



## Privatization of Higher Education: Boon or Bane

### KEYWORDS

**Prof. Lucky Sharma**

Associate Professor R.R. Bawa D.A.V. College For Girls, Batala.

We, are tuning with today world economically as well as culturally with the mantra of liberalization, Privatization & Globalization. This mantra has affected not only political, social & economical fronts of India but our education system the most. We can see a complete paradigm shift in higher education, from the classical, orthodox mode of education to need-oriented education.

Now the question arise-

1. Whose need?
2. Who will determine the need?
3. Why, why there is complete paradigm shift in higher education?

Let's begin with the third question. We all feel that our existing education system is not in a position to meet the changing needs and aspirations of society. A value crisis has gripped youth & adults, learners & educators. Declining ethics, growing, indiscipline, unemployment, increasing political interference in education system & resource crunch are the common concerns. Outdated curriculum demotivated lecturing, lack of laboratory facility, routine evaluation mechanism in the name of quality control has disillusioned every one with the present state of educational institutions. So the proponent of market oriented education have find the answers of above quoted problems in the form of privatization & self-reliance of higher education & with this there is a fundamental change in the social role of education also.

Now, education is conceptualized as a commodity; university is now like a corporation; whose prime function is to produce graduates as per the demands of the market; the student is consumer or you can say client, teacher is academic manager. So, the goal of our education would be now determined by the direction of the market wind.

With argument that it would improve efficiency of the education system & bring in much needed funds. So, our government has curtailed subsidy to higher education & had asked different institutions & universities to generate their own source of income to meet their expenses but, how?

- I. By raising the tuition fee to go for different projects & consultancy.
- II. To rent out auditoriums and campus premises for private functions to raise money for running institutions.
- III. Private organization or industrial houses to operate the education system with the freedom to frame syllabi, re-structure fees and functions autonomously.

Hike in tuition fee will affect the most, students from middle class population. People from this class consider edu-

cation as the investment for the future. In spite of poor economic conditions, they very firmly support their wards for quality education. Taking the advantage of this situation many private institutions has imposed heavy tuition fees and capitation amount along with building maintenance fund, library fees, entertainment fees, infrastructure fees so on and so on. Therefore, parents are forced either to sell out their property and the little belongings they have or take educational loans to send their children to good standard colleges or say "no" to their wards for higher education.

Result is widened gap between rural & urban as well as the elite and masses in terms of development differences.

Elite parents can think of donating funds for their children's education in advanced learning institutions but for the poor it becomes a dream. So when education goes global, the financial requirement for quality education works to the advantage of the elites. Further elitisation of education means deprivation of a large section of society from the fruit of advanced learning. This deprivations may find expression in the rising incidence of violence in public life.

If we think for second option of find raising i.e. going for projects & consultancy, it is net everybody's cup of tea. Mere intelligence is not enough to be successful in this area. One needs to have modern managerial qualities as well as. Institution where project and consultancy business have already started, it is teaching & research that have suffered the most. Then how we will stand before the foreign universities which are showing the olive branch to the prospective clientele for foreign degrees. Here in the case of foreign universities quality control or accreditation has no relevance because degree would be "foreign" and that is enough for us as we are still in colonial hang over.

Another dimension is, privatization of education enhances passion for consumerist values. This will erode our value system consequently with the passage of time. Because unemployment poverty, disparity will lead millions of people to go without basic amenities. Frustration and violence among the youth will increase. It is quite possible that many value aspects of local culture get undermined and materialism along with individualism became predominant.

In the light of above analysis. I would like to state that Globalization has made education a commodity, university a corporation whose prime function is to produce graduates as per demands of the market student a consumer or you can say clientele & teacher a academic manager. This is the time when we should realize that the social mission of education has submerged within the ideology of market. Intervention is needed to stop this game of loot in the

name of privatization of education. We instead can make business house multinational to sponsored & he denote generously & develop the education system such that it is completely affordable by everyone from lower to upper class.