

Evaluating the Role of Private Institutions in Shaping the Future of Higher Education

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Abstract

The study demonstrates that higher education in India is profoundly pertinent, as it actively contributes to the advancement of the economy, facilitates social mobility, and fosters cultural development. Private institutions are vital in influencing the future of higher education through their contributions in expanding accessibility, promoting innovation, and sustaining industry relationships. Ensuring a harmonious equilibrium between these positive contributions and obstacles such as cost-effectiveness and guaranteeing good standards is crucial for the ongoing improvement of the higher education system in India. This study investigates the diverse and complex impact of private institutions on the direction of higher education and the formation of its future environment. The research seeks to shed light on the influence of private institutions in various important areas, such as access, innovation, infrastructure, global collaboration, research and development, entrepreneurship, and governance, through a thorough assessment. By combining current research and empirical assessments, the study offers valuable insights into the advantages and difficulties linked to private higher education institutions. The findings emphasise the role of these institutions in enhancing accessibility, addressing industry demands, and making progress in curriculum development and teaching methods. This research enhances our understanding of the influence of private institutions on the changing higher education system. It provides valuable insights for policy, regulation, and future advancements in the field.

Keywords: Private Institutions, Future, Higher Education, India

Introduction

The inaugural and significant declaration of the education commission's report, given to the central government in 1966, states that India's future is being moulded within the confines of four walls. The education commission, led by Dr. D. S. Kothari, firmly believed that educational institutions serve as the focal points for shaping the future society. The central government implemented measures, based on the suggestions of the 1966 education commission, to introduce changes in education and educational institutions with the aim of transforming them into hubs of socio-economic development. The evolution of education and educational institutions has persisted up to the present day.

Upon completing their education, learners are encouraged to pursue employment or engage in entrepreneurial ventures that align with their interests and abilities. If educational institutions fulfil their legitimate duty in providing high-quality education along with values and ethics, society will benefit from a skilled and ethical human resource pool. Competent human resources will build business organisations that offer goods and services to meet the demands of society. In turn, the satisfied society will sustain these businesses. Therefore,

society and enterprises have the potential to foster sustainable growth in the future, as they are interconnected and rely on each other (Choudhary, B. K., & R., 2017). Yet, the trajectory of both business and society is largely influenced by the education system and educational institutions of a nation.

Status of Higher Education in India

India, with a population of over 1.3 billion, is the second-most populous country in the world. It is known for its many states and cultures. The higher education sector in India has experienced significant expansion in recent years, characterised by a growing number of institutions and an increase in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the higher education level. Nevertheless, issues such as the standard of education, the accessibility of resources, and the necessity for reform remain unresolved.

Tables: “All India Survey on Higher Education 2020-21 report presents some critical statistics at the all-India level for higher education in India”

Category	Total	Male	Female	Rural	Urban
Institutions	51,649	30,911	20,738	31,316	20,333
Enrolment	40.15 million	24.28 million	15.87 million	19.56 million	20.59 million
Teachers	15.12 million	9.25 million	5.87 million	7.18 million	7.94 million
Gross Enrolment Ratio	27.1 percent	28.7 percent	25.1 percent	23.3 percent	31.8 percent
Male-to-female ratio	1.53:1	–	–	1.71:1	1.32:1
Student-to-teacher ratio	26.6	26.2	27.1	25.5	28.2
SC enrolment	8.14 million	4.79 million	3.35 million	3.88 million	4.26 million
ST enrolment	3.91 million	2.23 million	1.68 million	2.50 million	1.41 million
OBC enrolment	15.34 million	9.10 million	6.24 million	7.85 million	7.48 million
Minority enrolment	5.39 million	2.94 million	2.45 million	1.98 million	3.41 million

Sources

Table 2: “Higher education in India based on data from the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-21 report”

Category	Number of Students	Percentage of Total Enrolment
Total	20,207,338	50.36 percent
Female	10,198,160	50.47 percent
Male	10,009,178	49.53 percent
Transgender	0	0.00 percent

Sources

Several Indian states are presently endeavouring to enhance the condition of higher education. As an illustration, Tamil Nadu possesses a strong and well-developed higher education system comprising numerous reputable institutions. The state government has implemented various initiatives to assist students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, including the Amma Two-Wheeler Scheme. This programme offers financial aid to students from marginalised communities to help them purchase a two-wheeler vehicle.

In a similar vein, the state of Kerala has made substantial progress in enhancing the calibre of higher education. The government has founded multiple universities and colleges and has executed projects like as the e-education programme, which seeks to offer internet accessibility to educational resources.

Conversely, numerous states, including Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, encounter substantial obstacles in the higher education domain. These states have lower Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) and are facing challenges in terms of educational quality, insufficient resources, and poor infrastructure. Nevertheless, the government is actively tackling these difficulties by offering financial aid to students, developing new educational institutions, and enhancing the quality of current ones (Deka, et.al., 2017).

Review Literature

Peterson (2016) highlights the significance of private investment in infrastructure, which results in the development of contemporary facilities that improve the overall standard of education. Trow (2006) examines the influence of private investment on the advancement of modern campuses and the significance of facilities in attracting students. Private institutions have been acknowledged for their role in increasing accessibility to higher education and meeting the increasing demand for postsecondary education (Altbach, 2004). Scott (2015) explores the role of private institutions in overcoming capacity constraints in higher education, resulting in a rise in student enrollment. According to Marginson and Rhoades (2002), private institutions possess greater flexibility in addressing evolving educational demands, resulting in the development of innovative curricula and instructional approaches. In his work, Bok (2017) explores the significance of private universities in conducting experiments with innovative educational methods and adjusting to changing industry requirements. According to Clark (2015), private institutions are highlighted for their entrepreneurial spirit and their capacity to establish robust connections with companies, resulting in enhanced employability. Marginson (2013) examines the involvement of private schools in equipping students for the job market by offering courses and establishing partnerships that are directly applicable to industries. Altbach and Knight (2007) analyse the governance systems of private institutions, emphasising their ability to quickly adapt to evolving educational demands. Knight (2012) emphasises the worldwide involvement of private institutions through international partnerships, promoting a varied and globally competitive atmosphere. De Wit (2019) explores the role of private institutions in fostering the internationalisation of higher education by facilitating cross-cultural encounters. Levy and Murnane (2004) examine the involvement of private institutions in research and development, highlighting their contributions to scientific breakthroughs and technological progression. In their study, Cummings and Finkelstein (2012) examine the diversity in the focus of research among private universities and the possible difficulties that arise when trying to maintain a balance between teaching and research. Welch and Hinnant (2018) examine the difficulties related to guaranteeing openness and accountability in the governance and administration of private higher education institutions.

Objectives of the study

- To study the relevance of higher education in India
- To identify & quantitatively analyze private institutions factors that impacts for shaping the future of higher education
- To suggest findings & conclusion

Research Methodology

The present study mostly relies on secondary sources of information and the writer's personal observations in the field of higher education. A plethora of up-to-date and accurate information regarding higher education and

educational institutions was readily accessible from reliable sources. The obtained information was deemed adequate for the current investigation. The utilisation of information and communication technology, namely the internet, has proved highly beneficial in this context. The top authorities in higher education, such as “MHRD, UGC, AICTE”, and other relevant educational entities, have consistently provided up-to-date information on higher education on their respective websites. This data has been highly beneficial for the current study. This study focuses exclusively on statistics (for asking questions) pertaining to higher education, specifically in universities and related colleges, targeting individuals between the ages of 18 and 26. The rationale for choosing this age group lies in their exceptional potential for employment, willingness to take risks, abundant energy for strenuous work, and a strong desire to pursue new and creative endeavours. This study considers the positive impact & associated challenges that plays a significant role in determining the future of business and society. However, it is acknowledged that other relevancies are equally essential in shaping the future of business and society.

Discussion & Interpretation

#Relevance of Higher Education in India

Higher education in India is of paramount importance in moulding the future of people and the nation as a whole. Several factors emphasise the significance of higher education in India:

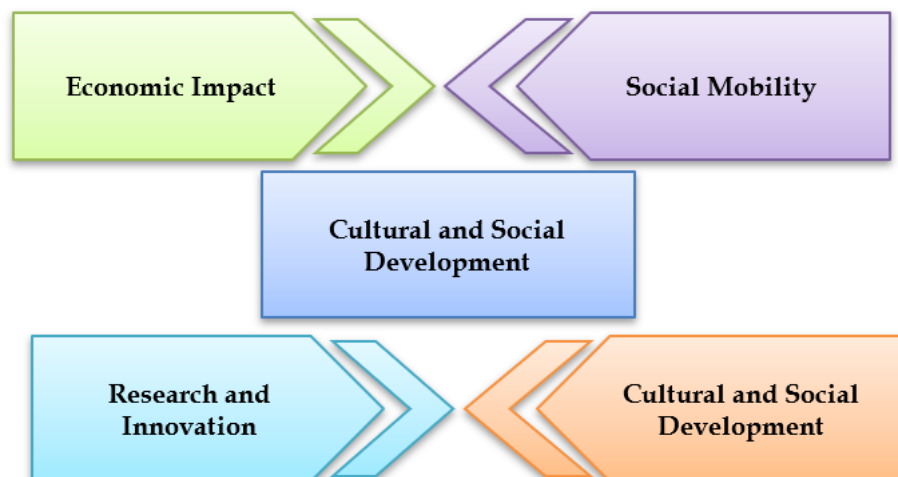


Figure 1: Factors Signify Higher Education In India

Relevance Factors	Interpretation
Improving Abilities	Higher education schools offer specialised expertise and competencies essential for diverse occupations. This facilitates the cultivation of a proficient labour force, promoting economic expansion and ingenuity.
Career Success	Possessing a higher education degree improves an individual's chances of being employed. Various occupations and professions necessitate specialised qualifications, and pursuing higher education equips individuals with the essential credentials to enter these domains.
Exploration and Development	Universities and research institutions serve as centres for innovation and scientific investigation. Higher education fosters the cultivation of novel concepts, advancements, and remedies to tackle societal dilemmas.
World-Class Competence	In our progressively globalised society, higher education plays a crucial role in fostering a comprehensive understanding of the globe and enhancing students' competitiveness in the global labour market. Exposure to a variety of cultures and ideas fosters the development of cross-cultural comprehension.

Advancement in Social Situations	Education is commonly regarded as a mechanism for upward social mobility. Higher education offers individuals from many backgrounds the chance to pursue improved professional options and enhance their socio-economic standing (Siddiqui, N. B., & Sharma, D., 2018).
Advancement in Society and Culture	Higher education institutions enhance cultural and social development through the promotion of arts, literature, and diverse cultural activities. Additionally, they contribute to the promotion of social responsibility and civic engagement.
Business startup	Higher education fosters entrepreneurship by equipping students with the requisite information and abilities to initiate and oversee entrepreneurial ventures. It plays a role in fostering the growth of an entrepreneurial attitude and ecosystem.
Progress in Science	Higher education is crucial for scientific progress. Universities and research institutions are at the forefront of scientific discovery, technological advancements, and the development of new methodologies.
Formulation of Policies	Higher education institutions play a role in shaping public policies. Researchers and experts from academia contribute valuable insights and recommendations to inform policy decisions in various sectors.
Analytical Thinking and Solving Problems	Higher education cultivates the development of critical thinking skills, problem-solving capabilities, and analytical reasoning. Proficiency in these abilities is crucial for effectively addressing intricate obstacles across diverse professional and personal domains.

#Evaluating The Role of Private Institutions in Shaping the Future of Higher Education

Private institutions exert a substantial influence on the trajectory of higher education, and their effect can be assessed from multiple viewpoints.

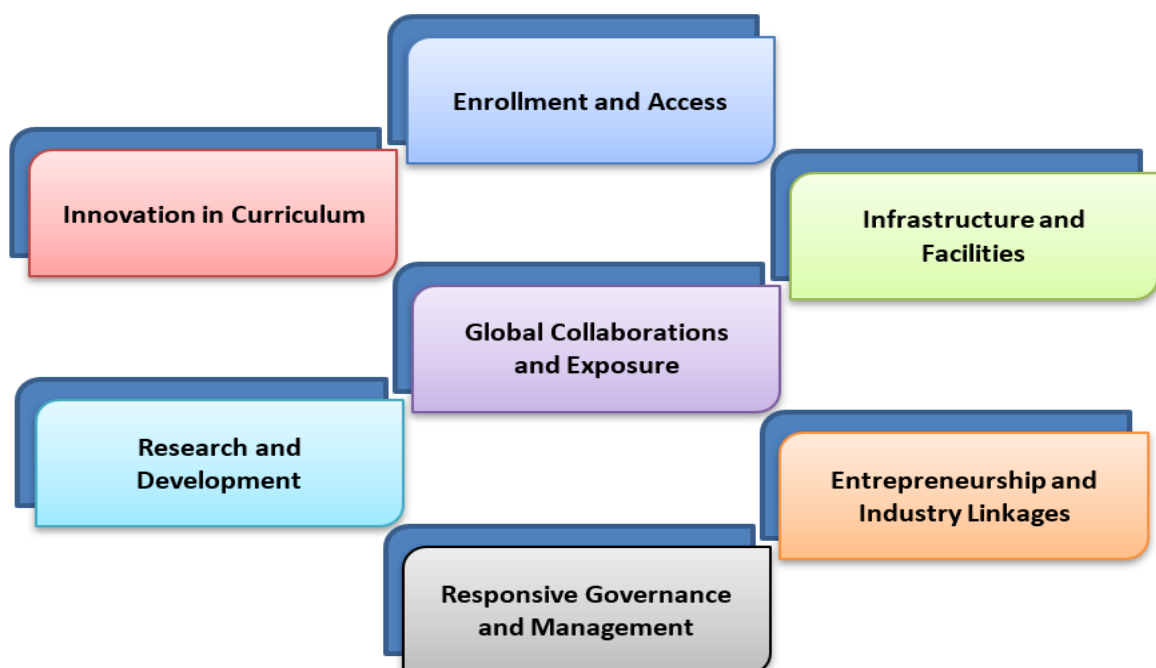


Figure 2: Private Institution Factors that Impacts to Shape the Future of Higher Education

S.No.	Private Institution Factors – Impacts Shaping the Future of Higher Education	Positive Impact/ Challenges	Interpretation
1.	Increased Access and Enrollment:	Positive Impact	Private colleges frequently enhance access to higher education by offering supplementary options for students. They enhance the total capacity of the education system, facilitating the accommodation of the increasing demand for higher education.
		Challenge	The issue of affordability arises due to the comparatively higher tuition costs charged by private universities in comparison to public ones, which may restrict the accessibility of students from poorer socio-economic backgrounds.
2.	Innovation in Curriculum and Pedagogy:	Positive Impact	Private universities frequently exhibit greater adaptability in response to evolving educational requirements and commercial dynamics. They can implement cutting-edge programmes and instructional approaches, ensuring alignment with industry demands and technological progress.
		Challenge	There is a potential danger of excessively prioritising market-oriented abilities while neglecting a more comprehensive and well-rounded education.
3.	Infrastructure and Facilities:	Positive Impact	Private universities frequently exhibit greater adaptability in responding to evolving educational requirements and commercial dynamics. They have the ability to implement cutting-edge programmes and instructional approaches that align with industry demands and technological progress.
		Challenge	There could be a discrepancy in the quality of facilities between prestigious private institutions and other schools, resulting in unequal educational experiences Jain, A. (2016).
4.	Global Collaborations and Exposure:	Positive Impact	Private universities have the ability to actively participate in international collaborations, which helps students and faculty get worldwide exposure. This exposure can enhance the breadth of one's education and foster greater global competitiveness.
		Challenge	There is a possible danger in giving more importance to foreign partnerships than to engaging with the local population, which could result in overlooking home issues.
5.	Research and Development:	Positive Impact	Certain private institutions place a high importance on research and development, which leads to progress and improvements in diverse areas. This can result in creativity, technical advancement, and a beneficial influence on industries.
		Challenge	The degree of focus placed on research can vary, and certain private universities may prioritise teaching over research, which could potentially affect the calibre of

			academic outcomes.
6.	Entrepreneurship and Industry Linkages:	Positive Impact	Private universities frequently cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship, and their strong connections with companies can lead to enhanced internship prospects, curricula that align with industry needs, and increased job prospects for graduates.
		Challenge	There is a potential danger in giving more importance to the requirements of the industry at the expense of a comprehensive education that encompasses the humanities and social sciences.
7.	Responsive Governance and Management:	Positive Impact	Private schools possess the ability to promptly adapt to evolving educational demands as a result of their frequently efficient governing systems. This agility can be advantageous in adjusting to changing trends and needs.
		Challenge	Private institutions may encounter difficulties concerning openness and accountability, necessitating the implementation of strong regulatory procedures.

Findings of the study

- Higher education in India boosts economic growth by training workers, encouraging innovation, and supporting companies.
- Higher education helps people rise in society and advance in their careers.
- A well-rounded higher education system boosts India's global competitiveness by creating graduates with broad talents and a global perspective.
- Research and innovation at India's higher education institutions improve science, technology, and ideas.
- Arts, literature, and cultural activities promoted by universities promote cultural and social growth. They also promote civic engagement and social responsibility.
- Private colleges boost higher education enrollment.
- Some students may be unable to afford tuition.
- Private schools can tailor curriculum to industrial needs more easily.
- Monitoring is needed to balance market-driven skills with comprehensive education.
- Private schools invest considerably in modern infrastructure to provide suitable learning environments.
- Infrastructure quality may affect education.
- Global exposure comes from private institutions' worldwide relationships.
- Balance worldwide exposure with local community participation.
- These private institutions prioritise research and development, advancing numerous fields.
- Some schools prioritise teaching over research.
- Private institutions encourage entrepreneurship and retain industry links.
- Balancing industry relevance with a well-rounded education is difficult.
- Private universities can adapt to changing educational demands due to reduced governance.
- Effective regulatory frameworks are needed to solve transparency and accountability issues.

Conclusion

The higher education system in India is intricate and varied, with each state encountering its distinct obstacles. Although many states have made notable advancements, there remains a necessity for reform and enhancement in the higher education system throughout the entire country. Notwithstanding these benefits, the Indian higher education system has challenges pertaining to the accessibility, quality, and pertinence of curricula. Addressing these difficulties is essential to ensure that higher education remains a catalyst for individual and societal

progress in India. Private institutions provide a substantial contribution to the higher education sector by introducing diversity, innovation, and expanding capacity. Nevertheless, it is imperative to confront obstacles pertaining to cost-effectiveness, excellence, and fairness in order to establish a well-rounded and equitable higher education system. Efficient regulatory frameworks are crucial in maintaining a balance between the benefits and difficulties associated with private entities.

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