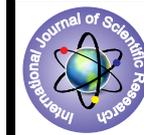


Global Perspective of Higher Education



Education

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Dr. Mujibul Hasan Siddiqui

Department of Education, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh Uttar Pradesh

ABSTRACT

The present paper highlights about the global perspective of higher education. Higher education has profoundly changed in the past two decades and those involved in the academic enterprise have yet to grapple with implications of these changes. Academic institutions and systems have faced pressures of increasing numbers of students and demographic changes demands for accountability, re-consideration of the social and economic role of higher education and the impact of new technologies. While academic systems function in a national environment, the challenges play themselves out on a global scale. We can learn much from both national experiences and international trends (Altbach & Davis, 1998). Information technology plays significant role in globalization of higher education. Some of the important issues can be discussed for globalization of higher education like, Education and work are interrelated, effects of poor initial schooling on the life of individual, impact of information and communication technology on teaching and learning in higher academic institutions, role of information technology in the communication, storage, and retrieval of knowledge, for example web-based information systems, mobility among the students at the international level, international links and cooperation through higher education, good analysis of teaching and research, world-wide privatization of higher education etc

Global Perspective of Higher Education

Higher education has profoundly changed in the past two decades and those involved in the academic enterprise have yet to grapple with implications of these changes. Academic institutions and systems have faced pressures of increasing numbers of students and demographic changes demands for accountability, re-consideration of the social and economic role of higher education and the impact of new technologies. While academic systems function in a national environment, the challenges play themselves out on a global scale. We can learn much from both national experiences and international trends (Altbach & Davis, 1998). In Medieval period most of the higher educational institution provide a common framework of education. In this period there were similar objectives, curriculum, management, administration and examination system throughout the world. In most of the educational institutions, Latin was a common language of instruction. But the end of the 20th century, English plays a significant role as the most important international language of science and technology. It also plays a significant role on the system of Internet at the national and international level. Ultimately it helps to make global perspective of higher education.

Now a huge number of learners are studying outside Indian border. In different higher educational Institution particularly in the field of science and technology. Due to the advancement of Information and communication technology the central virtual universities are taking place at the national and international level.

History of education shows that the higher education was mostly for elite groups, particularly in India. Now It is moving from the elite groups to the general mass to make universal access in the society. In most of the European countries the access of higher education is universal "In some countries, however access remains limited. In China and India, for example, despite dramatic expansion, under 5% percent of the age group attends postsecondary institutions. Access is increasingly important issue everywhere, as population demand it and as developing economies require skilled personnel (Altbach and Davis 1998). Now enrollment of higher education is more than 17% in India

The cost of higher education is very high in comparison to the other stages of education in any country throughout the world. More and more discussion are going on in various workshops, seminars, symposium and conferences about the increasing cost of higher education and how to search out various resources, whether they are indigenous or extragenous, for the proper management of expanding higher education. In this regard we could include the cost of instruction, institutional buildings and books and journals of research of various disciplines in the libraries on other hand in its counterside we have to make good observation of the public benefit in the society both the specific and in general... Due to this new thinking, advancement and expanded access, at the national and international level, the prob-

lems of higher education are increasing day by day throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries due to financial limitations. To attack on the financial constraints in the area of higher education, academic systems and institutions are trying to find out different ways like loan programmes, the privatization of some public institutions and higher charges of admissions and tuition in different disciplines.

The Role of Universities in Modern Era :

In the modern era, the University is not just a creator of knowledge, a trainer of young minds, and a transmitter of culture, but also a major agent of economic growth. "The knowledge Factory is at the centre of the knowledge economy". Ideas and the ability to manipulate them count far more than the traditional factors of production. The university has become the nation's R & D lab, it is part of the "national innovation system in an incubator of new industries in a technology dominated economy.

The biggest single change in Higher Education over the past two decades has been characterized as "massification". It is cynically remarked that "Universities are convenient parking places of the government to keep young people for a few years, so that they do not show up in the unemployment statistics".

The middle class worldwide regards education as the gateway to a secure future. Higher education is seen to be a "good personal investment, which raises its beneficiaries income later in life".

The University Then and Now

	Then	Now
1.	Dedicated to the pursuit of the knowledge for its own sake.	Producers of global useful knowledge, created on utilitarian grounds.
2.	The pressure of a small elite.	Rise of democracy, and the demand for mass education.
3.	Defining characteristics; intellectual autonomy.	Public funding demands greater accountability.
4.	Support largely from private donors.	Support largely from government source.
5.	Main activity: Teaching and research	Main activity: in addition, sponsored research, consultancy and extension.
6.	High teacher-student ratio.	Low teacher-student ratio.
7.	Good teacher student interaction.	Teacher-student interaction inadequate.
8.	Education for intellectual reasons.	Education for employment.

The new paradigm to describe the modern University is in terms of a 'Core and cloud University', comprising Departments and Centres.

Modern University has become an indispensable part of a civilized society a place that provides salaried intellectuals with a milieu conducive to the exchange of ideas and uniquely, a licence to disagree with those who pay them!"

In the current scenario, characterized as the Information Era or the Digital Age, It would be impossible to control access to and delivery of educational services as in the past as information sources become ubiquitous, and flow freely to students wherever they are, it would be impossible to credential accredit all of them.

In the emerging scenario there is an urgent need to develop sophisticated assessment techniques to measure and certify learning and competency. we must embrace, not reject, the use of new technologies. we must create structures that will enable the professors to have more time to interact with students. we must build the educational enterprise around student outcomes and purposefully evaluate achievement. increasingly the focus will shift from those who provide courses and how many hours they are taught, to assessment of whether true learning has occurred.

THE ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

In recent times, the Internet has developed 'institution-transforming potential'.

Information technology will bring about the demise of the University, as currently constituted". Distance learning has the possibility to deliver good and inexpensive higher education beyond a physical campus. There are several recent examples of ambitious initiatives in the U.S.

1. Western Governors' University- a virtual regional University.
2. The Global Net work Academy.
3. The World Lecture Hall- an Internet website organised by the University of Texas.
4. Athena University- founded in 1955, as a private sector attempt to build a wholly new virtual University from scratch, it offers a variety of courses – traditional in content but delivered via the Internet.
5. University of Phoenix-a for profit institution.

The UNESCO International Commission on Education for the XXI century has identified four pillars of learning.

- I. Learning to live together
- II. Learning to know
- III. Learning to do
- IV. Learning to be

This Report has also identified several tensions to be overcome:

- I. The tension between the global and the locale.
- II. The tension between the universal and the individual.

- III. The tension between tradition and modernity.
- IV. The tension between long term and short-term considerations.
- V. The tension between the need for competition and the concern for equality of opportunity.
- VI. The tension between the extraordinary expansion of knowledge and the human beings capacity to assimilate it.
- VII. The tension between the Spiritual and the material (Natarajan, 1999).

The OECD centre for Educational Research and Innovations has enunciated the following principles for learning in the XXI century:

- I. Learning will become an essential part of everyday activity.
- II. Access will need to become as universal as possible.
- III. Learning technologies will need to respond flexibility to learner needs.
- IV. Learning suppliers will need to adapt their ways to meet the changing needs of clients.
- V. Governments will need to play an active role in supporting the learning infrastructure but should not expect the control of the learning agenda.
- VI. Learning will need to be a collaborative enterprise (Natarajan, 1999).

We have to make good discussion on several issues related to globalization of higher education as under :

1. Education and work are interrelated.
2. Effects of poor initial schooling on the life of individual.
3. Impact of information and communication technology on teaching and learning in higher academic institutions.
4. Role of information technology in the communication, storage, and retrieval of knowledge, for example web-based information systems.
5. Mobility among the students at the international level.
6. International links and cooperation through higher education.
7. Good analysis of teaching and research.
8. World-wide privatization of higher education.
9. Crisis in academic profession.
10. Implementation of curriculum of higher education and availability of indigenous and extraneous resources.
11. Problems of access and equity in higher education.
12. Great problem of accountability in higher education.

At the time of delivering the keynote address in "Symposium on Globalization and Higher Education organized by the Hamdard University Teacher Association in collaborations with FEDCUTA at Jamia Hamdard the former chairman of the U.G.C. and an internationally acknowledged academician and scientist, Prof. Yashpal maintained that the internal self regulation is one of the means of meeting the challenges of globalization in India. Internal self-regulation invites the efforts of revitalization and regeneration of the institutional mechanisms of strength of Indian society and economy. IN the endeavour of meeting the challenges of globalization, a people friendly technology needs to be taken into consideration. This aspect should be incorporated both in the policy formulation and implementation.

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