

Quality of Higher Education in India: Issues and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

Education is manifestation of innate human beings and it implants useful skills that will ultimately lead to both personal and national enrichment. Quality education is a prerequisite and key factor for an institution particularly an educational institution. In the rapid changing scenario of globalization, a qualitative product only has market. Survival and prosperity, thus, depends upon the quality. Education, which meets the current demands of the society, will certainly provide adoption and adaptation for peace progress of culture. It moulds character as total 'man'. Globalization, modernization and information and communication technology, our students have global reach and global opportunities which are knocking our doors. Of course, we have made tremendous success in the software area and space technology. Opportunities are galore in many more areas. It is appropriate to remember that India is one of the few countries in the world to have a surplus manpower of the right age group.

1. Introduction

Education is manifestation of innate human beings and it implants useful skills that will ultimately lead to both personal and national enrichment. Quality education is a prerequisite and key factor for an institution particularly an educational institution. In the rapid changing scenario of globalization, a qualitative product only has market. Survival and prosperity, thus, depends upon the quality. Education, which meets the current demands of the society, will certainly provide adoption and adaptation for peace progress of culture. It moulds character as total 'man'. Globalization, modernization and information and communication technology, our students have global reach and global opportunities which are knocking our doors. Of course, we have made tremendous success in the software area and space technology. Opportunities are galore in many more areas. It is appropriate to remember that India is one of the few countries in the world to have a surplus manpower of the right age group.

2. Need for higher education

we need to think about the kind of education system necessary to develop skills whereby our youth will be best equipped to function with perfection for achieving the 11th Plan expected the growth rate of Indian economy at nine per cent. Hence, there is a need, today, to enhance and maintain quality education to the youth to reap optimum benefits in full use of natural resources, knowledge is a resource within and outside the country. Thus, education system is the base for social, economic and political strengths, the foundation should not be merely for information but inquisitive.

Quality cannot easily be defined. Number is not always quality and latest or sophisticated need not be quality too. Quality is multifaceted and multi-dimensional. It is not related to one or two aspects.

A few benchmarks within situational frame can be set for broad comparison among institutions and individuals, depending on the functional needs. These benchmarks may be regional, national or global but desirable to aim at achieving higher quality for a wider acceptability. The quality dimensions and benchmarks have changed in recent years in the light of changed global and socio-economic scenario. A few decades back, classroom teaching was the 'only' function of educational institutions but now it is one of the functional aspects. Many more dimensions are added due to advancement of science and technology as also due to universalization of benchmarks and their increased universalisation standards.

Depending on a variety of factors, any institution will have a set of constraints and limitations. However an institution can maintain desirable degree of quality and standard within its constraints. Investigating these constraints and finding remedial solutions give a positive direction to the institutions so as to strengthen a new era of quality functions. This will lead the institution to gear itself to meet the new challenges.

The education institution will have its own mission and vision for high quality benchmarks with its strengths and opportunities keeping away weaknesses as well as threat which being posed from external environment. It means, every education institution should strategically bend its courses of actions with resources for achieving the objects ensuring quality education. Therefore, education intuition is to be unique and to achieve high quality on its own away within the limitations as quality is from within.

To deliver products to the students always depends upon generic service with focus as well as differentiation in the competitive era. In this scenario, a fresh look is needed to introspect of intuitions for their own composition and strength, treatment of all students not alike, exposure to the field, civilizing and research is recognized as important activities. If

we could find means, the rest of the things follow paying the way for achieving excellence within the constraints.

The colleges and other institutions are considered to be temples of learning, abodes of knowledge and marks of civilization and culture, helping the community to develop in the social, economic, educational and cultural fields. Krishna swami O.R. with long and enriched experience said about the Indian Educational Institutions thus: "Educational institutions stands as isolated islands away from the communities with a one-way path only drawing students wherefrom." How education institutions can be improved quality educations. Let us look into:

3. Structure of Education Institution

A sound structure and health organization of education institution is desirable for effective and efficiency. Hence, the education institution has to look itself and introspects for its own composition and strengths it means, composition and objectives. Though syllabi are decided by the university, it can be closely reviewed at the institutional level and reorient to suit the current needs of the society. Qualitative curriculum and effective management to implement the integrated goals is the need of the hour.

The Government patronage in the form of faculty development, development of infrastructure and incentives pays a greater role on enhancement of sustainable quality in the educational institutions. Obviously, the Government has been doing services in form extending grants and need infrastructure. Still its role is enormous to play as in recent period recruitment policy has become stand still.

Classroom Approach:

The quality of classrooms decides the quality of their products. Teaching learning is to be made livelier by strengthening the classroom teaching with creative supplementary methods like panel discussion, class seminars, quiz and debate. In order to gear the students for achieving high standards the bridge course and remedial course will need to implement at the beginning of the year itself. Teaching with local and creative aids and models, thus, will enhance the learning speed and comprehension of the students.

Education should aim at knowing the subject by exploring, but our system only disseminated information printed in textbooks. Teachers memorized lessons delivered the same before students. Probing habit by students is taken as lack of discipline but it is otherwise in other countries. The students who lacked the urge to probe are branded undisciplined in other countries. On the other hand, education in the corporate sector would make the students only competitive-oriented. Competitive examination are testing the information acquired by the students and not their skill and talent. Efforts should be made to make students stand on their feet by making them skilled.

Students Not Alike:

All students need not be treated alike. A variety of toughs to easy assignments will improve their learning capacity. Demonstration, tutorials, independent learning will expose students and create confidence in them. This must be supported by labs and computers and internet with vast expansion and within the reach of students. Apart from the above, continuous evaluation of students shall be launched as it is key factor to achieve quality. However, success of evaluation lies in motivating students.

Examining the connected and related issues of education for its quality development, the following measures need take into stock. They are:

The meaningful and purposeful training the students will come to an end only when synthesizes the results of research in teaching. Research recognized an important activity of a higher educational institution. The activity of research only enriches both students and taught exposing them to the current events. However, both teacher and students shall be motivated to go through research and subject journals, which provide cushion for quality and quantity in the long run. Building confidence among the students and teachers is the basic concern of the management.

The structure of syllabi and pattern of examinations, today, not are in vogue to develop knowledge and skills of the candidate on the subject and his presentation. This is undoubtedly seen on the way of selecting our students while recruiting by the companies. Even, we are conducting entrance test for admission in postgraduate courses. This instances speaks where our system of higher education stand. It is worth quote the opinion of expressed by the planning commission member, B.L.Mugekar at the National level vice-chancellors' meeting held at New Delhi on the 11th Five Year plan. He said this: The annual examination system in India is completely useless. We should scrap it and go to semester system."

Uniform curricula at both under graduation and post-graduation with credit system to be introduced which motivates students to pursue their interested subjects, which naturally, upgraded their knowledge.

Uniform academic calendar pertaining to admission, conduct of examinations and declare of results to be implemented which creates a sense of awareness to the system and also among the students and public.

4. Conclusion

To sum up that we should take care of introducing right education with sole aim of producers of not only wealth but also good citizens. If a new beginning in understanding our own institution is made, the rest of the things follow paying the way for achieving excellence within the constraints. What is needed is the 'will' to do and 'will to improve with which we can make a 'hope' into a 'reality'.

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