



Higher Education In India:

Issues, Opportunities and Challenges

Editors

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QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION : ACHIEVEMENTS AND FAILURE

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Education is a vital process for personality development and social change. In the last seventy years after independence, higher education in India expanded remarkably. There is tremendous increase in the numbers of colleges and universities, there is an explosion in number of students, and the enrollment in higher education has swelled. Today we have separate universities in India for the streams like law, medical science, engineering and technology, agricultural science, agricultural technology and engineering, post harvest technology etc. in addition to the traditional universities. India is regarded as having the third largest reservoir of scientific and technical manpower in the world.

India has made significant achievement in the development of education. The Indian education system was thrown open after independence to all at all levels rich, poor, middle income classes, men and women, rural and urban population, backward and non-backward segments of the population. Social and cultural diversity has also become an important strength of higher education; as a consequence, there has been a veritable explosion in number of students, institutions and teachers. There has been the development of institutions of excellence, producing highly specialised human capital. It could produce the second largest stock of educated and skilled manpower in the world, and the third largest reservoir of scientific and technical manpower.⁰¹

What we find in India is that there exists a good number of universities and other institutions of higher education of excellence, at the same time there also exists a large number of institutions of substandard quality. As a result in terms of total quantum of output of our higher education institutions it is one of the largest in the world, the quantum adjusted for quality, and in case of indicators of quality, India does not necessarily rank fairly well with many developed and even developing economies.

India has a large stock of above 7 million science and technology manpower and ranks third in the World. But the myth of the third largest stock of scientific and technical manpower in the World stands exploded if one carefully examines the quality of the manpower.⁰² The stock is not adequate to match the requirement of the economy.

As high as 89 percent of the enrollment in higher education were made in the first degree, students enrolled in research i.e. 0.7 percent and 0.9 percent in diploma and certificate courses. The research output of our higher education system in India, in terms of its quality does not compare very favorably with

About Editors:



Dr. Vinayak A. Jadhav is at present working as Principal of Shivaji Mahavidyalaya, Udgir Dist: Latur (Maharashtra). Previous to this position, he was working as Head and Associate Professor of Statistics in NES' Science College, Nanded. He was also Acting Principal of NES' Science College, Nanded for one academic year. He has 35 years teaching experience at UG/PG level and specializes Operations Research and Agricultural Statistics. He has also worked on different academic bodies and committees which include, Chairman of Board of Studies (BoS) in Statistics, Member of Academic Council, Member of Standing Committee of S.R.T.M. University, Nanded as well as Member of the Management (Teacher Representative) of Nanded Education Society, Nanded. So far, there are 13 books, 09 paper presentations at National/International Conferences/Seminars, 33 paper publications in National/International Journals to his credit. Five students awarded Ph.D. under his guidance and work of two students is in progress.



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