished. The viva-voce examination should be employed only for professional and post graduate degrees. The essay type of questions should continue with the objective type questions but the type of question, method of examination should be thoroughly changed with a view to making it more valid and reliable. Nowadays, there is a need of adopting Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system for evaluation.
2. In addition, we have to ensure that, the results are declared on time. To complete examination work in time, it should be considered part of the academic duties, be shared on rational basis and be made compulsory for all regular and contract or Clock Hour Basis (CHB) teachers.

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

- 1) As per UGC report, public expenditure in education in 1950 was just 7.92 per cent of total public expenditure which was 0.64 per cent of the GDP. In 2009 it stood at 13.63 per cent of total public expenditure and 3.77 per cent of GDP, of which the higher education got 32.3 per cent.
- 2) 6 percent of Gross domestic product (GDP) should be spending on education and 1.5 percent of it should be spent on higher education.
- 3) Generally, 20 percent of the recurring expenditure in higher education should be taken as fees from students, and 30 percent should be taken from students in vocational education.
- 4) Government cannot escape responsibility for higher education, ensuring the system.
- 5) Economically and socially backward student fees should be borne by the government and society.
- 6) Eligible students should not be deprived of schooling.
- 7) The students who are capable of delivering the required fees should pay more. (Those who can afford should pay.)
- 8) University and colleges should be free to find new source of income.
- 9) Alumni Association's conference should be arranged every year, and their co-operation, should be sought by requesting donations.
- 10) Additional funds can be raised by making use of land, building and other facilities of the institution.

OTHER IMPORTANT MEASURES

1. According to a manpower survey, Regional and State institutes should be Opened.
2. Any discrimination on the basis of minority, majority, should be eliminated.
3. Channelize super energy of the students.
4. Ensure the participation of all students in the decision-making process
5. Higher education with the needs of society and the country should be added.
6. Inculcate in them, sense of obligation by delivering them value education, and make them the responsible citizens of the country.
7. Indian education service, like IAS, should be established.
8. Students should study at least up to elementary level, the Indian history, culture; philosophy etc. It should be made compulsory for all students.
9. There should be expeditious filling of vacancies of teachers.
10. Traditional healing methods and techniques should be used to preserve, promote and empower the examination system. The certificate courses to that effect should be developed.

CONCLUSION

The above form of education would help to build knowledgeable, skilled and responsible citizens. Such students can contribute to the national and social needs, and play a positive role in addressing social problems.

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HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

B. D. Karhad. (2013). Higher Education in India: Quality and Ethics. *Inter. J. Educat. Res.Technol.*, Vol 4 [2] : 100 - 103