



“Higher Education at the Crossroads Imperatives for Policy & Practice”

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FICCI

**Federation of Indian Chambers of
Commerce and Industry**

Youthful Population – India's Asset

- 54% of Indian population is in the Higher Education Group – 18 to 25 years of age.
- Only 63 % of 460 million of the eligible young population in India is studying (Brazil 88%, Russia 89%)
- 170 million (17 crore) youth eligible but out of the ambit of Higher Education

Youthful Population – India's Asset

- Need to transform youth to a 'skilled' population
- Make them capable of securing gainful employment

Access to Higher Education

- Low Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education in India - around 11% (9.21 in 2004)
(US & CANADA – 60 %, China-25%)
- Fewer Universities in India

Access to Higher Education Imbalanced Distribution

- Large Rural-Urban divide
- Urban centric presence of centers of Higher Education.
- 65 % of India which is Rural has only 20% of the total no. of professional colleges.

Expenditure on Education

- In 2005-06, Global average expenditure on Education- 4.5% of GDP, developing nations 4.4% whereas in India it was only 3.6% of GDP
- Though public expenditure on education has increased, money spent by Govt. on Higher Education comes to only 0.7% of the GDP (2008 estimate). (down from 0.77% in 1991)
- From the fund allocated for education, only 13% is being spent on higher Education- stagnant from last 3-4 years.

Vocational Education

- Economic growth, esp. in context of Higher Education appears to be 'SUPPLY CONSTRAINED'.
- China has a dedicated and structured programme to impart vocational training to young population to convert them into Skilled workforce at an early stage.
- Vocational Education Mission by Govt ?

Distance Education

- Huge potential in Indian Scenario
- Boosts opportunity for working Rural folk
- If they cannot reach us, let us reach them.
- Distance education modules
 - E-Learning
 - Tele-Education
 - Satellite dedicated to education.

(EDUSAT/ VSAT)

Public-Private Partnership

- PPPs are Imperative to expand higher education in India and to increase accessibility to it.
- Private participation - funding
- Apart from funding, Quality assurance can be provided by Pvt. sector.

PPP

- PPP has shown excellent result wherever started.
- Excellent mantra for 'inclusive' and sustained 'growth'.
- Govt. also needs to co-operate equally, simplify regulations, policies favouring pvt. investment.

Self-financing/sustaining HEIs

- Govt. could allow self-financing/sustaining HEIs to be set up under Section 25 of the companies Act, which permits surplus generated to be ploughed back for the future expansion and quality development of the Institution

Linking R & D to industry

- Scholarships/ funding as incentive for encouraging basic research among students
- Concept of Practice School
- Adjunct faculty
- Industry- Research Hub tie-ups and corporate sponsorship

Foreign University entry

- Their entry will promote **'world class'** concept.
- They maybe allowed to come on their own, provided there is level playing field or tie-ups with our Universities
- With such tie-ups students have the best of both worlds and R& D gets a boost

India- Global Education Hub?

- India could attract only less than one percent of total global foreign students seeking higher education opportunities abroad (2007)
- Huge untapped potential exists ?

Need to regulate the Regulatory bodies

- Old, archaic, power yielding Regulatory bodies.
- Independent body for accreditation and approval – represented by people of integrity and repute in their field of expertise
- Regulate only Quality – Quality assurance

Higher Education for Profiteering

- While care has to be taken to avoid exploitive profiteering,
- Pvt higher education initiatives must be given the incentives they deserve
- 'Incentive driven' structure could also increase competition and race for excellence.

Land Acquisitions and approvals

- Key constraint in setting up institutions
- Distinction of norms and rules between HEIs in urban, semi urban and rural areas required
- Flexible land specifications should be encouraged

Student enrollment/seats

- Student enrolment should be linked to capability and strength of the self financing institution keeping in mind faculty and infrastructure. Well established universities should not be governed by seat restrictions

Future Road Map

- Flexibility of norms and regulations
- Liberal attitude towards innovative ideas
- Private participation/ philanthropy
- Encourage fundamental/ basic research
- Tax exemptions should be provided to corporate and individual contributions to attract private investment into higher educational institutions.

Increase no. of Universities

- Increase number of Universities and institutions of higher education in the country
- Bridge rural – urban divide, set up Campuses in Rural or Semi Urban areas
- Increase GER to atleast 15 % as mentioned in the 11th Five Year Plan

Need of the hour

- Promote Vocational Training
- Distance Education
- Use of Technology
- Promote PPP
- Link R&D to industry and encourage Industry- Academia interaction

Thank you