

The Role of Private Sector in the Development of Higher Education in India

Jayabrata Ghosh

Assistant Professor of Commerce, Ranaghat College
jghosh644[at]gmail.com

Abstract: *It is understood that higher education is the basis of knowledge based society. All the countries in the world are trying to strengthen their higher education base. With the globalization and development of knowledge worldwide, the scope of higher education has been extended. People with excellence are welcome by every country. As knowledge creates knowledge, the talented persons get the chance of widening their education. Exchange of education between countries helps us to improve our knowledge. Due to increase in population growth the demand for higher education also increases rapidly. To satisfy the demand for higher education sufficient infrastructure should be developed. Though the Government is primarily responsible for the said development but the scope of development is so wide and expensive that the Government alone cannot cope with this. Consequently, private sector enters into the system. The paper explores need, challenges and role of privatization of higher education in India and also this paper analyzes infrastructure of higher education in India.*

Keywords: Infrastructure, Higher education, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Private sector

1. Introduction

Education is the backbone of a society. Economic development of a country depends on the power of people in accessing and absorbing knowledge which eventually depends on the level of education of the masses. Education may be defined as a process by which society consciously transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills, customs and values from one generation to another. The system of education has been growing globally. Although all levels of education have been expanded, the growth rate of higher education is maximum. Higher education also known as post-secondary or tertiary or third level education refers to the stage of learning that occurs at universities, academies, colleges, seminaries, institutes of technology, professional institutes, vocational training institutes etc. The completion of higher education generally results in the awarding of a certificates, diplomas or academic degrees. Educational infrastructure may be considered as the setup, facilities and amenities necessary for the smooth development of education. At the time of Independence there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges in our country. Higher education in India in the post independence period has grown significantly. Particularly, the first decade of the twenty-first century has witnessed a tremendous growth in higher education system. In this decade the number of colleges has grown from 11146 to 31324 and the number of universities has grown from 272 to 556 and thereby pushing India to a remarkable position after China and USA in the global higher education system. The private sector infrastructure has played an important role in the growth of the higher education sector, especially in professional disciplines like engineering and management. High potential demand for higher education and insufficient government spending on capacity creation are expected to result in a substantial infrastructure and investment deficit. In this backdrop, the role of the private sector has assumed increased significance with giant opportunity in the higher education sector. The Institutional framework for Indian higher education system is a complex one. There are several

types of institutions like universities, colleges, institutions of national importance, post-graduate institutes and polytechnics. Generally the universities are authorized to grant degrees and by special acts of Parliament the institutes of national importance are also authorized to grant degrees. Post-graduate institutions and polytechnics can grant diplomas and are to be recognized by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). In India, the private sector has till now been influential in penetration and enrollment.

2. Literature Review

Nicholas Barr (2004) in his paper explores the instruments which policy makers can use to expand educational opportunities and this paper establishes three core propositions that support analysis in higher education finance in developed economies and thus offers principles on which developing countries should have their eye in the medium term, as fiscal and institutional capacity grow. In the paper the relationship between public expenditure and status of education in India: An Input Output Approach written by Deepa Rawat and S. S. Chauhan (2007) tries to establish a relationship between the government expenditure on education and the economy as a whole. Suranjan Das (2007) has restricted his paper to study the scenario in the higher education of India and highlighting attainments and analyzing the challenges it is facing, especially in the context of globalizations. The author has analyzed the steps and approach under taken by the different government at centre for the betterment of education system in lieu of globalization. Gerard Postiglione (2009) in the paper Education impact study: The global recession and the capacity of colleges and universities to serve vulnerable populations in Asia studied the experience of higher education in selected developing countries of Asia during financial slow down. Cases of China, Mongolia and Vietnam have been discussed in detail to study the economic shocks and higher educational reforms. A paper by Neeraj Hatekar (2009) on Changing Higher Education Scenario in India, explains the recent initiatives taken by Ministry of Human

Resource Development to upgrade higher education system in the country. The paper asserts that all these initiatives will definitely bring quality and greater accessibility of higher education.

Objectives

The main objectives of this paper are:

- 1) To discuss about infrastructure of higher education in India.
- 2) To evaluate the role of private sector for the development of higher education in India.

3. Research Methodology

The present study is primarily based on secondary data. The websites of universities, institutions, colleges, and websites of various councils like, All India Council of Technical Education, Medical Council of India etc. do contain necessary information relevant for present study. Information may also be available from various books publications, journals, reports, research papers etc.

Infrastructure of Education

Infrastructure alone cannot give any particular idea or conception. The subject for which infrastructure is thought of must be accompanied to infrastructure. The infrastructure may range from an individual to an institution or it may even be extended from national to international. Business Dictionary defines infrastructure as (i) Basic and usually permanent framework which supports a superstructure and is supported by a substructure and (ii) Relatively permanent and foundational capital investment of a country, firm, or project that underlies and makes possible all its economic activity. It includes administrative, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, and waste removal and processing facilities. Some definitions also include education, health care, research and development, and training facilities. Infrastructure must be reviewed, developed and updated. Now we can go through the different components of infrastructure which are Teaching Faculty, Building, Play Ground, Class Room, Library, Laboratory, Computer Centre, Courses of Education, Seminar Hall, Indoor Stadium, Common Room, Toilet, Hostel, Staff Quarter, Sports Equipments, Equal Opportunity Centre, Day Care Centre and Guest House.

1) Teaching Faculty

The most important component of an educational institution is the efficient faculty members. Improvement of the learners is almost dependent on the quality of the teaching faculty. Teaching learning process is a complex one. It is the duty of a guide to make the process a simple and attractive. Attending teachers training programme may improve the efficiency of a teacher.

2) Building

An educational institution is first acquainted by its building as because it has to accommodate a number of students in addition to maintenance of office. A scientifically constructed building attracts prospective learners. On the one hand construction of building involves huge cost and on the other hand its satisfactory utilization is essential.

3) Play Ground

Educational institution and play ground are like hand and gloves. Having a play ground for the establishment of educational institution is indispensable. Without play ground an educational institution cannot obtain permit from the appropriate authority. The proverb "Health is Wealth" makes it clear that education cannot succeed without health.

4) Class Room

Generally, class room is the place for the learners to be physically present for interaction with their teachers. Now the teaching in class room is not confined with mere chalk, duster and board. Environment in the class room has been drastically changed. A modern class room is now equipped with electrical and electronic gadgets. Presently learners can attain a class room from even a remote distance. The pandemic situation leads us to depend more on virtual class room where learners and teachers are linked virtually through electronic gadgets and suitable student friendly software. Thus teaching-learning process becomes more scientific.

5) Library

Library helps students to learn by providing books, journals, reports and research papers etc. of various disciplines and the rare collections of books. Students can avail this opportunity beyond their routine class time and with a minimum cost. A contemporary library provides e-learning facility with traditional provision of books, journal etc.

6) Laboratory

Theoretical knowledge of the learners is made practical with the help of a laboratory. For applied sciences, experiments and projects of the fields are made possible by laboratories and various equipments. The laboratory is not only concerned with the science subjects. In other discipline also application of laboratory education is gaining importance. Language labs are also helpful. These must be equipped with required apparatus like, audio and visual tools, computers etc. Need of laboratory for the research scholars are immense.

7) Computer Centre

Invention of computer and the continuous improvements of the functions of the computers make education faster. Complex calculations are made accurate within second and thereby valuable time of the learners is saved. By the connectivity of internet with computer students can enrich themselves with the knowledge of the experts easily. A computer centre in an educational institution is becoming a basic need.

8) Courses of Education

Courses of education are the actual programmes of study from which a learner has to choose according to his choice. With the spread of education and exchange of knowledge courses of education are expanding. Educational institutions are introducing various job oriented courses to attract students in addition to traditional courses.

9) Seminar Hall

Seminar hall is a place where experts, teachers and students are assembled and share their knowledge with each other.

Research experiences and outcome of experiments in different subject matters are presented in a seminar. In this way members enrich themselves in his/her own subject as well as in other subjects also.

10) Indoor Stadium

Indoor stadium helps both teachers and students maintain their physical fitness. They can participate in different indoor games like, table-tennis, carom, etc. in the spare time. Thus physical fitness as well as mental health of the participants may be improved.

11) Common Room

Common room is very important for the students. In the class room learners interact with their teachers. They cannot get opportunity to interact with themselves for the limitation of class time. In the common room students are gathered in between classes and recess time and interact with friends and thereby get understood of their study not cleared in the class room and feel relaxed.

12) Toilet

Scientifically constructed toilet is very essential for every educational institute as a large number of students use it. Proper sanitation and ventilation should be there. Cleaning of toilet on regular basis is essential otherwise users may be affected by various diseases.

13) Hostel

Hostel for an educational institute is essential particularly for the institutes where learners come from remote areas wasting their valuable time in travelling. If they get opportunity to stay at hostel, they may pay more attention to their study. Hostel must be constructed hygienic and situated in a peaceful place.

14) Staff Quarter

Staff quarter for both teaching and non-teaching staff help them to concentrate in their duties. Staying at staff quarter instead of attending a far distant office on a regular basis will obviously save time and energy of the staff. Staff quarter should be suitable for living.

15) Sports Equipments

Games and sports always get importance all over the world. Sports persons get additional opportunity in the job market. Education help improve knowledge and games and sports help improve physical health of the students. It is essential to have various sports equipments in an educational institution.

16) Equal Opportunity Centre

Reserve category persons are generally backward comparing to others in respect of getting education. For strengthening them both financially and socially education is must. UGC is of the opinion that Equal Opportunity Centre in an institution will help reserve category students get benefit of different schemes and opportunities meant for them announced by Govt. from time to time.

17) Day Care Centre

Day Care Centre in an organization is established for taking care of the children of the employees. Absence of parents from their children helps generate insecurity in the mind of

the children and they face various mental hazards. On the one hand keeping children into Day Care Centre father or mother or both may keep watch on their children while in working place and on the other hand children may pass their childhood happily.

18) Guest House

Guest house is a facility of an institution for any member of the institute, faculty or staff or for any person visiting the institute in official capacity. Guest house must be hygienic. All the necessary facilities should be there.

Role of private sector for the development of higher education

The government Sponsored capacity building is not sufficient to meet the emerging need for higher education. At the current budgetary allocation for education, the funds would be insufficient and for that reason only private sector can link the gap in budgetary allocation and required allocation. The success of private institutions in USA, Japan, and Malaysia are good example of positive contribution of private sectors in higher education. Globalization, liberalization, and privatization have a great impact on improving quality of Indian Corporate, both in products and systems. Allowing foreign Universities will create competitive pressure on Indian private players and public institutions to improve quality thereby benefitting all the stakeholders. Internationalization will create opportunities for Indian players to improve on all key indicators like method of teaching, faculty salary, curriculum, research and administration. Low cost of living and large English speaking population offers an opportunity to make India a higher education hub in South East Asia. From Table 1 we observe that there are more than 77.8% colleges running in Private sector aided and unaided taken together of all colleges in India, but only 22.2% colleges running in government sector in 2018.

Table 1: Number of Private and Government Colleges in 2018

Institution	Number
Private Un-Aided	24541
Private Aided	5148
Total Private	29689
Government	8490
All total in India	38179

Source: AISHE Report 2018

Table 2 shows that total enrolment in private sector is 66.4% of the total enrolment, whereas total enrolment in government sector is only 33.6% in 2018, that implies private sector has big role in higher education in India.

Table 2: Enrolment in Private and Government Colleges in 2018

Institution	Number
Private Un-Aided	11961980
Private Aided	5614527
Total Private	17576507
Government	8888942
All total in India	26465449

Source: AISHE Report 2018

Table 3 shows Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of Higher education during last eight years, that is from 2011-12 to 2018-19 in India. From Table 3 we see that in 2018-19 estimated Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of Higher education for all in India is 26.3%, which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group. For Scheduled Castes it is

23% and for Scheduled Tribes it is 17.2%. GER for male population at all India level is 26.3% whereas for SC Males it is 22.7% and 17.9% for ST males. Similarly GER for female population at all India level is 26.4% whereas for SC female it is 23.3% and for ST female, it is 16.5% in 2018-2019.

Table 3: Gross Enrolment Ratio during last eight years in India

Year	All			SC			ST		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
2011-12	20.8	22.1	19.4	14.9	15.8	13.9	11.0	12.4	9.7
2012-13	21.5	22.7	20.1	16.0	16.9	15.0	11.1	12.4	9.8
2013-14	23.0	23.9	22.0	17.1	17.7	16.4	11.3	12.5	10.2
2014-15	24.3	25.3	23.2	19.1	20.2	18.2	13.7	15.2	12.3
2015-16	24.5	25.4	23.5	19.9	20.8	19.0	14.2	15.6	12.9
2016-17	25.2	26.0	24.5	21.1	21.8	20.2	15.4	16.7	14.2
2017-18	25.8	26.3	25.4	21.8	22.2	21.4	15.9	17.0	14.9
2018-19	26.3	26.3	26.4	23.0	22.7	23.3	17.2	17.9	16.5

Source: AISHE Report 2018

4. Conclusion

In the globalized World, the State-protected educational system cannot survive the pressure without making itself competitive. Whether or not one accepts the Government's justification, new procedures need to be developed for the survival and well being of the higher education system in the present scenario in India. By 2022, India will have the largest tertiary-age population in the world (British Council Report, 2019). Sustained economic growth, rising public and private spending; timely regulatory reforms have ensured a market expansion of Indian higher education system. The system was successful in achieving considerable progress in increasing enrollments and reducing economic and gender disparities. Challenges for India's tertiary education, which demand awareness includes, pressure on resources because of tightening budgets, deterioration in staff-student ratios and the need for innovative curriculum designs and educational strategies to meet the demand of the 21st Century. Open and Distance Learning of the country is becoming more important for continuing education, skill updating of in service people and for quality education of students those who located at educationally backward areas.

References

- [1] Agarwal, P. (2006). "Higher Education in India: The Need for Change." ICRIER Working Paper, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations: No. 180.
- [2] Barr, Nicholas (2004), *The Economics of the Welfare State*, 4th edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, and Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.
- [3] Dr. Vijender Sharma (2011) , 'Privatisation of Higher Education' A Decade of Aggressive Commodification of Higher Education in India.
- [4] Gupta Asha (2005), *International Trends in Private Higher Education and the Indian Scenario*.
- [5] Hatekar, N. (2009). Changing Higher Education Scenario in India, *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. XLIV, No. 38, pp. 22-24.
- [6] Jandhyala B.G. Tilak, *Absence of Policy and Perspective in Higher Education*. Economic and Political Weekly Vol. 39, No. 21 (May 22, 2004), 2159-2164.
- [7] Joshi, K.M.; Ahir, K. (2007). *Economics of Privatization—An Introspection of Indian Higher Education*. Indian Development Review: *An International Journal of Development Economics*, Serials Publication, Volume 5 No. 2 December 2007: 317-340.
- [8] Kapur, Devesh, and Pratap Bhanu Mehta. 2004. "Indian Higher Education Reform: From Half-Baked Socialism to Half-Baked Capitalism." Harvard University: Center for International Development, Working Paper No. 108. September. World Bank, June 2006.
- [9] Rawat, D. and Chauhan, S. S. (2007). The relationship between public expenditure and status of education in India: An Input Output Approach, Paper to be Presented At Special Session on "Modelling Micro-Macro Interdependencies In Input Output Framework", Sixteenth International Input Output Conference at Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul (Turkey).
- [10] Tilak, J.B.G. (1999), "Emerging Trends and Evolving Public Policies on Privatisation of Higher Education in India", in *Private Prometheus: Private Higher Education and Development in the 21st Century* (ed. P.G. Altbach).
- [11] UGC Publication, (2003), *Higher Education in India: Issues, Concerns and New Directions*. <http://www.ugc.ac.in/pub/heindia.pdf>.
- [12] AISHE Final Report 2018-2019. <http://www.aishe.gov.in/aishe/reports>