



RUSA: the Roadmap to Revamping Higher Education in India

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ABSTRACT

Education is the most powerful instrument in the progressive transformation of a society. The higher education especially contribute to constructive dynamism, critical thinking and creative evolution of people. Indian higher education is currently in a flux. Our higher education system is facing a lot of challenges over the decades, more so in recent years. In 21st century the main objective of our HE system is to focus on increasing productivity & employability.

KEYWORDS : Rejuvenating, Transformation, Challenges, Progressive

I. INTRODUCTION

After independence the Government of India has provided full policy support and substantial public funds to create one of the world's largest systems of higher education. These institutions, with the exception of some notable ones, have however, not been able to maintain the high standards of education or keep pace with developments in the fields especially in knowledge and technology. Over time, financial constraints with exploding enrolments, and a very high demand from primary and secondary education has led to the deterioration in the financial support provided by the government.

India has the third largest education system in the world. The XII th plan was the rejuvenating & massive plan for higher education in India, in this plan the main focus is on to promotion of economic growth, inclusive growth, sustainable development in social justice –social equity and also to generate research based knowledge for developing the skilled and educated personnel. The central govt. has planned & implemented several centrally sponsored scheme to promote education system in India. SSA launched for promotion of primary education ,RMSA for Rashtya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan & RUSA for Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan.

In a document called 'Challenge Education' produced in 1985 by the Ministry of Education, the government admitted that the 'whole process of higher education has become warped'. Indeed higher education in India is faced with deteriorating conditions 'resulting from expansion and worsened by affiliation system and shrinking resources'. Also despite numerous committees having produced reports to this effect nothing significant seems to have come out of it.

After independence Govt. of India put many step for promotion of higher education in India . in this connection Radhakrishnan commission(1948-49) recommended for strengthening & integration of secondary and higher education in nationwide & also recommended University Grants Commission. Mudaliar (Secondary Education Commission1954) recommended three years secondary & four year higher education system. Kothari (Indian Education Commission, 1964-66) recommended modernization of education or there should be uniform structure of education or curriculum nationwide. NPE(1986) emphasized on the improvement of quality in higher education. National Knowledge Commission(2007) frameworked on strengthening the education system, promote domestic research and innovation, establishment of IRAHE) Independent Regulatory Authority on Higher Education) by an act of parliament. Prof. Yashpal (2009) recommended the establishment of NCHER(National Council of Higher Education & Research) a regulatory body by an act of parliament.

Today our HE system faces many challenges in financing & management, equity, ethics, values and quality concern. Quality of HE has become major concern. If we want to transfer our society in knowledgeable society then we need quality in all spheres of education especially in HE. RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan) is a national mission to improve the higher education system nationwide. It

is being launched in 12th plan. It is centrally sponsored scheme. RUSA is given exclusive focus on strengthening central universities, state universities and colleges and other institutes.

Details of Enrolment of Students in HE in India and Abroad

Sr. No.	Name of Country	Enrolment
01.	India	18%
02.	China	25%
03.	U.S.A.	83%
04.	U.K.	57%
05.	Russia	62%
06.	Brazil	34%

RUSA aim to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) from 18% to 30%. To chase the target it needs a massive expansion of opportunities for higher education, may be set up to 1500 or more universities nationwide. NCHER should identify the best 1500 colleges across india to upgrade them as universities.

II. MAIN INITIATIVES FROM RUSA:

- Creation of more new universities and colleges.
- Creation of state higher education councils
- Creation of accreditation agencies
- Establishing management information system
- University to be made worldclass
- Create Research ecosystem like U.S.A & other developed countries
- Expansions of variety of courses
- Developing research culture
- Equal finance opportunities should be provided to the states
- To achieve access, equity, quality, excellence, and value based HE.
- To increase the GER at the higher education to 30% by 2020
- To establish institutional performance based allocation mechanism
- To make a common mechanism for distribution of funds between central and state universities.
- Integration of University and vocational education Research and Development: while R&D centres should be established in many disciplines nation wide.

Research is the weakest area of HE the effort should be made to improve the quantity & quality of research in HE institutions. Establishment of Centres of Advance Studies (CAS), Department of Special Assistance (DSA) and Inter-University Research Centres of internationally comparable standards. The objective of these centres is to provide quality inputs in higher education and research areas. Further, to cut costs of undertaking good research, It is the need of the time that we should have to be develop our university as Research University and make and establishment of centre of excellence at each university.

To establish State Higher Education Plan (SHEP):- it is the blue print for each state to reform and restructure the higher education system

to meet demands of HE of particular state. The present HE funding is not based on the SHEP but if directly flows from UGC or center sponsored schemes. State has play a specific role in assessment of HE requirements. The main objective behind SHEP is the state will empower in equity and quality issues in HE and also to fulfillment the targets of HE.

III. CONCLUSIONS:

RUSA is a national mission for promoting HE. Focusing on all the areas of HE and particularly on each states HE requirements through strategic planning & management to meet the needs of quality concern and also to get central funds & grants through RUSA.the govt. should now focus on revamp the institutions with attractive and modern infrastructure i.e. classrooms, hostels, research laboratories , training equipments,aids etc. RUSA has potential of putting the higher education in India on a dynamic fast track.

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