



INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM- AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Indian higher education system is very complex as it is governed by a lot of institutions. The system is lacking behind in many respects. In comparison to other countries the system is standing at a very low position due to various reasons. This paper is based on the secondary data based and is focusing on certain aspects of Indian higher education system and the challenges faced by it.

Keywords: Indian higher education system, University, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Institute

Introduction

Indian higher education system in India is very complex as it is governed by a lot of institutions. The system is lacking behind in many respects. In comparison to other countries the system is standing at a very low position due to various reasons. This paper is based on the secondary data based and is focusing on certain aspects of Indian higher education system and the challenges faced by it.

Indian Higher Education System is governed by a number of bodies. The Regulatory Bodies which has the Governance of Indian Higher Education System can be enumerated as follows:

- National Level Governance
- University Grants Commission (UGC)
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)
- National Board of Accreditation (NBA)
- National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE)
- State level Governance
- Institutional Level Governance

Indian Higher Education System is very Complex as comprising of the following

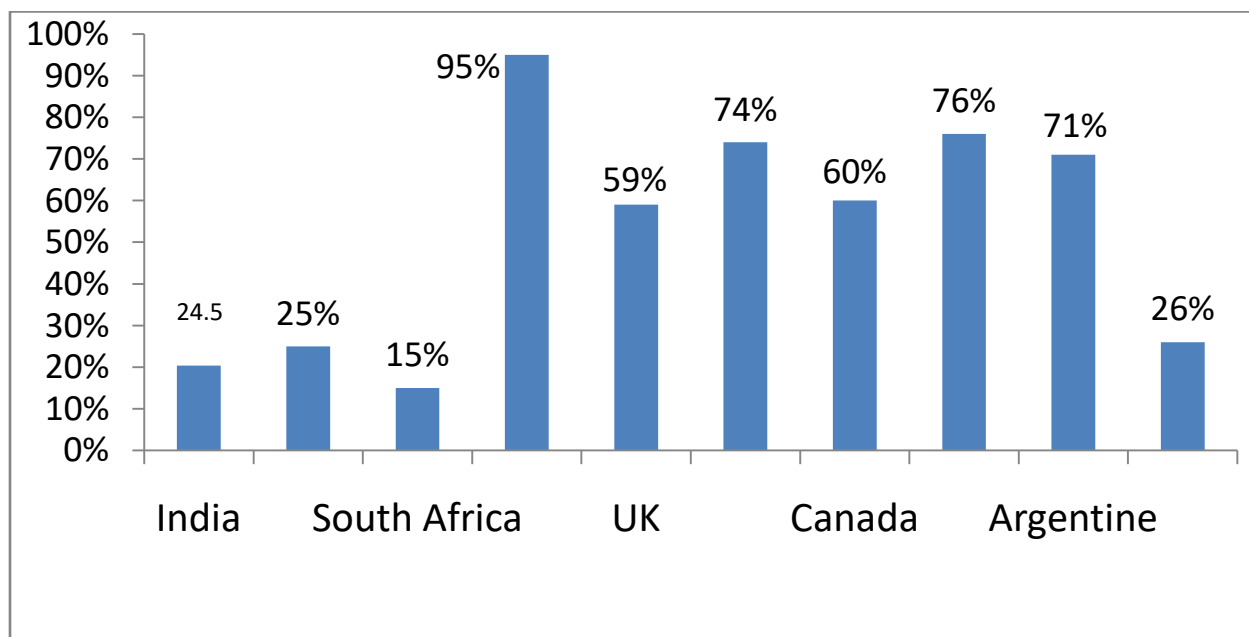
- Central University
- State University
- Deemed to be University
- Unitary and Affiliating University
- Institutes of National Importance
- Research Institutes
- Inter-university Centers
- Under Graduate and Post Graduate Colleges
- Public and Private Universities and colleges
- General Institutions of Higher Education

- Minority Institutions
- Conventional Universities
- Open Universities
- Institutions meant for certain groups such as women

Indian Higher Education- Some Facts

Institutions can be broadly categorised in Three Broad categories- Universities, Colleges & Stand Alone Institutions. The data collected on the higher education enrolment in India shows that the Total Enrolment in Higher Education-34.6 million, Total Male Enrolment in Higher Education-18.6 million, Total Female Enrolment in Higher Education-16 million, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education-24.5, Gross Enrolment Ratio (Male) in Higher Education-25.47, Gross Enrolment Ratio (Female) in Higher Education-23.5. It can be analysed easily through the present data that the overall enrolment ration in higher education stands nearly around 25% which is very less.

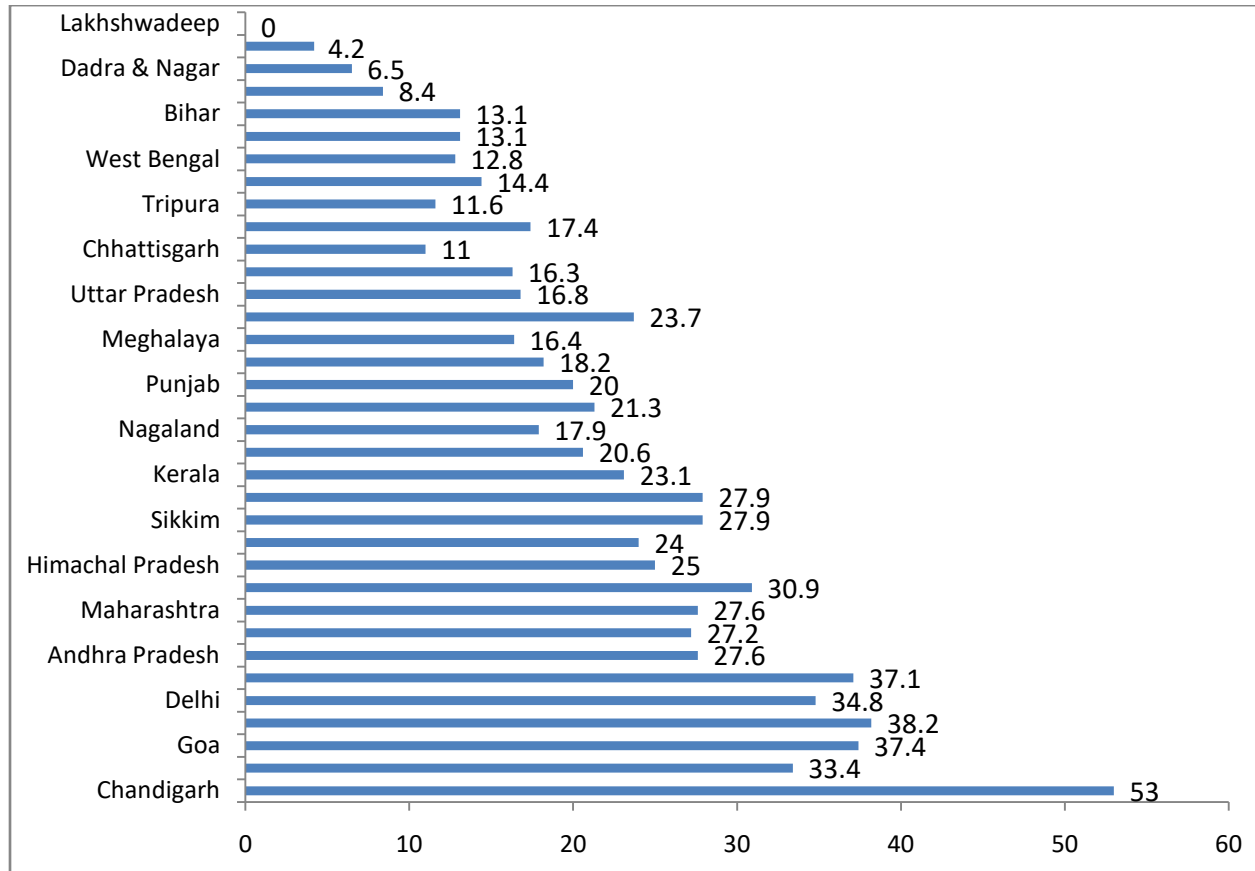
Table1:India’s position in GER in comparison to other countries



Source: Global Competitiveness Report 2012-13 and AISHE (2016-17) MHRD

In comparison to other countries India's position in GER in higher education stands at very low position. As it can be seen easily that the US has attained 95% GER and nearly all other countries stand in the bracket of 50% to 60% GER.

Table 2: Inter- State Disparity in GER



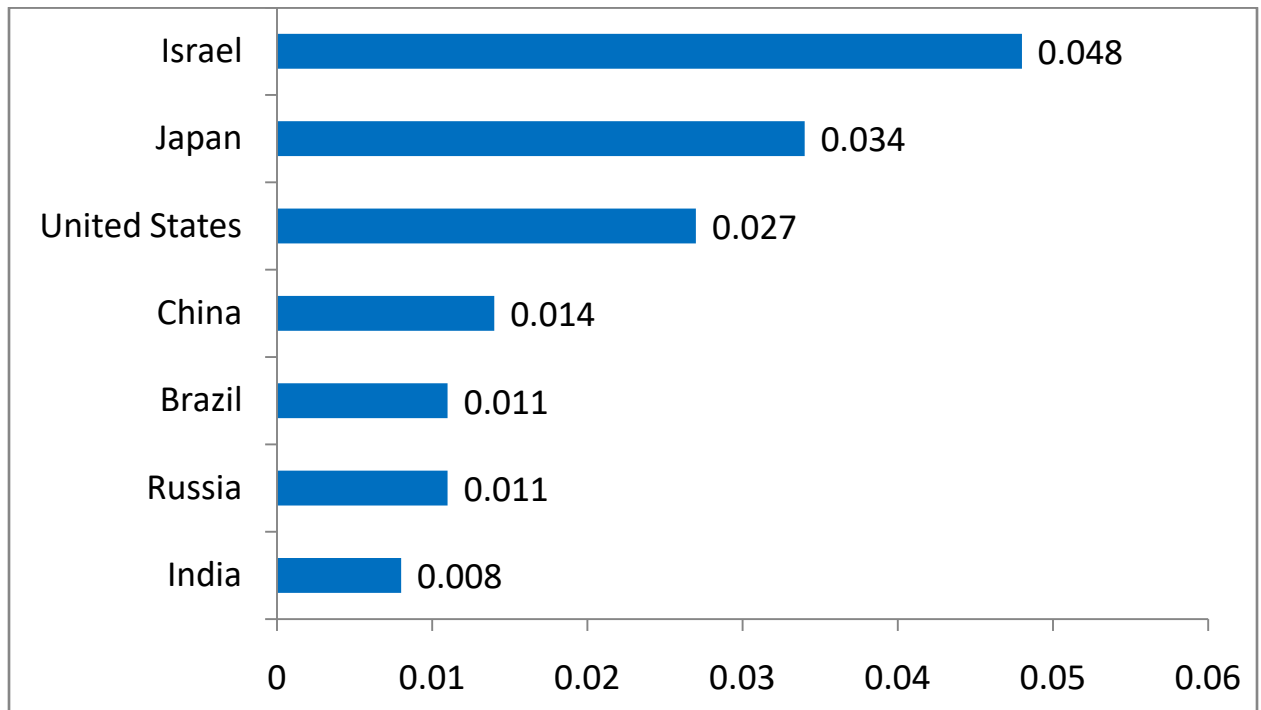
A lot of interstate disparity exist in India when we analyse the data. Chandigarh stands at the top most position in terms of GER ratio i.e. 53%, followed by Delhi, Goa and other states. Lakshadweep is the last in the line having only 4.2 GER ratio.

Critical Issues & Challenges-Indian Higher Education Institutions

- **Times Higher Education Ranking (2015-16):** No Indian Institute ranked among top 200

- **Low Employability among University & Engineering Graduates** – In comparison to the graduates attaining degrees in the various streams the number of available jobs are less which demotivates the people from attaining higher education.

Table3: Major R & D Investments- Country Share as % of GDP



Source: UNESCO (2012) Institute of Statistics

- **Low expenditure on R&D in India**-In comparison to other countries the investments made by Indian government on Research and Development activities is very less i.e. only 0.80% of GDP which is also a major challenge faced by Indian Higher Education System.
- **High student-teacher ratio (21:1)** - In India the education system is like for twenty one students only one teacher is allocated. It is very difficult for a teacher to impart his best education to the students because the number of students which is to be taken care of is much.
- **Lack of capacity for Assessing Quality**- In government funded universities, major issues include government’s influence on vital aspects like appointment of Vice

Chancellor .Functioning of the governing bodies like Senate, Syndicate, Academic Council etc. and Government control on opening of new colleges or grant of affiliation to new colleges. Wide powers are vested in the Chancellor, which position is vested with Governor in State Universities, who find it unwieldy to exercise, due to preoccupation with other responsibilities. The quality of education is not being assessed effectively due to lack of common standards.

- **Acute shortage of faculty-** As shown in the table there is an acute shortage of faculty ranging from 25% to 38% in various Institutes and Universities.

Table 4: Faculty Shortage

S. No.	Name of Institution	Total Posts	Vacant Teaching Posts	%
1	Central Universities	16080	6152	38.3
2	Indian Institute of Technology (IITs)	11920	4521	37.9
3	National Institute of Technology (NITs)	6425	2166	33.7
4	Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	520	114	21.9
5	Indian Institute of Management (IIMs)	737	156	21.2
6	Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs)	240	81	33.8
7	Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research	518	131	25.3

Source: MHRD, 2013

Conclusion

Indian higher education system is very complex comprising of many authorities and levels. At present it is lacking behind from many countries. It is facing many challenges like low Research and Development investments, Low Employability among University & Engineering Graduates, Acute shortage of faculty etc. which is to be taken care of in order to promote and upgrade the system and put it up to the mark.

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