



Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education in India: A Study From 2001-02 to 2012-13.

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ABSTRACT

There has been a rising trend in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in education sector of India in the past times. It has been increasing at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of educational attainment. The present study aims at explaining the trend of GER in higher education sector (HES) of India from the year 2001-02 to the year 2012-13. It tends to observe the trends of GER in HES of India in case of both boys and girls who are enrolled in higher education in India during the time period of the study. The present study shall try to recommend certain policy implications for further improving the GER in HES in India.

KEYWORDS

GER, HES, Higher Education, Attainment.

Introduction

Gross enrolment ratio (GER) in the higher education sector (HES) in India has in recent years been rising up to a tremendous mark. Every year, more and more of students are getting interested in joining higher educational institutions in India. Enrolment in higher education in the year 2012-13 (Provisional) was 1315 (in '000). Boys and girls have grown in number to attend these institutions year after year. With the increase in GER in HES in India, the adult literacy rate (ALR) has also gone up. The ALR in India has gone up from 61.0 in 2001 to 69.3 in 2011 (Census of India, 2001 & 2011). The male ALR in India has gone up from 73.4 in 2001 to 78.8 in 2011 and female ALR has risen from 47.8 in 2001 to 59.3 in 2011.

The total number of students attending regular courses (U-AISHE, 2012-13) in higher education in 2012-13 (P) was 26096292 (88% of total HES students). The total number of students attending distance education course in higher education was 3532730 (12% of total HES students).

Misra, et al. (2014) has laid emphasis on the excellence in higher education in India through equity. They have talked about the importance of higher education. Higher education allows one to achieve a more clear sight of the things around one. It helps students to find better career opportunities. And at the same time, higher education has led students to enrol themselves in various courses in HES to achieve good positions.

As a result of all this, the GER in HES (U-DISE-NUEPA) has gone up from 8.1 in 2001-02 to 21.1 in 2012-13 (P). The male students' GER in HES in India has gone up from 9.3 to 22.3 during the same period. Similarly the female student' GER in HES in India has risen from 6.7 in 2001-02 to 19.8 in 2012-13 (P). There has been a great deal of increment in the GER in HES in India in the recent years.

Review of Literature

Pujar (2014) finds out in his study that the GER in HES in India during eleventh five-year plan was 17.9 which have been raised from 12.3 in the beginning of the plan period. But still the GER in HES in India has been quite low than the global GER in HES. There is a dire need to further raise the GER in HES in India. She concludes that the role of more expenditure on HES, proper planning and efficient regulatory bodies can help a lot in raising the GER in HES in India.

India has witnessed a tremendous rise in GER in HES in India in the recent years (The Hindu, 2014). The President of India in his speech at convocation ceremony of Indian Maritime University, Chennai said that the GER in HES in India has been rising. The number of universities and colleges has been in-

creased to 735 and 37000 respectively in the present times.

Misra, et al. (2014) has found out that India has made way sustainable and tremendous remarks with respect to enrolment in higher education in India in the past years. But still there is need to bring uniformity in GER in HES across gender and communities like SCs and STs. Attractive schemes such as Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship are a great source of further raising the enrolment ratio in higher education in India.

Former HRD Minister Mr. M.M.P. Raju (Times of India, 2013), in his speech at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, said that India seeks to raise its GER in HES to 30% by the year 2020. India has tremendously increased its GER in HES, but still it's behind the global GER in HES figure of 26.

Ramesh (2013) elaborates that the various commissions and programmes of the government to raise the enrolment ratio in higher education in India has done a nice job. But there is a need to further raise the standard of higher education in India if it wishes to achieve the target GER in HES of 30. The GER of women and the backward classes needs to be raised so as to bring an overall increase in the GER in HES in India in coming years.

Prime Objective of Study

- To study and analyse the GER in higher education sector (HES) in India.

Hypothesis

H0: There has been a rising trend in the GER in higher education sector (HES) in India.

H1: There has not been a rising trend in the GER in higher education sector (HES) in India.

Methodology

The present study has been based upon the secondary data which is availed from sources such as periodicals, journals, research papers, government websites such as MHRD, U-DISE, AISHE PORTAL et cetera. Exploratory and descriptive research has been carried out. The present study has made use of simple tables for analysis and interpretation of data on GER in HES of boys and girls within the age group of 18 to 23 years in India. Higher education sector (HES) of India is the size of the universe of the study and GER in HES is the sample size of the study. GER of boys and girls in HES in India is the prime parameter of the study. The time period of the study has been from the year 2001-02 to the year 2012-13.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

India has been witnessing a rising trend in enrolment of students in higher educational institutions. The GER in HES in

India has risen up to a good extent since 2001-02. Table 1 shows the GER of boys and girls of age 18-23 years in HES in India from 2001-02 to 2012-13 (P). In the year 2001-02, GER of boys and Girls in HES was 9.3 and 6.7 respectively. The total GER in HES was 8.1 in the same year. In the following years 2002-03 and 2003-04, the total GER in HES was 9.0 and 9.2 respectively whereas GER of boys was 9.3 and 10.3 and GER of girls was 6.7 and 7.5 respectively. In the year 2004-05, the total GER in HES was 10.0 and of boys and girls was 11.6 and 8.2 respectively. In the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, the total GER in HES was 11.6 and 12.4 respectively and that of boys was 13.5 and 14.5 respectively whereas of girls was 9.4 and 10.0 respectively.

Table 1: GER in HES in India from 2001-02 to 2012-13 (P).

Level	Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education in India (18 to 23 Years of Age)		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Year			
2001-02	9.3	6.7	8.1
2002-03	10.3	7.5	9.0
2003-04	10.6	7.7	9.2
2004-05	11.6	8.2	10.6
2005-06	13.5	9.4	11.6
2006-07	14.5	10.0	12.4
2007-08	15.2	10.7	13.1
2008-09	15.8	11.4	13.7
2009-10	17.1	12.7	15.0
2010-11	20.8	17.9	19.4
2011-12	22.1	19.4	20.8
2012-13 (P)	22.3	19.8	21.1
P- Provisional			
Sources: Statistics of Higher and Technical Education and AISHE			

In the following year 2007-08, the total GER in HES was 13.1 and that of boys and girls was 15.2 and 10.7 respectively. The similar trend could be seen in the year 2008-09 where total GER was 13.7 and that of boys and girls was 15.8 and 11.4 respectively. The total GER in HES in the year 2009-10 was 15.0 and that of boys and girls was 17.1 and 12.7 respectively. In the following years 2010-11 and 2011-12, the total GER in HES was 19.4 and 20.8 respectively where as GER in HES of boys in the same years was 20.8 and 22.1 respectively and that of girls was 17.9 and 19.4 respectively. In the year 2012-13 (P), the total GER in HES in India was 21.1 and that of boys and girls in India was 22.3 and 19.8 respectively.

Findings and Recommendations

The present study has found that there has been a tremendous rise in the GER in HES in India from 2001-02 to 2012-13 (P). The GER in HES in India has grown from a total of 8.1 in 2001-012 to 21.1 in 2012-13 (P). The boys GER in HES in India in the same period has gone up from 9.3 to 22.3. Whereas the GER of girls in HES in this period has gone up from

6.7 to 19.8. It has been noticed that the overall GER in HES in India during the period of study has grown tremendously keeping in focus the fact that girls GER in HES in India during this period has been lower than the boys and national average with respect to GER in HES in India.

The study recommends that to further raise the level of GER in HES in India, government of India and the state governments should raise the portion of budget expended on higher education in India. Quality education must be the focus of higher education institutions via training of teachers and raising the standards of education.

Limitations of Study

- The study has talked only about GER and has left other parameters such as drop-out rates and passes percentage et cetera.
- The study doesn't talk about the primary and secondary level of education in India.

Conclusion

The study has reached to the conclusion that there has been a tremendous rise in the GER in HES in India in the recent years. The study has pursued research within the framework of its prime objective. The null hypothesis of the study has not been rejected where as the alternative hypothesis of the study has been rejected.

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