



Study of The Paradigm Shift In Education In India

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Abstract : The higher education system in today's scenario is faced with many challenges like competitiveness, management, financing and reorientation of program by laying equal emphasis on quality of higher education, ethics and values together with the assessment of educational institutions and their accreditation. In the 21st century, the higher education can be used as a powerful tool to build knowledge based society.

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Introduction : Higher education should be viewed as a long-term social investment for the promotion of social cohesion, cultural development, economic growth, equity and justice. Indian higher education system can address itself to the global challenges through maintaining the right balance between the need and the demand and channelizing teaching, research and extension activities. It is thus required to bring quality of highest standards in every sphere of work. The needs and expectations of the society are changing at a fast pace and hence the quality of higher education needs to be enhanced at a commensurate level. Quality would depend on the quality of all the parameters and stakeholders, be it the students, faculty, staff, infrastructure etc. For attaining quality in these regards, all the processes, systems and policies have to be clearly directed towards making improvements in all the relevant dimensions in a sustained manner.

Few challenges for the Indian education system:

- **Innovations required** – The curriculum of many of the colleges / universities is more or less obsolete and do not impart latest knowledge to the students or do not equip them with the necessary skills. Due to this fact, the employability of the passed out students comes in question. It is needed to scale up the educational efforts which would be



possible when the students become successful, create value in the society and contribute back to their alma-mater or start new institutes of global standards themselves. The schools / colleges / universities should regularly revise their curriculum by involving experts from different fields in order to focus on the knowledge development. There is a need to motivate teachers to participate by presenting research papers in workshops / seminars / conferences and receive periodic trainings for the regular updating of their skills / knowledge. A feedback mechanism from the students should also be introduced in the colleges / universities so as to assess and evaluate the teacher's role in the institutional developmental process.

- **Investment in education** – The Indian government is planning to spend around Rs 25275 crore on the higher education during the year 2012-13. If we measure the expenses on education as a percentage to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), India lags behind some of the developing / developed nations of the world. This gap in the investments in education in India can be filled by the private sector playing a vital role.
- **Student-faculty ratio** – In India, the student-faculty ratio is very high as compared to the other countries in the world. For example, in the developed countries this ratio stands at 11.4. In Western Asia it is 15.3 and in Latin America it is 16.6. While in the case of India, it is as high as 22.0. Therefore, the focus should be given to recruit the quality teachers and later on developing their skills / knowledge through research and extensions.
- **Infrastructure facilities** – The inability to provide the necessary physical infrastructure to run upcoming colleges / institutions / universities (both in private and public sectors) is the one of the main factors of low capacity utilization. It is needed to ensure apolitical private sector participation in the establishment of institutes for providing quality physical infrastructure. These infrastructure facilities include real estate, library, state of the art class rooms, furniture, hostels, transport, sport facilities, commercial buildings, laboratories etc.



- ***Competing with world*** – We need to study and evaluate thoroughly the models of education being implemented in other parts of the world and work out strategies to adopt the best models in our education system. If we wish to compete globally in the 21st century, our education system should improve its instruction models and administrative procedures by adopting certain benchmarking techniques. Benchmarking would provide benefits to Indian education system in terms of setting right objectives, reengineering etc. We should aim at establishing world class research facilities, recruit competent and profound academicians in colleges / universities to lead in economic development. It is important to transform the younger workforce into productive ones and this can be done by providing quality education in all parts of the country. In order to have a cutting edge over the competitors in the globalised world, Indian higher education system should focus on the use of technology for effective learning by the students.
- ***Public Private Partnership model*** – It would be useful to explore the possibility of Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in education sector so as to reduce the burden of the government in incurring high cost of providing basic infrastructure facilities. Collaborations between the colleges / universities and corporate should also be initiated. This would help the students in getting exposure to industrial activities through internships, organizing joint research and development, corporate training during vacations etc. Thus making the students more jobworthy and facilitating in image building and branding of the institutions.
- ***Making education affordable*** – If we want education to reach all deserving students, it has to be made affordable. The fee structure in government sponsored / owned institutions are inexpensive in India. However, this is not the case in some of the private sector institutions due to which the fees are beyond the capacity of poor and deserving students. To solve this issue, the educators have to keep in mind that education should not become prohibitively expensive and ensure that no deserving candidate is denied admission due to the lack of financial resources.



- ***Students studying abroad*** – Despite of having the largest number of higher education institutions in the world, the number of students interested in pursuing higher studies abroad is on rise in India. The various factors which encourage Indian students to seek admission abroad are (a) increasing prosperity and aspirations (b) quality of education (c) exposure and experiences gained (d) social prestige. We should recognize these shortcomings while building our educational institutions for a reversal of trend.
- ***Ethics in education*** – Equipping the students with ethical values besides imparting skills and knowledge is the most important objective of an educational institution. A disturbing trend in respect of repayment of loans by students can be observed. It may be noted that if the students do not repay the educational loans after they falls due, the non-performing assets of the banks will increase and in the process, banks would be skeptical in sanctioning educational loans. To reduce default of education loans, the School Alumni Association of students has to become active in inculcating ethics and values among students.
- ***Upgrading the quality of education*** – Instead of mere lecture methods, we should use case studies, group discussions, paper presentations, assignments, seminars, preparation of reports, curriculum related quiz etc. so as to make the teaching learning process more effective, student-centered, interesting and activity oriented. We should focus on improving the pedagogy. The teaching learning process has to be planned based on the science of active learning and motivate the students to develop a spirit of enquiry. This would result in more reasoning, self confidence and learning. Due emphasis should also be given to improve the student assessment system. The existing student assessment system is inadequate to gauge the different degrees of excellence achieved by the students and to increase the competence level among the students.
- ***Reviewing teacher s' performances*** – The performance of the teachers should be reviewed in terms of their subject knowledge up gradation, their ability to work effectively in a team and to act as mentors for the students. Teachers should actively participate in the departmental activities so as to assist their heads and the institution in



the College improvement plans. There should be a provision for scientific assessment of the teachers. In order to promote sharing of mutual experience and help in creating a congenial atmosphere, there should be intracollege and inter-college teacher experience sharing sessions or activities. This will provide a good learning experience to all the participating teachers. Continuous development of training modules on various aspects like use of computers and audio / video aids in teaching, effective communication and teaching skills, academic up gradation and personality development should be done. Measurement of the performance after training by monitoring and suitable quantification techniques is also required at each stage.

- ***Strengthening performance reviews / appraisals*** – What cannot be measured, cannot be managed. Thus the performance reviews are a must. The parameters should be worked out, against which the performance is to be evaluated. The scope would include the students, teachers, departments and the institution. The parameters which has to be focused are demand in the student community to seek admission to the institution, admission rates, absenteeism, dropout rates, student unrest, quality of entrance tests, passing percentage, ranks procured, distinctions conferred, innovative and improved teaching method, use of library / infrastructure, learning outcomes, academic counseling and monitoring, functioning of various student development clubs / associations, extra efforts put in to encourage creative thinking in students etc.
- ***Creating research culture*** – If the Indian education has to make an impact in the global competitive market, it is important that in every technology institution the research culture should be promoted. Most of the research efforts in India are discipline oriented and there are hardly any interdisciplinary groups existing even in the top ranking institutions.

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