



EMERGING TRENDS IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION: IMPACTS OF GLOBALISATION AND PRIVATISATION

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ABSTRACT

The Indian higher education system has undergone significant changes in recent years, influenced by the processes of globalisation and privatisation. The goal of the modernisation of the higher education system is to make it more accessible to the global workforce, responsive to industrial needs, and market-oriented. This paper examines the impact of globalisation and privatisation on higher education in India. This research article also focuses on the emerging trends in Indian higher education which are developing due to globalisation and privatisation of higher education.

KEYWORDS

Emerging trends, Indian higher education, Globalisation, Privatisation, Research collaboration

INTRODUCTION

Globalisation and privatisation are two interrelated dynamics that have significantly impacted higher education institutions all over the world. Whereas privatisation refers to the handover of ownership and management of public services to for-profit organisations, globalisation refers to the growing interconnectivity of economies, cultures, and communities around the world. Globalisation has also made it easier for foreign universities to collaborate with Indian universities, leading to the introduction of new delivery, the exchange of students and faculty, and the adoption of new teaching methods and pedagogies. The availability, equity, quality, and sustainability of higher education in India have all been significantly impacted by these changes. As a result of privatisation, new institutions have emerged and new courses and programmes have been introduced, opening up the higher education market to private actors. Higher education systems have seen major changes as a result of the interaction between globalisation and privatisation, including increased competitiveness, higher quality, and wider access to education. This interaction has brought up questions about equity, responsibility, and the commercialization of education, though. This article explores the emerging trends in Indian higher education in the context of the nexus between globalisation and privatisation.

Types Of Institutions Imparting Higher Education In India

1. Universities under the Government.
2. Deemed Universities (Aided)
3. Private Universities
4. Deemed Universities (Unaided)
5. Colleges under Government

Total No. of Universities in the Country as on 25.01.2023

Universities	Total No.
State Universities	460
Deemed to be Universities	128
Central Universities	56
Private Universities	430
Total	1074

Source: <https://www.ugc.gov.in/oldpdf/consolidated%20list%20of%20all%20universities.pdf>

Globalisation and Higher Education in India

Widening educational opportunities for citizens is a result of globalisation in education. In the knowledge society created by a globalised economy, higher education has assumed a prominent role. Changes in the higher education system around the world are anticipated due to the rapid advancements in communications and technology. In both developing and developed nations, it is having an effect on the institutional framework. The way governments view their function in society is evolving as a result of it. In recent years, the higher education sector in the nation has been expanding quickly. The nation has made great progress in developing its higher education infrastructure, broadening access, and raising the standard of its institutions. Globalisation, the emergence of information economies, and the rising need for skilled labour are just a few of the factors that have contributed to this advancement.

Indian higher education is affected by globalisation on many different

levels. It encourages the use of cutting-edge tools and methods in fields like flexible learning, globalised remote education, international training, etc. Institutional structures in developing, developed, and industrialised nations are impacted by globalisation. The impact of globalisation on higher education provides new aspects for study and research topics. Globalisation and higher education have a close link (Hazra, 2018). According to an OECD report, there is the following relationship between globalisation and higher education:

- Globalisation both drives and is driven by higher education. Higher education contributes to the research foundation and innovation ability that define competitiveness in the knowledge-based global economy, as well as the training of highly trained people. Cross-cultural interaction and international collaboration are made possible. The environment in which higher education institutions operate is changing as a result of international flows of ideas, students, staff, and funding as well as advancements in information and communication technologies. Under the expanding effect of market forces and the appearance of new companies, cooperation and rivalry are growing more intense at the same time (OECD Indicators, 2009).
- According to an OECD report, "Globalisation facilitates information flows, values, and culture by bridging national boundaries and connecting universities around the world. Therefore, universities play a significant role in globalisation.

Impact of Globalisation on Higher Education in India

Present-day Indian higher education institutions bear the imprint of earlier waves of internationalism if not global, impact is in almost every sector. Pre-Independence missionary institutions, or colleges established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by foreign missionaries of various faiths, are widely dispersed throughout India. Christian Medical College Vellore, St. John College Agra, Isabella Thoburn College Lucknow, St. Joseph's College Trichy, St. Xavier's Chennai, etc. The Indian Institutes of Technology, which were purposefully modelled after the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the U.S., received significant foreign assistance from the very beginning of the post-Independence era. The five IITs profited from gifts of cutting-edge lab equipment and facilities, guest academics from outside of India, the option to send Indian faculty on training programmes overseas, and financial support from four donor nations. The Indian Institutes of Management built comparable international ties; IIM-Ahmadabad, for instance, continues to have close ties with the Harvard Business School. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (together with other comparable, state-sponsored Open Universities) may be the most recent innovation in Indian higher education. It was greatly influenced by the UK's experience with distant learning and the Open University concept (Singh, 2016).

India's higher education has been greatly impacted by globalisation. The higher education sector has changed due to growing connection and exposure to the global economy, which has an impact on everything from student enrolment to curriculum development to research funding.

Here are some of the most significant effects of globalisation on higher education in India are listed below:

- Adoption of an international curriculum: Universities in India are implementing curricula that are more in line with international

- standards and criteria. Indian students are now more competitive in the international employment market because of this.
- **Research collaboration:** As a result of increased research collaboration between Indian and foreign universities brought about by globalisation, numerous subjects have seen major advancements. Numerous universities in India are running Joint-PhD programmes with Foreign Universities. For eg: A combined Doctorate programme that would enable researchers to make a global influence has been developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), an Institute of Eminence, and the top 50 global university, University of Queensland (UQ).
 - **The Environment of Learning:** There is a profound transformation within classroom and educational process due to the impact of globalisation. Institutions of higher education are looking for strategies to facilitate cross-border professor and student exchanges. With the use of technology in both their research and the delivery of education in the modern world, these institutions have elevated themselves to the status of centres of excellence. It also focuses on incorporating a system that is broad-based and quality-oriented in its curriculum development in order to integrate into the global economy, which has significantly broadened the scope of education supply (Sharma, 2018).
 - **International funding:** Increased international funding for higher education in India as a result of globalisation has aided in the improvement of infrastructure, research facilities, and the recruitment of top faculty members.
 - **Increased student mobility:** Higher student mobility Due to the ease with which Indian students can now study overseas, there is now more competition for domestic universities. Due to India's rich cultural and academic background, overseas students are becoming more and more drawn to the country to study.

The urgent need to train workers at all levels to satisfy the needs of the expanding corporate environment is one way that globalisation has affected education. Since the quality of education given by state institutions has been very mediocre, the state is required to encourage privatisation and deregulation in education rather than playing the traditional role of providing education as a welfare measure. This is by no means a bad thing because privatisation of education has contributed to both an increase in quantity and quality. Profiteering is a bad thing, but its evil is frequently balanced out by the timely and effective use of human ability to increase competitiveness globally. It is not a recent phenomenon for Indians to compete successfully for employment (Singh, 2016).

Privatisation of Higher Education in India

The phrase "privatisation of education" refers to a wide range of educational initiatives and regulations. It is a procedure that can be described as the transfer of tasks, resources, and accountability from public institutions, governments, and organisations to private people and businesses. The need for higher education is rising daily. In order to accommodate the need for higher education in India, private institutions, autonomous colleges, deemed universities, and private Universities have been established. Even the number of self-financed engineering and medical schools has expanded. The disparity between supply and demand for higher education widened as a result. This has led to an increase of privatisation of education on a daily basis (Abrol, 2016).

While higher education has grown since independence, it has done so more quickly in recent decades as a result of reform. The private sector has been largely responsible for this. In the 1980s, private actors entered the higher education market in response to the growing demand for education that was more vocationally focused. Their primary source of income was tuition. They frequently have higher costs than governmental organisations. Over 43% of institutions and 30% of students are currently enrolled in private institutions. Almost 80% of institutions and students in professional programmes are from the private sector. Hence, private higher education is increasing very rapidly in the country and system is going towards private-dominance (Jolly, 2014). The question of higher education privatisation in India is one that has been hotly debated for many years. While some contend that privatisation can raise student access to education and raise the quality of instruction, others contend that it can result in commercialization and the exclusion of disadvantaged groups. Nonetheless, it was still unclear if privatisation is beneficial or detrimental. From even a quick scan at many documents of government plans and programmes, one may easily detect simultaneously confusing assertions being stated. The government has

said "yes and no" simultaneously quite often. For e.g.: the government claims that commercialization is bad, but privatisation is good which means privatisation would be permitted but commercialization would not. But these are both the two halves of the same coin and based on the same premise of profit making and maximisation (TILAK, 2014).

Need of Privatisation of Higher Education

It is widely acknowledged that investing in education is a key strategy for developing human capital. It is essential for both technical advancement and societal progress. One of the main responsibilities of the government has been to provide education to everyone. But in our nation, there is a wave of education privatisation. The government has really shifted its attention from higher education to basic education and encouraged the private sector to enter this sector, a process known as the privatisation of higher education. When India's economic reforms were implemented in 1991, the public funding for the education sector—and notably higher education—was severely constrained. Government spending on higher education in particular has been gradually reduced (Sharma H.). With the introduction of the Liberalization, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG) Strategy in 1991, higher education began to be privatised. In India over the past ten years, higher education has been privatised in a variety of ways. The introduction of self-financing courses within government institutions is an example of privatisation in higher education, converting a privately supported institution to a privately funded institution, allowing both recognised and unrecognised self-supporting private institutions. These could be categorised as commercial, private institutions of higher learning. Private parties are primarily involved in the establishment of state-sponsored private universities, deemed universities, and academic institutions with foreign assistance. Due to this, the privatisation of higher education has been escalating daily (Alam & Halder, 2016).

Advantages of Privatisation of Higher Education:

Several people think that higher education should be privatised in India for the following causes:

1. **Increased Efficiency:** Some who favour privatisation contend that private institutions are more effective and efficiently run than governmental ones. Private colleges and universities can operate without the bureaucratic restrictions and political meddling that frequently affect public institutions. This may result in better research, managerial techniques, and academic outcomes.
2. **Access to Funding:** Public institutions, which frequently struggle with underfunding and inadequate resources, have less access to funding than private organisations. Funding for private institutions can come from philanthropic groups, investors, and other sources. This may lead to improved facilities, technology, and academic resources.
3. **Better Options:** Students who attend private colleges have more options for course offerings, professors, and instructional strategies. Students may have greater opportunity to explore their academic interests as a result of more varied academic curricula.
4. **Encourages Competition:** Privatizing higher education may increase competition between schools, which may result in better academic results and student services. Moreover, competition might result in lower tuition costs and better value for students' money.
5. **Promotes Innovation:** Private institutions frequently demonstrate greater innovation than public ones. They are frequently more open to experimenting with novel teaching strategies and technological advancements, which can result in better learning outcomes.

Although privatising higher education in India has some benefits, it is necessary to be aware that there may also be negative effects. It is believed that privatisation can deepen already-existing social inequities and lead to a greater focus on business over education. Before making any decisions, it is crucial to carefully assess the advantages and disadvantages of privatisation as well as all of the possible outcomes.

Emerging Trends in Indian Higher Education:

1. **Global Rankings:** Indian universities are putting more emphasis on raising their global rankings, and several have taken steps to do so, including increasing their research output and forging new international partnerships. Universities' rankings are considered to be a key element in attracting staff and students from outside and in winning research funding.
2. **Linkages between Industry and Academic Institutions:** The Indian

- higher education system is putting more emphasis on forging connections with business to guarantee that students have the information and skills needed by business. Due to this, programmes and courses tailored to the industry have started to appear, particularly in the fields of engineering and management.
3. Online and Blended Learning: In India's higher education system, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the trend towards online and blended learning. Many universities and colleges have switched to online and blended learning methods, giving students the opportunity to receive top-notch education from the convenience of their homes.
 4. Cross-Border Education: With more Indian students choosing to study abroad and many foreign students choosing to study in India, the Indian higher education system is becoming more open to cross-border education. As a result, combined degree programmes, student exchange programmes, and research partnerships between Indian and foreign universities have been developed.
 5. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs): In the Indian higher education system, MOOCs have become a popular method of delivering education. Several colleges in India have joined with MOOC providers to provide online courses across a range of subject areas, allowing students to obtain top-notch instruction from any location in the world.

Reviewing NEP 2020 from Globalisation and Privatisation of Higher Education Perspective

There are various clauses relating to globalisation and the privatisation of higher education in India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. These trends may offer Indian students new ideas, resources, and possibilities, but there are also worries that they may deepen inequities and degrade educational standards. The NEP 2020 acknowledges the need to raise the stature of Indian higher education institutions abroad from the viewpoint of globalisation. The policy promotes partnerships and collaborations with foreign organisations as well as the admission of top-tier international universities to India. This is a good move since it can improve educational standards, promote knowledge exchange, and foster research collaborations. Nonetheless, there is a chance of becoming dependent on foreign colleges while ignoring Indian customs and indigenous knowledge systems. The policy also doesn't specify any specific steps to guard Indian universities against being undercut by outside organisations, notably in terms of brain drain and the loss of outstanding faculty members.

The NEP 2020 recognises the contribution of the private sector to enhancing the accessibility and standard of higher education with regard to privatisation. The policy promotes private schools to broaden their student bodies and raise the quality of their instruction while making sure they adhere to the rules and specifications established by the government. This is a good move since it might spur more competition, promote innovation, and perhaps lighten the load on public institutions. However, there are issues with equity and access to education, especially for marginalised and disadvantaged kids who do not have the money to pay for private education. The NEP 2020 acknowledges these difficulties and lays out strategies including financial aid, scholarships, and subsidies to help students in need. The application and scope of these measures will, however, determine how effective they are.

Ultimately, there are both positive and negative aspects to the NEP 2020's attitude to globalisation and the privatisation of higher education. Although the policy acknowledges the potential advantages of these trends, care and regulation are necessary to make sure that they serve all students and do not worsen inequities.

CONCLUSION

In Indian higher education, a number of new developments are emerging as a result of the nexus between globalisation and privatisation. Some of the important trends that are changing higher education in India include the growing involvement of private institutions, collaboration between India and foreign universities, and the usage of technology. These movements have created many opportunities, but they have also created problems with regulation, affordability, and quality control. To ensure that higher education in India continues to support growth, development, and innovation, it is crucial to find a balance between globalisation and privatisation.

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