



Hesitation from Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions- An opinion study

Dr. S. John Gabriel

Associate Professor and Research Supervisor, Department of Commerce, Madras Christian College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. Hannah Frederick

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Madras Christian College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

ABSTRACT

The Foreign Educational Institution (Regulation of Entry and Operation) Bill, 2010 has stressed the need and importance of tie up with Foreign institutions. Even before the introduction of the bill in the Parliament, a number of Foreign education providers has been successfully operating in our country ranging from 144 in 2000 to 631 in 2010.

However it is clear that only few Foreign education providers are interested to have tie up with Indian educational institutions. Thus even if the Bill becomes an Act in the Parliament, it is evident for the previous functioning of Foreign education providers, that there will be hesitation on the part of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions. The paper therefore highlights the reason for the hesitation on the part of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions.

KEYWORDS: Foreign education providers, tie up, Indian educational institution

1. Introduction

Globalisation and collaboration in India has encouraged Foreign Education Providers to directly involve in the Higher education sector through commercial presence. As Foreign Education Providers already started to provide their services, the Foreign Educational Institution (Regulation of Entry and Operation) Bill, 2010, was cleared by the Union Cabinet presided by Honourable Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh on March 15th 2010 for introduction in the Parliament. A bill to this effect was first introduced in the Rajya Sabha in August 1995. It was later passed in the Lok Sabha by Honourable Speaker Meira Kumar on May 3rd 2010. According to Honourable Union Minister for Human Resources Development Mr. Kapil Sibal "India cannot forever keep its academic doors closed. India, after all, constitutes an increasingly central part of a globalised world". One can fulfil his dream by getting foreign university degree without going abroad or doing only a part of their course abroad through Foreign Education Providers in India.

The proposed Foreign Educational Institution Bill 2010 seeks to regulate the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions imparting or intending to impart higher education (including technical education and award of degree, diploma and equivalent qualifications by such institutions). A number of foreign educational institutions have been operating in the country and some of them were resorting to various malpractices to allure and attract students. As there is no comprehensive and effective policy for regulation of the operations of all the foreign educational institutions in the country, it has been very difficult to make meaningful assessment of the operations of the foreign educational institutions and absence of such meaningful assessment has given rise to chances of adoption of various unfair practices besides commercialization". The bill provides that the foreign educational institution shall not impart education in India, unless it is recognized and notified by the central government as a Foreign Education Provider under the proposed legislation. It provides that the foreign educational institution shall offer and impart education in conformity with the standards laid down by the statutory authority, and of quality comparable.

It was expected that, with the advent of foreign educational institutions in India, not only would Indian students be able to access better quality teaching at local prices, but also that the competitive pressures would vastly improve the quality of Indian universities. All great universities in the world have been grappling with the question of global expansion for over a decade. Some have set up successful campuses in many places such as Singapore and Hong Kong and most have visited India to test for feasibility. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, including inefficiency and the poor infrastructure in India, the best have decided to stay away for the time being, or operate via collaborations.

Therefore it is seen that though the entry of the Foreign education providers is found to be inevitable in India, there will also be hesitation on the part of Foreign education providers to set up or have collaboration with Indian Universities.

2. Objectives of the study

1. To study the reason for 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution due to difficulties functioning from abroad'.
2. To study the reason for 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution due to difficulties functioning in India'.
3. To identify the main factors responsible for the 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution'.

3. Research Methodology

Primary data was collected by distributing questionnaire to faculty working in educational institutions having tie up with foreign universities abroad. A sample of 350 faculty working in educational institutions having tie up with foreign universities abroad was selected. The faculty were mainly from Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai and Delhi as these institutions are mostly concentrated in the metropolitan cities of India. The questionnaire had 2 parts. The first part was about the Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution due to difficulties functioning from abroad and the second part was about the 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution due to difficulties functioning in India'. The data was stored in SPSS 15.0 version and the results are analysed.

4. Results of the research done on 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions'

To study the 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions' the researcher has found that the reasons could be categorised under 2 headings (i.e.) a. 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution due to difficulties functioning from abroad' and b. 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution due to difficulties functioning in India'. Cronbach's alpha test was applied and reliability was confirmed.

4.1 Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions due to difficulties functioning from abroad

After a pilot study the researcher has identified 9 reasons for the 'hesitation to have tie up with Indian institutions due to difficulties functioning from abroad'.

Table 1. Hesitation due to difficulties functioning from abroad

| | Mean |
|---|------|
| 1. Difficult to depute professors from abroad to teach in India | 3.63 |

| | |
|--|------|
| 2. Profitable to call Indians to study in abroad institutions | 3.50 |
| 3. Difficult to impart teaching methodology adopted by abroad institutions | 3.45 |
| 4. Studying abroad makes a person competent to get jobs internationally | 3.44 |
| 5. Cannot provide quality education similar to what is offered abroad | 3.27 |
| 6. Practical training to students is possible abroad and not in India | 3.26 |
| 7. Difficult to monitor the performance in India from abroad | 3.22 |
| 8. Difficult to provide campus placement abroad | 3.18 |
| 9. Having tie up with institutions in India may lower the rating abroad | 3.08 |

Source: Primary

Based on the mean value it can be concluded that the major reasons for the 'hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions due to difficulties functioning from abroad' are 'difficult to depute professors from abroad to teach in India' followed by 'profitable to call Indians to study in abroad institutions' followed by 'difficult to impart teaching methodology adopted in abroad institutions' followed by 'studying abroad makes a person competent to get jobs internationally'

4.2 Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions due to difficulties functioning in India

After a pilot study the researcher has identified 8 reasons for the 'hesitation to have tie up with Indian institutions due to difficulties functioning in India'.

Table:2 Hesitation due to difficulties functioning in India

| | Mean |
|---|------|
| 1. Infrastructure facilities in India are not sufficient | 4.03 |
| 2. No adequate facility to do research in India | 3.95 |
| 3. Lot of legal formalities to run institutions from abroad in India | 3.94 |
| 4. Survival difficult due to stiff competition from Indian institutions | 3.82 |
| 5. Majority of Indians can't afford or are not used to pay high fees | 3.72 |
| 6. Courses offered abroad may not be applicable in Indian situation | 3.62 |
| 7. Risky to invest, as government policies in India keeps changing | 3.46 |
| 8. Can attract only Indian students willing to go abroad and study | 3.35 |

Source: Primary

Based on the mean value it can be concluded that the major reasons for the hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions due to difficulties functioning in India are 'infrastructure facilities in India are not sufficient' followed by 'No adequate facility to do research in India' followed by 'Lot of legal formalities to run institutions from abroad in India' followed by 'Survival difficult due to stiff competition from Indian institutions'.

4.3 Overall factors responsible for the 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution'

To study the Overall factors responsible for the 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution'

the factors represented in 'hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution due to difficulties functioning from abroad' was clubbed with the factors represented in 'hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution due to difficulties functioning in India' and studied. Factor analysis was applied to identify specific factors and shown in the table below.

Table 3 Factor analysis -'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution'

| % of variance | Factor | | Factor load |
|---------------|--|---|-------------|
| 18.19 | Difficulty in running the course from abroad | Profitable to call Indians to study in abroad B-schools | 0.812 |
| | | Cannot provide quality education similar to abroad B-schools | 0.745 |
| | | Practical training to students is possible abroad and not in India | 0.675 |
| | | Studying in abroad B-schools makes a person competent to get jobs internationally | 0.647 |
| | | Difficult to monitor the performance in India from abroad | 0.26 |
| 12.04 | Not an attractive proposal | Being a Foreign B-school in India may lower the rating abroad | 0.731 |
| | | Difficult to provide campus placement abroad | 0.619 |
| | | Risky to invest, as government policies in India keeps changing | 0.590 |
| | | Difficult to impart teaching methodology adopted in abroad B-schools | 0.554 |
| 10.27 | Non cooperation from Indians | Survival difficult due to stiff competition from Indian institutions | 0.755 |
| | | Majority of Indians can't afford or are not used to pay high fees | 0.750 |
| 9.36 | Want of qualified staff | Courses offered abroad may not be applicable in Indian situation | 0.709 |
| | | Difficult to depute professors from abroad to teach in India | 0.690 |
| 9.31 | Indifference from Indians | Can attract only Indian students willing to go abroad and study | 0.794 |
| | | Lot of legal formalities to run B-schools from abroad in India | 0.667 |
| 7.50 | Lack of facilities in India | Infrastructure facilities in India are not sufficient | 0.758 |
| | | No adequate facility to do research in India | 0.726 |

Source: Primary

From the above table it is seen that the factors that contribute towards 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution' are 'Difficulty in running the course from abroad', 'Not an attractive proposal', 'Non cooperation from Indians', 'Want of qualified staff', 'Indifference from Indians' and 'Lack of facilities'.

5. Summary and conclusion

The slow growth of Foreign education providers is seen by studying the 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institutions'. The main factors identified for the 'Hesitation of Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian educational institution' are 'Difficulty in running the course from abroad' and 'Not an attractive proposal'. Hence facilities similar to abroad educational institutions must be provided in India to attract Foreign education providers to have tie up with Indian institutions, which will make India a renowned global education hub in the near future.