"AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS ON DEFINING FRAMEWORK ON QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA IN SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RAJASTHAN"

Prateek Dadhich[1],Dr Kareena Kakkar Bhatia [2]

Research Scholar ,GD Goenka University,Sohna Gurugram , Haryana[1]

Professor,GD Goenka University, Sohna Road , Gurugram , Haryana[2]

ABSTRACT:-

The education system has faced many huddles, it also has many opportunities to overcome these obstacles and improve higher education. Since India exports most of the highly skilled labour to different nations, it is simple for India to move from being a developing country to a developed one. However, the education system currently faces a number of issues that are cause for concern, including access, equity, and relevance in financing and management, reorientation of programmes to place an emphasis on health consciousness,Together with the evaluation of institutions and their accreditation, higher education's values, ethics, and quality are considered. The current study aims to identify opportunities and challenges in India's higher education system. These issues are crucial for the nation because it is currently working to create a knowledge-based information society fit for the 21st century using higher education as a potent tool.

Keywords:- Opportunities, Education, Challenges, School, Colleges, Universities

INTRODUCTION :-

Knowledge is only one component of education; the ability to apply it is another. The capacity that education teaches to make effective use of the knowledge determines its quality. In other words, the true definition of education is the acquisition of knowledge along with the capacity for its appropriate application. As a result, the qualities that convey the ability to apply the learned knowledge are extremely important; without the necessary ability to do so, the knowledge is merely a treasure trove in a locked vault. Everything that completes a conscious, educated citizen's personality is included in education. Therefore, to be truly effective, education must also impart practical knowledge and enable the evolution of

character qualities. One facet of schooling that meets this demand is the ethical component. We discover the reason for the variation in the knowledge creators' contributions, despite the fact that they possess the same level of knowledge, in their various ethical beliefs.

Next to the China and the U.S. , India has the third-largest student body in the system of the world's higher education system. India will one of the biggest centres for education in the future. Since India's independence, the number of universities, college-level institutions, and other higher education institutions has significantly increased. The "Right to Education Act," which mandates free and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years, has revolutionised the educational system of the nation. Statistics show that enrollment in schools has increased dramatically over the last four years. Due to the private sector's involvement in higher education, the industry has undergone significant change.

Knowledge these days is power. One is more powerful the more knowledge they possess. India, however, still has significant obstacles to overcome. 24.5% of the population is still illiterate despite increased investment in education; just 16% of Indian students complete high school, and only 7.5% graduate (Masani, 2008). In comparison to other major emerging countries, the quality of education in India, whether at the basic or secondary level, is noticeably inferior. As of 2008, there were only enough seats available at post-secondary schools in India for 7% of the country's population of college-age students, 25% of teaching positions nationwide were unfilled, and 57% of college professors lacked either a master's or PhD. (Newsweek, 2011). According to Science and Technology Education, 2009, there are 1,244 polytechnics with an annual inflow of 260,000+ students and 1500+ degree-granting engineering schools in India as of 2011. However, there is a faculty shortage at these institutions, and questions about the educational quality have been raised (Mitra, 2008).

The higher education system in India still has a lot of potential to overcome these obstacles and establish its identity on a global scale, despite these difficulties. The new millennium's role for colleges and universities as well as developing scientific study on how individuals learn are crucial, but it also needs more transparency and accountability. India easily transforms our country from a developing country to a developed country since it exports highly skilled workers to other nations.

Growth of the Higher Education Sector in India

Society is becoming more concerned about the quality of programmes, public evaluations, and global rankings of higher education institutions as higher education systems expand and diversity. However, these comparisons frequently place an excessive emphasis on research, interpreting research output as a gauge of institutional worth. The difficulty of assessing teaching quality is one reason why these approaches may not be successful (Hernard, 2008).

India has always been a nation of academics and lifelong learners. India was renowned for its scholars and universities in the past as well, including Taxila, Nalanda, and Vikramshila. India had 20 universities and 500 colleges when it gained its independence, with 2,30,000 students total. India has made great strides since becoming independent in terms of statistics related to higher education. Up until December 2011–2012, this number had grown to 659 universities and 33023 colleges. The focus of the federal government and state governments on increasing the number of colleges and universities for higher education is an effort to develop talent. There is no denying that the private sector has contributed significantly to India's educational advancement. In reality, the public and private sectors are not competing with one another but rather working together in the Indian educational sector. The primary governing body, UGC, is in charge of upholding the laws, giving advice to the executive branch, and assisting in interstate communication. The expansion of universities and colleges in India from 1970 to 2012 is seen in india . In the past forty years, the number of universities has increased more than six times, and the number of colleges has climbed from 3603 in 1970–1971 to 33000 in 2011–2012.

Challenges in Higher Education in India

Even though we have been independent for 73 years, our educational system is still in its infancy. We are unable to include a single institution on our ranking of the top 100 universities in the world. Throughout these seven decades, numerous governments came and went. They made efforts to improve the educational system and put in place a number of educational regulations, but they fell short of setting an example for the entire universe. In the field of higher education, UGC is always working and putting quality education first. Still, there are many issues and difficulties in our educational system. The following is a discussion of some of the fundamental issues facing India's higher education system:

- **Enrolment: India's higher education gross enrollment ratio (GER**) is only 15%, which is quite low when compared to developed and emerging nations. Higher education institutions are unable to accommodate the nation's expanding demand due to the rise in school enrollment.

- **Equity:** In GER, there is no equity between the various social groups. According to earlier research, there are more differences between male and female GER in higher education in India. Regional variances exist as well, and some states have high GERs while others lag well behind the national GER, which highlights a serious imbalance in the higher education system. The notion of excellence in higher education is dynamic, diverse, and has many facets. Currently, one of India's top priorities is assuring the calibre of higher education. The government, however, never ceases highlighting top-notch education. Many Indian institutions of higher learning are still unable to meet the fundamental criteria established by the UGC, which prevents them from ranking among the best institutions in the world.

- **Infrastructure:** The physical facilities and infrastructure of the Indian higher education system have issues, particularly at institutions run by the public sector. Numerous institutions are operating on the second and third floors of the building, while ready-to-wear businesses and copy shops are located on the ground and first levels.

- **Political interference:** The majority of political figures who hold crucial positions in the governing bodies of the universities are the owners of the educational institutions. They are taking advantage of the helpless students for their own gain. Students organise campaigns, lose sight of their own goals, and start to build their political careers.

- **Faculty:** For many years, the availability of talented instructors has been hindered by faculty shortages and the state's failure to recruit and keep them. Even though there are many open positions in higher education, a large number of NET and PhD candidates remain jobless. As a result, these talented students are applying to positions in other fields, which is a major blow to the higher education system.

- **Accreditation**: According to data published by the NAAC, "not quite 25% of the country's higher education institutions were accredited" as of June 2010. Only 30% of the universities and 45% of the colleges among those with accreditation were determined to be of sufficient quality to receive a "A" rating.

- **Research and Innovation:** There are extremely few intellectuals in our nation, yet their works are frequently referenced by well-known western authors. In higher education institutions, the emphasis on research is insufficient. There aren't enough tools and facilities, and there aren't enough top-notch professors to help pupils. The majority of research researchers lack fellowships or do not receive them in a timely manner, which negatively impacts their research in one way or another. Institutions of higher learning in India also have insufficient access to research facilities. Therefore, this presents another another difficulty for Indian higher education.

- **Structure of higher education**: Over centralization, bureaucratic institutions, and a lack of accountability, openness, and professionalism are problems for Indian education management. The number of connected colleges and students has expanded, which has greatly increased the administrative workload for universities and diluted their primary emphasis on education and research (Kumar, 2015).

Opportunities in Higher Education

With an approximate of 150 million young people between the ages of 18 and 23, India is a sizable country. The market's share size presents India's higher education industry with numerous prospects for higher growth. With a phenomenal increase over the past 6 decades, India can currently brag of having more than 33,000+ colleges and 658+ universities. With over 21.4 million students enrolled in 2012, India now has the third-largest educational system in the world. Unfortunately, India's educational system is not equipped to handle such massive loads. Despite all of the government funding for education, it just isn't enough to keep up with the demand. As a result, the higher education industry is today recognised as one of the promising ones for both domestic and international investment. There are a tonne of

investing opportunities available in both regulated and unregulated markets (Nexus Novus, 26 July, 2013).

The Indian higher education system is growing swiftly despite several challenges. These challenges may, however, be overcome. With the use of contemporary learning technologies, a country like India may easily overcome these problems and bring about a paradigm change in the country's higher education sector. Opportunities abound in such a vibrant nation with such a sizable educated population. If information is conveyed through cutting-edge digital teaching and learning technologies and society is made aware of where we are now falling behind, our nation may quickly become one of the most developed in the world.

At the state level, there are chances for strategic involvement and capacity building in higher education leadership and management. India has the chance to engage with other countries on systemic transformation in areas like quality control, international credit recognition, and an uniform national qualifications framework. Because higher education is a potent weapon for lowering or eliminating income and wealth gaps, equal educational opportunity is thought to be crucial. The idea of equating educational prospects is further supported by the observation that "all socioeconomic classes have an equal opportunity to gain from higher education." There are a lot of untapped talent reserves in society, and if given the chance, they can succeed. In fact, an unequal educational system results in the loss of a considerable number of high-level talent (Balachander, 1986).

The need to increase graduates' employability is opening doors for collaboration in entrepreneurship education and industry connections, research skills, and a wide range of transferrable abilities, including English. The growing interest of Indian higher education institutions in the market for vocational skills opens up opportunities for collaboration with foreign partners. In higher education, there is a need to forge closer ties and deepen understanding through expanding funding for and participation in venues (conferences, workshops, seminars) that promote discussion and communication with other nations (British Council, 2014).

Suggestions Improving the System of Higher Education:

To make the Indian educational system more relevant and competitive on the international stage, creative and transformative approaches must be implemented from the basic to the higher education levels. Higher education institutions need to improve their standing and standards. To attract students, colleges and institutions need to have a solid infrastructure.

The government must promote collaboration between top international and Indian higher education institutions as well as between national research laboratories and research centres at prominent schools in order to foster higher-quality and collaborative research.

Offering graduate students seminars where they may excel and learn more about a topic would help them find jobs after being employed by firms and avoid wasting time enrolling in additional higher education. There must be no political affiliations, favouritism, or money-making practises in both public and private colleges, among other things.. Higher education should adopt a multidisciplinary approach so that students' knowledge is not limited to just their chosen fields. We thing following point should be consider in Management for Quality Education

1. Group dialogue (in small or large groups) In order to get a deeper grasp of a problem or subject of interest, find the best solution, or create new concepts and directions for the group, the group looks into it.

2. Brainstorming is a technique for creating several potential solutions to a problem or for problem-solving in general. The goal of brainstorming is to generate as many ideas as you can, regardless of their quality, with the help of as many team members as you can. Even the most outrageous ideas are accepted and documented since the quantity of ideas created is more essential than their viability.

3. Role-playing is the act of having individuals dramatise or portray a hypothetical scenario. It is possible to encourage students to assume various roles. The gender of the actors portraying the male and female roles is not a requirement.

4. Question Box is an activity in which professors, facilitators, or experts respond to questions posed by students. Students may enter their queries in the box without giving away their identities since it is situated in a handy spot.

5. Exercises from Visualization in Participatory Programs (VIPP) A group of strategies known as VIPP are used to encourage employees to collaborate and take part with their coworkers. A wide variety of participatory approaches are utilised in VIPP processes, including card gathering (one idea per card), brainstorming, sketching activities, and discussions.

6. Presentation - This approach works well when a significant quantity of information has to be conveyed quickly. An engaging presentation, however, enables for conversation between the facilitator and the audience.

7. Debate - Engaging in a debate is an engaging activity for bringing up contentious topics. People are given the opportunity to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of a topic and then form an informed opinion. The topic under discussion should be presented as a motion or proposition with both pro and con arguments that may be made by the students.

CONCLUSION

A guy with an education is not only prepared to face the difficulties of life, but is also the epitome of a gentleman. A guy with education is usually more equipped to manage difficulties than a man without education. He is skilled at meeting difficulties head-on. The tasks that lie ahead will excite him rather than worry him. Only now, once in a man's lifetime, are the latent abilities revealed that reside dormant in him until they are employed. With regard to higher education, India clearly has a lot of challenges, but it is essential to get through these obstacles and promote higher education. How to use India's vast human resource potential is a subject that needs to be tackled. Opportunities exist, but it's important to learn how to seize them and make them available to others. If higher education in India is to continue expanding at this pace, both the quantity and quality of higher education must improve.

In addition to these initiatives, the government may handle issues related to a teacher shortage more successfully by putting the following suggestions into practise.

• More universities and colleges need to connect with one another in order to provide affordable, high-quality education with a focus on rural and disadvantaged students.

• Strengthen and encourage collaboration with foreign institutions on projects including the funding of research, instruction, and training.

• Provide tax benefits to private sector managers who establish and oversee efficient educational systems.

• Provide educators with the opportunity to cooperate and do business. As a consequence, the industry will get qualified personnel, and professors will be able to convey to students the most current information learned in the company in real time.

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