

TRENDS IN GROWTH AND FINANCING OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The current study examines the trends in the growth and development of higher education in India and among various states. This study has shown that the trends in the growth and development of universities and colleges, as well as enrollment, are being analyzed. Higher education is one of the essential functions hindered by India's rapidly globalizing economy. With India evolving into one of the most vibrant emerging markets, international universities and enterprises centered on higher education have much to anticipate in the medium and long run. India is presently amid a national election, yet the prevailing trend and governance emphasis throughout the political spectrum centers on addressing developmental issues through the use of advanced industries and technologies. This education system profile offers a comprehensive insight into the framework of India's education system, including its educational institutions, quality assurance methods, grading systems, and patterns in outbound and inbound student movement. Higher education needs to progress with a balanced mix of skills and knowledge to stay ahead of the increasing domestic and global demands. The research examined the current higher education landscape of the nation, including the count of universities, colleges, and student enrolments.

Keywords: Origin, Higher Education, Universities, Colleges, and Enrolment.

INTRODUCTION

Higher education is a crucial aspect hindered by India's rapidly advancing global economy. With India's emergence as a highly dynamic market, foreign universities and institutions centered on higher education can anticipate significant opportunities in the medium and long term. The higher education system in India is vast and intricate, featuring a variety of universities and colleges. According to the annual All India survey of higher education (AISHE, 2018), there are a total of 49,964 institutions, which include 903 universities, 10,011 standalone institutions, and 39,050 colleges. The overall enrollment in higher education consists of 36.6 million students, with a Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of 25.8%. The undergraduate program (29.06 million) boasts a large enrollment with participation across all faculties, including arts & humanities (36.4%), science (17.1%), and an equal division in Engineering & Commerce (14.1%). The gross enrollment ratio (GER) for higher secondary schools is 62.5%, with an estimated annual enrollment of 13.5 million students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the historical background of higher education system in India.
2. To study the trends in growth and development of higher education in the country.
3. To examine the disparities in the enrolment of higher education across major states in India.

METHODOLOGY

The current research paper primarily relies on secondary data. The research utilized data gathered from multiple sources such as the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The secondary data is sourced from the annual reports of the University Grant Commission (UGC), the All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE in 2018-19), and Educational Statistics at a Glance. The study utilized statistical tools such as percentage and compound annual growth rate.

ORIGIN OF HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR IN INDIA

India is believed to have had a functioning system of higher education as early as 1000 B.C. Unlike present day universities, these ancient learning centers were primarily concerned with dispersing Vedic education. The modern Indian education system finds its roots in colonial legacy. The British Government used the university system as a tool of cultural colonization. Colonial efforts in higher education were carried out initially through the East India Company, followed by the British parliament and later under direct British rule. The first institution of higher learning set up by the British East India Company was the Calcutta Madrasa in 1781. This was followed by the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784, Benaras Sanskrit College in 1791 and Fort William College in 1800. With the Charter Act of 1813, the British Parliament officially declared Indian education as one of the duties of the state. The same act also removed restrictions on missionary work in British India, thus leading to the establishment of the evangelist Serampore College in 1818. Thomas Babington Macaulay's famously controversial Minute on Education (1835) reflected the growing support of a Western approach to knowledge over an Oriental one. Soon after, in 1857, the first three official universities were started in Bombay (Mumbai), Calcutta (Kolkata) and Madras (Chennai). Followed by the University of Allahabad in 1887. These universities were modeled after the University of London and focused on English and the humanities.

The British control of the Indian education system continued until the Government of India Act 1935 that transferred more power to provincial politicians and began the Indianisation of education. This period witnessed a rise in the importance of physical and vocational education as well as the introduction of basic education schemes. When India gained independence in 1947, the nation had a total of 241,369 students registered across 20 universities and 496 colleges. In 1948, the Indian Government established the University Education Commission to oversee the growth and improvement of higher education. In the 1960s and 1970s, the government increased its efforts to support higher education by not only setting up state-funded universities and colleges, but also providing financial assistance to private institutions, resulting in the creation of private aided/ grant-in-aid institutions.

Despite the departure of the British, Indian higher education continued to give importance to the languages and humanities until the 1980s. Institutes of professional education like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Regional Engineering Colleges (REC) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) were some of the more prominent exceptions to this trend. These institutions drew inspiration from reputed universities in the United States and also received foreign funding. However, the education system remained using the colonial English instead of plain English as many ESL countries do under the colonized mentality that sophistication of language used in education signifies quality of education instead of the quality of structured knowledge that is transferred. Post 1980s, the changing needs of the economy, lack of foreign investment and political volatility, decreasing value of currency, and an increased strain on government governance capacity, slowed the growth of state-

funded higher educational institutions. This led to an increased role of the private sector in the education system.

AN OVERVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

India's higher education system is the world's third-largest in terms of students, next to China and the United States. India's Higher Education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of Universities/ University level Institutions & Colleges since independence. India holds an important place in the global education industry. India has one of the largest networks of higher education institutions in the world. However, there is still a lot of potential for further development in the education system. Moreover, the aim of the Government to raise its current gross enrolment ratio to 30% by 2019 will also boost the growth of distance education in India. Number of colleges and universities in India reached 39,931 and 993, respectively, in FY19. India had 37.4 million students enrolled in higher education in FY19. Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education reached 26.3% in FY19. In 2020-21, there were 9,700 total AICTE approved institutes. Of the total, there were 4,100 undergraduate, 4,951 postgraduate and 4,514 diploma courses in AICTE approved institutes. The country has become the second largest market for E-learning after the US. The sector is expected to reach US\$ 1.96 billion by 2021 with around 9.5 million users. In India, the online education market is forecast to reach ~US\$ 8.6 billion by 2026.

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education in India is 26.3% which is calculated for 18-23 years of Age Group. GER for male population is 26.3% and for Female it is 26.4%. During the academic session 2018-19, the total students enrolment in all courses and levels in regular and distance education Programmes was 373.99 lakhs including 181.90 lakhs women students, constituting 48.64%. The maximum number of students had been enrolled in the state of Uttar Pradesh (64.69 lakhs), followed by Maharashtra (42.30 lakhs), Tamil Nadu (34.14 lakhs) and West Bengal (20.97 lakhs) etc. The student enrolment in terms of percentages at various levels was 79.76% at UG, 10.81% at PG, 0.53% at Research, 8.26% at Diploma/Certificate and 0.64% at Integrated Courses. There are 47427 foreign Students from 164 different countries enrolled in Universities and Colleges. During the year 2018-19, Out of total number of 1416299 Teachers, about 58% are male teachers and 42% are female teachers. There were 169170 and 30692 Students enrolled in Ph.D & M.Phil courses respectively in Universities and Colleges during 2018-19. During 2018, 64.74 Lakh Students have been Graduated and 15.00 Lakh Students Passed Post Graduation.

RECENT TRENDS IN GROWTH OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

All India Survey of Higher Education (2017), it is evidence found from the type-wise details of the number of universities are 903. Among 903 Universities, about 343 Universities are privately managed and 357 Universities are located in rural area. 15 Universities are exclusively for women with 4 in Rajasthan, 2 in Tamil Nadu, 1 each in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. There are 285 Affiliating Universities. The affiliated and constituent institutions of Central and State Public Universities have been totaled as colleges. Constituent units of deemed/private universities, Off-campus centers and Recognized centers have not been counted as Colleges. There are 285 affiliating Universities and they have 39050 colleges. Table-1 depicts that the type of universities of higher education in India as on 2018.

Table-1 Number of Universities in India as on 2018

S. No	Type of Universities	Number of Universities	Percentages
1	Central University	45	4.98
2	Central Open University	1	0.11
3	Institution of National Importance	101	11.18
4	State Public University	351	38.87
5	Institution Under State Legislature Act	5	0.55
6	State Open University	14	1.55
7	State Private University	262	29.01
8	State Private Open University	1	0.11
9	Deemed University- Government	33	3.65
10	Deemed University- Government Aided	10	1.11
11	Deemed University- Private	80	8.86
	Grand Total	903	100.00

Source: Government of India (2018), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, All India Survey on Higher Education (2017-18), New Delhi.

GROWTH OF COLLEGES IN INDIA: MAJOR STATES STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

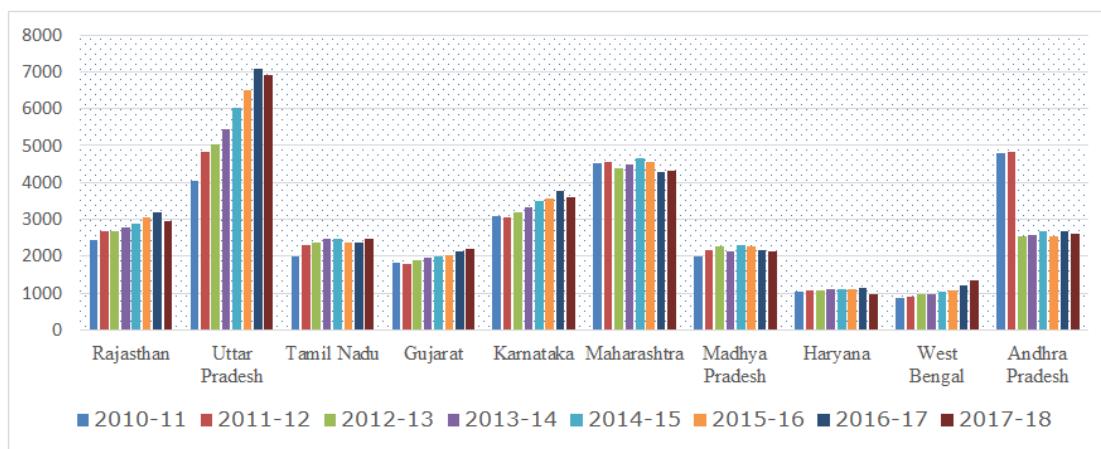
As per AISHE in 2017-18, the top 8 states in terms of highest number of Colleges in India are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh which have 8 and more Colleges per lakh populationTable-2 show that the mean and CAGR for number of colleges in major states.

Table-2 Major State-wise Number of College in India (2010-11 to 2017-18)

States	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	CA GR
Rajasthan	2435	2670	2669	2774	2892	3050	3203	2957	3.28
Uttar Pradesh	4049	4828	5048	5445	6026	6491	7073	6922	8.07
Tamil Nadu	1985	2302	2372	2460	2477	2368	2368	2472	2.02
Gujarat	1815	1780	1880	1944	1989	2019	2116	2196	2.94
Karnataka	3098	3068	3205	3310	3492	3555	3753	3593	2.91
Maharashtra	4512	4566	4369	4498	4646	4569	4286	4314	- 0.55
Madhya Pradesh	2009	2172	2280	2136	2292	2260	2173	2124	0.52
Haryana	1054	1061	1072	1098	1113	1113	1155	964	- 0.09
West Bengal	857	901	955	985	1051	1082	1208	1341	6.18
Andhra Pradesh	4780	4815	2527	2568	2673	2532	2663	2624	- 8.12

Source: Government of India (2018), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, All India Survey on Higher Education (2017-18), New Delhi.

Graph-1 Major State-wise Number of College in India



The above table, in Uttar Pradesh, there are 6922 Colleges and for every one lakh population there are 28 Colleges. Similarly, Maharashtra comes second with 4314 Colleges and 33 Colleges per lakh population. Karnataka comes at third position with 3593 Colleges and 51 Colleges per lakh population whereas Rajasthan is at fourth position with 2957 Colleges and 33 Colleges per lakh population. Andhra Pradesh comes at fifth position with 2624 Colleges and has College density of 48. Tamil Nadu comes at sixth position with 2472 Colleges and 35 Colleges per lakh population whereas Gujarat is at seventh position with 2196 Colleges and 30 Colleges per lakh population. Madhya Pradesh has 2124 Colleges and 24 Colleges for every one lakh population.

CONCLUSION

India is a rapidly changing country in which inclusive, high-quality education is of utmost importance for its future prosperity. Higher Education as in utmost of the nations of the global is mostly a state-sponsored activity in the country. Focused efforts are required to tap the potentials of alternative methods of knowledge delivery including television, computerized self-learning, and internet-based courses. India should embark on a massive program to convert the entire higher educational curriculum into a multimedia, web-based format and to establish accredited standards for recognition of distance educational courseware. The present study aims to highlighted the trends and pattern of higher education amongst major states in India. The present study revealed that the emerging trends in growth of universities and colleges of higher education in across the major states in India.

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