

A STUDY ON PRIVATISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA- PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT:

“Education is the most powerful weapon which can be used to change the world.” This beautiful thought had been voiced out by Nelson Mandela, and it is important to provide quality education by any country to the younger generations. Progress of the World is possible only by educate the people. India has world’s third largest higher educational system, next to China and United States. The vision and mission of higher education is to meet the societal requirements such as equality, justice, quality, employability, inclusiveness, all round development of an individual and create a resourceful economy. The inefficient administration, outdated practices and policies, red-tapism and insufficient funds leads to break down of traditional form of educational system.

To overcome such difficulties government thought of privatisation of higher education system in India. There are three forms of privatization of higher education institutes- Government self-financing institutes, Government aided private self-financing institutes and completely private higher education institutes. The present study focused on the problems and prospects of privatisation of higher educational institutions in India. Definitely some negative impact is there on the issue. But always advantages are also bind with the change. The present conceptual paper focused on consequences of privatisation with prons and cons, would like to offer suggestions on the present topic.

Key Words: Higher education, Privatisation, problems and prospects

INTRODUCTION:

“Education is the most powerful weapon which can be used to change the world.” This beautiful thought had been voiced out by Nelson Mandela, and it is important to provide quality education by any country to the younger generations. Progress of the World is possible only by educate the people. India has world’s third largest higher educational system, next to China and United States. In quantitative terms also number of educational institutions is enormous in India. The Education system in India consists of three phases as funding, philanthropic to public and then to private financing. The vision and mission of higher education is to meet the societal requirements such as equality, justice, quality, employability, inclusiveness, all round development of an individual and create a resourceful economy. The changing patterns have altered the regulations, equity, efficiency and quality of higher education. This has led to privatization of education on a large scale.

Due to structural adjustment program going on globally, many countries are trying to explore alternative sources other than the public treasury for various development programmes. In the context of higher education, advocacy of private financing has become increasingly common. India has the advantage of English being the primary language of higher education and research. India educates approximately 11 per cent of its youth in higher education as compared to 20 per cent in China. The main governing body at the tertiary level is the University Grants Commission (India), which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between the centre and the state. Universities and its constituent colleges are the main institutes of higher education in India. Number of higher educational institutions across India in 2023, Universities are 1113, colleges 43,796 and 11,296 standalone institutions. Out of which 32,697 colleges and 430 universities are under private management (from Statista 2023). Many private institutions are already progressing and showing its impact on the society. So the main focus is to learn different issues related to privatisation of higher education in India.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. **Manmeet Oberoi Baweja**, Principal Shah Satnam ji College of Education, Sirsa, mentioned in the article, India has world’s third largest higher educational system, next to China and United States. The mission of higher education is to achieve access, equality, justice, quality, employability, inclusiveness and create a knowledge society/economy. The

deteriorating administration, unproductive practice, corruption and fund unavailability leads to break down of indigenous educational system. To tackle with the problem of unavailability of funds, instead of setting up new institutions, which require huge investments, priority of the government is to expand the capacity of existing institutions and to open the new educational institutions in higher education in private sector. The need to privatize higher education is explained in this paper. The impact of privatization in higher education is positive as well as negative. The suggestions to take maximum benefits from privatization are also discussed.

2. Khabirul Alam & Dr. Ujjwal Kumar Halder mentioned, Privatization of higher education in India has positive and negative impacts on education and society. Hence, the prime objective of this paper is to present the emergence of privatization in present higher education in India and also to analyze the impact of privatization in higher education. From the reviews it is clear that there is a scope to review the practices adopted by higher educational institutions, because change is inevitable. There is no other alternative to overlook change. How quickly change has accepted and adopted is the point. So there is a need to learn about the changes in privatisation of higher education in India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

From the above reviews and with the gap following objectives have framed.

1. To study the changes in higher education due to privatisation
2. To study the problems encountered and the prospects on privatisation of higher education in India

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study purely focused on conceptual work on privatisation of higher education in India. Facts are collected from various official websites of governing bodies.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS:

1. CHANGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM DUE TO PRIVATISATION IN INDIA:

Privatisation is not new to Indian environment but many factors pushed the higher education into private hands such as unavailability of financial resources, traditional education system like class room education and also the government policies related to primary education. Government is not in a position to completely concentrate on higher education. Privatization of higher education in India introduced new policies and programs to increase new opportunities in employment, outcomes and income opportunities and achieve economic development at Regional, State wise, National and International levels. It has brought about a rapid change in the educational scenario of India. Privatization encourages the individual and society to establish schools, colleges and private universities to meet the growing demand for education. As a result, private educational institutions are growing day by day throughout the country. Privatization of higher education in India has positive and negative impacts on education and society.

Privatization of higher education has emerged in several forms in the recent decade. Privatization within government higher education institutions takes place in the form of introducing self-financing courses within government institutions. Second form is converting government aided private institution in to private self-financing institution. Third form of privatization is allowing self-financing private institution with recognition and also without recognition. This may be termed as commercial private higher education institutions. Private Institutes are mainly allowed to set up state private universities, deemed university and academic institution with foreign collaboration. [Kapur and Mehta \(2006\)](#) described the evolution of privatization in Indian higher education using a phrase, "from half-baked socialism to half bake capitalism." They argued that much of the massive privatization has not resulted from ideological commitments of key actors but is instead a result of collapse of the state system resulting in weak ideological and institutional foundations. The following are the changes:

1. From 'State Controlled Education' to an 'Open Market Economy Education',
2. from 'Education for Human Development' to 'Education for Human Resource Development',
3. from 'Education for a Few' to 'Education for Many',
4. from 'National' to 'Global Education',
5. from 'Institution or Teacher Centered Education' to 'Student Centered Education',
6. from 'Subsidised Education' to 'Education for a Price'.

Need of Privatization in Higher Education:

The need to privatize higher education is because of following reasons:

1. To increase competitive efficiency in government sector or in government owned institutions
2. To meet the growing demand of higher education
3. To provide sufficient educational facilities to the rapid growing population.
4. To reduce financial burden on government
5. To decentralize of educational sector to meet the industry demand

PROSPECTS:

For any concept there are advantages and disadvantages are there. Here presenting some of the prospects due to privatisation of higher education in India.

1. Private institutes have their own ways to give admissions which are different from the all traditional reservations as well as categories.
2. Global standards are adopted by the private universities by collaborating with global institutions.
3. Focusing on industry requirements
4. Quick adoption of latest technological changes
5. Curriculum has designed to provide quality education as per market needs
6. Quick decision making leads to required changes in the system

PROBLEMS:

1. Economic disparities are really high in our economy. So unaffordable people are more in number. The sector cannot afford in private institutions due to management profit moto.
2. Many inefficient students are become part of private institutions due to management quotas and NRI quotas.
3. Private owned institutions are not bother about country as well as what is needed
4. No scope for innovation.

SUGGESTIONS:

Due to Government's policy of preferring quantity over quality, private colleges are growing daily. We can see many colleges in one area. To minimize the wastage and stagnation, Government should check private bodies seriously. Otherwise future of our children will be dark.

There is also a fact that if a private sector educational institute cannot at least recover its costs, it would be closed down. So the private institutions must be allowed to be commercial i.e. they must be allowed to break-even or make a small fair profit. If they are allowed to do so transparently, there would be no need to disguise their profit and the institute will not compromise with quality. Growing needs of population emerge the privatization but government also update the system and try to closely watch the system and when and where ever changes are needed can be done as quickly as possible.

CONCLUSION:

The private initiative in education, especially higher education is not new to India. Some of the leading universities like Banaras Hindu University and Aligarh Muslim University came up with the efforts, dedication and financial support of community and since 1990's; trend towards privatization has been on a large scale. Government cannot absolve its responsibility of regulating private institutes. So, some regulating agencies have to be formed which assure quality and transparency and prevent profiteering in private educational institutes. There is an emergence need to regulate quality but not growth of supply.

Privatization of education has the potential to improve the quality of education as well as to reduce the cost.

To ensure access to higher education by weaker section of society, government has to increase public expenditure on higher education. On the whole, an improvement in the standards of education could be achieved through a balanced relationship between public and private sector. Although there are many drawbacks of privatization of higher education

but it has the positive point that education is accessible to all, even to the rural students now a day. In fact, privatization increases of number of degrees' holders on one hand and unemployment on the other hand.

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