

Relevance of Quality of Higher Education in Make in India

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Abstract: *Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Udaan Scheme, Smart City Mission, Startup India -Stand up India etc. are some of the top development programs/schemes adopted in India. Among these Make in India is an initiative by the Government of India where its main objective is to encourage multi-national as well as domestic companies to develop, manufacture and distribute products made in India and create employment opportunities and skill enhancement in 25 sectors of the economy. Even though Education sector is not a direct sector coming under Make in India program, the success of the program is directly depending on the quality of higher education system prevailing in the nation. The future of any country depends on its youth. Creating a good education and learning system and providing better opportunities to the youth will make them secure a good future for themselves, for the upliftment of their society and for the overall development of their country. Education is the strongest instrument for any country to achieve economic growth and development, so a mission like Make in India can be easily achieved if the country is equipped with strong educated young minds.*

Key Words: *Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Udaan Scheme, Smart City Mission, Startup India - Stand up India*

1. INTRODUCTION :

Higher education is the key for sustainable growth and development of any country, because, it develops confidence and helps in building creativity among individuals which in turn paves the way for evolution of overall economic activities. It helps to improve thinking capacity of young generations, builds pessimistic attitude and indulges them with immense knowledge on problem solving. Rather than going for doing job under someone else in some other countries, highly educated people will be starting their own ventures in their home country and obviously more employment opportunities will be available for the people of our nation. Those citizens who acquired good quality of higher education and awareness regarding present socio-political conditions will stand for nation building process. Thus, any developmental programs like Make in India or Skill India will be safe in the hands of educated people.

Major objectives of Make in India Initiative are:

- 1) To reduce barriers in doing business
- 2) To build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure
- 3) To foster innovations
- 4) To generate more employment opportunities
- 5) To enhance skill development
- 6) To protect intellectual property

All the above stated objectives can be easily achieved if the nation is occupied with highly educated people.

2. Present Scenario of India's Higher Education :

India has a publicly funded higher education system, that is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China. At the time of gaining independence, India had a total of only 241,369 students registered across 20 universities and 496 colleges. As of 2021, India has over 45,000 colleges and over 1000 universities, with a break up of 54 central

universities, 416 state universities, 125 deemed universities, 361 private universities and 159 institutes of National importance which include AIIMS, IIMs, IITs, IISERs, IITs and NITs. While NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) assess the quality of Higher Education Institutions using qualitative methods, NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) has quantitative methodologies to provide rank to Educational Institutions. Both agencies assure quality of higher education in India.

Table:1 – Number of Universities and Colleges in India

Year	No. Of Universities	No. Of Colleges
2015	760	38,498
2016	799	39,071
2017	864	40,026
2018	903	39,050
2019	993	39,931
2020	1018	42,343
2021	1022	45,000

Source: MHRD (INDIA) (All India Survey on Higher Education); AICTE (INDIA)@Statista 2021

3. Challenges before Quality of Higher Education in India :

Despite significant progress over the last 7 years, India's higher education sector is facing with the following challenges.

- 1) **Lack of access to better educational institution:** Of the states of India there are state universities in all the states except in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. So, the people living there are not getting chance to study in their own state universities. In some states the access to higher education is affordable for all the people. But some areas are there even higher secondary schools or colleges are very less in number. This problem has to be solved soon
- 2) **Lack of equity:** As a democratic India too, there is religious, regional, gender, cultural and caste-based disparities in the higher education. People in India are not treated in the same way in related with higher education.
- 3) **Variation in demand and supply:** Noticeable percentage of population demands higher education after their school education. Every year great percentage of the enrolled students are successfully completing their courses. But still then also many graduated citizens are not getting placed in a job matched with their qualification and in fact many remains unemployed. This condition has to be eliminated.
- 4) **Insufficient Government Budget:** Even though every year a remarkable fund is declared for education sector, major portion of the fund is allocated for school education, very less percentage of the allotted fund is spent on higher education. The scholarship schemes available for the students are getting reduced. Students are not getting equity in availing scholarships. Amount of scholarship also significantly reduced over the years. All these financial difficulties of students lead to increased percentage of demanding education loan.
- 5) **Poor infrastructural facilities:** Though India has remarkable development in the higher education, still there are large number of universities, colleges and institutions where basic facilities are not available. Many of the colleges are still having congested class rooms, insufficient equipment for practical classes, poor library facilities, insufficient toilets, congested staff rooms, lack of canteens and drinking water facilities, lack of technological upgradation etc. All these issues pointing to poor quality of education.
- 6) **Outdated teaching/learning methods:** Majority of the Indian educational institutions are not yet upgraded to improved teaching/learning methods. Still too traditional teaching/learning systems are following. Very few universities and colleges are upgraded with ICT (Information and Communication Technology) enabled class rooms.
- 7) **Unscientific student-faculty ratio:** According to National Center for Education Statistics, the national average of college student to faculty ratio is 18:1. But in practice more than prescribed students are allotted to a single teacher. This leads to inadequate attention to each student and poor overall result of the institution.
- 8) **Examination oriented curriculum:** Syllabus for higher education and institutional timetables are designed just for completing the courses offered. Outdated syllabus is still followed by most of the universities. Neither the universities nor the colleges are doing nothing for behavioral improvement of the students. So, actually is there any quality of education exist?

9) **Unaffordable fee structure and poor financial background of the students:** A developing country like India, still 6% of the total population are below poverty line and nearly 28% are belongs to middle income class. As most of the educational institutions are demanding for higher fee structure, students from poor financial background are striving to clear their fee dues. Many talented students are not getting admission to any prominent institution and not able to upgraded with technological advancement because of their financial problems.

10) **Political instability:** Higher education in India is very much connected with political changes. Education policies and practices are frequently changing with changing government. Thus, the educational system in India remains unstable and this will affect the quality of education in the long run.

4. Suggestions for Improvement in Quality of Higher Education Sector :

1) **Improves the accessibility to educational institution:** Government of India should make sure that every state is equipped with their own state universities and sufficient colleges with easy accessibility by the students of the native places and nearest states. Free or reasonable transportation facility should be provided to make them easily reach their Study Centre.

2) **Eliminate discrimination:** Religious, caste, regional, linguistic, gender inequalities and discriminations should be eliminated to the maximum extent. Government should frequently conduct students' surveys and institutional checkup without giving prior notice, so that the inequalities faced by the students' community can be identified and eliminated.

3) **Assure placement after course completion:** Every higher educational institution should make sure that the course completed students are getting placed in organizations which is assisting for their economical and career improvement. Colleges and universities should take initiative to conduct continuous campus placement programs. Educational institutions should make friendly relation with the students at least for 3 years after their course completion so that their career growth can be evaluated.

4) **Adequate financial assistance for students:** Every year a remarkable fund should be announced in the budget for education sector. School students and students enrolled for higher education should be treated in the same way. Scholarship should be sanctioned to the deserved students without making them going through long and tiring scholarship procedures. Education loans with concessional rates and subsidies should be sanctioned to the students from weaker financial background.

5) **Proper infrastructural facilities:** Government should provide financial assistance to educational institutions for improving their infrastructural facilities. Continuous visits by government representatives can be made to make sure that the colleges and universities are having spacious classrooms, eminent library facilities, laboratory facilities, toilet facilities etc. If the institution is situated in place where scarcity of drinking water exists, then proper measures should be suggested to improve the same.

6) **Upgradation to new teaching/learning method:** Along with the normal way of classroom teaching and learning, students and teachers should be given chance to familiar with upgraded teaching methods. Even though online learning was a normal way of learning in foreign countries since many years, India experienced with online teaching and learning only after the closure of schools and colleges on account of Covid -19 pandemic. Every college in India should be equipped with at least 2 ITC enabled classrooms.

7) **Proper student – faculty ratio:** Every educational institution should make sure that there is recommended student-faculty ratio is following in the institutions. Deviation from the standard ratio will create the problems like improper attention to students, decline in the percentage of success and deterioration in the quality of education. So, whenever there is an increase in the number of total students, adequate faculties also should be appointed.

8) **Academic and personality development-oriented curriculum:** Universities should design the syllabus of the courses in such a way as to improve both the academic efficiency and personality development of the students. Curriculum should be planned in a way as to improve the special skills embedded in each student. When upgrading the syllabus from theoretical knowledge to practical and skill-oriented subjects will definitely help in easy achievement of any scheme like "Make in India".

9) **Uniformity in fee structure:** Government should have to make sure that uniform and reasonable fee structure is being followed for the same course in all institutions everywhere in India. This system will eliminate exploitation of students regarding fee collection and over charging of fee by the private and un-aided institutions.

10) **Maintain stability in education policies:** Education policies and practices should not pass-through frequent modifications to cope up with changing political environment. Stability guarantees sustainable growth in all sectors including education sector.

5. Conclusion:

There is no doubt that development of any sector directly or indirectly depends on quality of education. Every developmental scheme in the nation can be made successful only if the people residing there is equipped with strong base of higher education. Programs like Make in India or Skill India can be achieved only with the assistance of educated manpower. Innovative ventures or new ways of cost-effective production methods can be invented and executed only by entrepreneurs and workforce having highly innovative thinking capacity which in turn can be occupied with good quality of higher education. So, before implementing the schemes like Make in India, the Government of India should eliminate all the challenges before the Higher education sector, so that national goals can be easily attained with the help of our own civilized citizens.

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