



Role of Private Universities in Higher Education in India

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ABSTRACT A systematic and advance higher education system is requirement of every nation for personal, social, economic and moral development of students, teachers, society and nation. The investment in education in the developed countries is identified as essential to give solid foundation for long term economic growth. Establishment of private universities is important to improve quality of higher education. Present study is focused on status of private universities and their comparison.

KEYWORDS : Higher Education, Private Universities

Introduction:

A private university is a university established through a state / central act by a sponsoring body i.e., registered society under registration act 1860 or a public trust or company, not for profit entity registered under section 25 of companies' act 1956. Higher education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of university or university level institutions, colleges since independence. The no. of university has increased from 20 in 1950 to 802 in 2017. This sector boast of 46 central universities, 358 state universities, 123 deemed universities, 260 private universities, 15 university with potential for excellence, 74 institutions of national importance.

There is a disparity in quality of universities. India's finest scholars, about 5% are a match for the brightest in the world. These are products of top institutions like IISCs, IIMs & IITs, and this affects economic growth in long run. The opening up of higher education to private university is helping in the co existence of both govt. and private universities. The increased demand for higher education in the years to come will be absorbed partly by private universities. The existence of private universities not only improves the quality of higher education but also provides social responsibility. There will be a healthy competition among several institutes which is in the interest of students. With available facilities and sufficient fund, it is possible to provide high quality education. In private universities accountability towards institute and students are higher. It is possible in the environment of private university to establish relationship with academics, industry and students.

The UGC has powers regarding the recognition, functioning and de recognition. Failure to comply with UGC standards may result in withdrawal of grants. Deemed university may be allowed to operate beyond their approved geographical boundaries and start off campuses or off shore campuses. They may also conduct joint programs with other universities in India and abroad.

The GER for elementary education is over 100%. For secondary education, this ratio is over 50%. As enrollment in elementary education has been maximized and in secondary education are being addressed. The pool of students seeking higher education opportunities will increase over the next few years. Therefore there will be a greater demand for university education. The govt. financing cannot be to support massive expansion in the scale higher education. It may be noted that over the past 10 years, the central govt. expenditure on higher education has been fairly constant 1-15% of its expenditure. In contrast, USA spends about 3% of its GDP, Canada 2.5% and Chile 2% on higher education.

A UGC report 2012 shows that the distribution of public and private institutes in India is skewed because of this enrollment in govt. universities are largely concentrated in conventional disciplines as art & science where as in private university more students are enrolled in market driven disciplines as engineering, management etc. It is important to improve quality of private universities. Accreditation is a way of measuring quality. It is the process of assessing the performance of institutions that volunteer to be accredited. The objective is to help potential students, assess the quality of institutions and make a choice.

The private universities have to operate without govt.'s aid. They should therefore, be given the flexibility to raise resources. The legal

and administration structure allowing private sector organizations should be simplified. Private universities run on the fees of the students. The expenditure of running private universities is very high. Thus it is necessary for them to keep their courses so attractive and job oriented. Students with low caliber get admission in these institutions as they are able to afford high fees of institute.

Due to lack of facilities, complicated working state govt. run universities are not able to met student's educational needs. Private universities should be permitted to offer courses in any discipline. By adopting modern and market driven programs these private universities not only help the students but also help to boost our economy. A country's socio economic development is directly linked with its educational system. Our country cannot ignore private educational institutions as they attract a large no. of students. Efforts should be made to encourage good private universities to grow and contribute to the enormous task of building a highly skilled and professional man power.

Methodology:

Survey method was applied for present study. Private universities were visited and data was collected from university offices, web sites, news papers and magazines. Collected data was tabulated and comparatively analyzed.

Finding & Analysis:

Table-1: Detail of No. of Universities in India

No. of Central University	No. of State University	No. of Deemed University	No. of Private University	university with potential for excellence
46	358	123	260	15

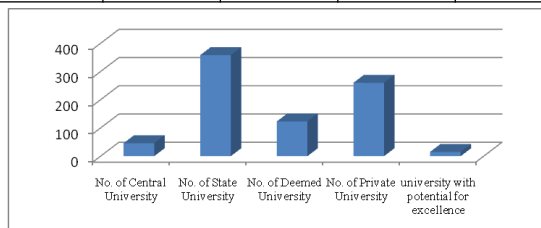


Chart: Detail of No. of Universities in India

Table-2: Comparison of Top 10 Private Universities of India (Part-A)

Name of University	No. of Programs	No. of Disciples	No. of Students	No. of Academic Staff
AMITY University, Noida	300	70	125000	4500
Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore	62	10	21000	1500
Amrita VishwaVidya Peetham, Coimbatore	55	19	18000	1591
SRM University, Chennai	200	109	39000	497

Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani	37	15	9500	280
Manipal University, Manipal	218	19	28000	2500
Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi	88	21	10000	300
Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy, Thanjavur	100	30	13000	306
Gandhi Institute of Technology & Management, Vishakhapatnam	109	9	19125	450
Lovely Professional University, Phagwara	200	40	25000	3500

Source: university website

Table-3: Comparison of Top 10 Private Universities of India (Part-B)

Name of University	Campus Area in acre	No. of Campus	NAAC Accreditation	12B or 2F certification of UGC
AMITY University, Noida	1000	12	A	No
Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore	250	2	A	No
Amrita VishwaVidya Peetham, Coimbatore	400	5	A	No
SRM University, Chennai	600	9	A	No
Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani	990	4	A	No
Manipal University, Manipal	230	4	No	No
Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi	780	11	A+	No
Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy, Thanjavur	168	2	A	Yes
Gandhi Institute of Technology & Management, Vishakhapatnam	300	7	A+	No
Lovely Professional University, Phagwara	200	No	No	Yes

Source: university website

Conclusion:

Currently private sector is playing a significant role is addressing access to higher education. These private universities have off campus around the world. Faculties have opportunity to visit all over the world to learn and imbibe best practices. They have air conditioner class room, high tech labs, and huge campus area. They provide placement in world class companies. They teach practical based, industry oriented education and apply innovative teaching methods to improve quality of higher education.

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