



PRIVATIZATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: NEEDS AND REALITY

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made to analyze the relevance and Impact assessment of privatization in higher education in perspective of current scenario in India .Now-a-days , privatization is a global concept no nation exits without it. India is no exception. India being a developing country certainly has some ragged edges and the education system is certainly one of them. The government institution are very less in number and do not have enough seats to take in most of the applicants .The private institutions see this as a chance to recruit the remaining students. Although they may be costly in items of fees the students comply with it since they are thy last resort. With a large number of students resorting the private institutions for higher studies the private sector obviously is on the way of taking over the sections of higher studies. Keeping facilities and fees in mind , along with better job placements in certain cases, the government sector is still ahead but that would be because of government funding which is provided to private institutions should be able to bring down their massive fee structure . Also we need to keep in mind that one of the main reasons behind the high fee structure of private institution is because they do not get government funding and subsidies. Documentary analysis methodology has used for this study. So in conclusion, I would like to say that in order for the higher education of students to improve the best way would be for the public and private sector to work together since then they would be able to take in more students and also obtain funding from the government making their facilities less costly.

Key words: Privatization, Education , Higher education,

Introduction

The term privatization of education refers to many different educational programs and policies. It is a process which can be defined as the transfer of activities, assets and responsibility from Government, Public institutions and organizations to private individual and agencies. Education is the most important and powerful tool invented by mankind to mould himself for his life. It is the important source of employment, income and standard of living. So everyone gives importance to higher education. Consequently demand for higher education has been increased. To meet the demand for higher education in India, there is establishment of private colleges, autonomous colleges, deemed universities and private universities . Even the number of self financed colleges of engineering and medical stream have been increased. If also increased the gap between demand and supply of higher education .As a result of this, privatization of education has been growing day by day.

Present Higher Education System in India:

The higher education system in India is complex. Education is fundamental to every constituent of the society irrespective of gender, physical, economic, geographical cultural ,or linguistic difference . Education is a nation's strength. The involvement of private sector in higher education has been drastic changes in the field. Today over 60% of higher education institutions in India are promoted by the private sector. Due to globalization, liberalization and privatization lots of changes are taking place in the country and outside the country which are affecting the very basics of the higher education in India.

In the Indian system, higher education includes the education imparted after the 10+2 stage ten years of primary and secondary education followed by two years of higher secondary education . The first degree, the Bachelors degree, is obtained after three years study in the case of liberal arts, and four years in the case of most professional degree. The post graduate degree program involves two years of study after first degree. The research degrees (M.Phil. and Ph.D) Take variable time depending upon the individual student. The highest degrees are D.Litt. and D.Sc. are awarded after the Ph.D degree for original contribution of the highest order.

Privatization of Higher Education:

The transfer of ownership property or business from the government to the private sectors is termed as privatization. The process in which a publicly – traded company is taken over by a

few people is also called privatization. The thrust on privatization in higher education started in the early 90's. One of the important developments due the entry of private sector is foreign collaborations with academic institutions. privatization has emerged as an important aspect in 21st century.

Objectives of the Study

1. To analysis the problem of higher education in government sector in India.
2. To access the necessities of privatization in higher education.
3. To find out the effectiveness of privatization in higher education in present situation.

Research question:

1. What is the problem of government sector Indian higher education system?
2. What is the necessity of privatization in higher education?
3. What is effectiveness of privatization in higher education in present situation?

Methodology:

This is a descriptive study. Documentary analysis is applied for the development of the paper. This study has been conducted in the following ways –

- a) Collection of data from books.
- b) Data are collected from internet.
- c) Data are collected from journal paper.
- c) Detailed study of the reliable and valid sources.

Problem of higher education in government sector in India:

It is our 71th years of independence still our education system has not be developed fully. We are not able to list a single university in top 100 university of world. Various government changed during these seven decades. They tried to boost the education system and implemented various education policies but they were not sufficient to put an example for the universe. UGC continuously working and focusing on quality education in higher education sector. Still we facing lot of problems and challenges in our system. Some of the basic problems in higher education system in India are discussed below :

- **Enrolment:** The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of India in higher education is only 15% which is quite low as compared to the developed as well as, other developing countries. With the increase of enrolments at school level, the supply of higher education institutions is insufficient to meet the growing demand in the country.
- **Equity:** There is no equity in GER among different sects of the society. According to previous studies the GER in higher education in India among male and female varies to a greater extent. There are regional variations too some states have high GER while as some is quite behind the national GER which reflect a significant imbalances within the higher education system.
- **Quality:** Quality in higher education is a multi- dimensional , multilevel and a dynamic concept. Ensuring quality in higher education is amongst the foremost challenges being faced in India today. However government is continuously focusing on the quality education. Still large number of colleges and universities in India are unable to meet the minimum requirements laid down by the UGC and our universities are not in a position to mark its place among the top universities of the world.
- **Infrastructure:** Poor infrastructure is another challenges to the higher education system of India particularly the institutes run by the public sector suffer from poor physical facilities and infrastructure. There are large number of colleges which are functioning on second or third floor of the building on ground or first floor there exists readymade hostels.
- **Political interference:** Most of the educational institutions are owned by the political leaders, who are playing key role in governing bodies of the university. They are using the innocent students for their selfish means. Students organise campaigns, forget their own aims and begin to develop their careers in politics.

- **Accreditation** :As per the data provided by the NAAC , as of June 2010,”not even 25% of total higher education institutions in the country were accredited .And among those accredited, only 30% of universities and 45% colleges were found to be of quality to be ranked at ‘A’ level”.
- **Research and Innovation**: There are very nominal scholars in our country whose writing is cited by famous western authors. There is inadequate focus on research in higher education institutes .There are insufficient resources and facilities, as well as, limited number of quality faculty to advise students. Most of the research scholars are without fellowships or not getting their fellowship on time which directly or indirectly affects their research. Moreover, Indian higher education institutions are poorly connected to research centres. So this is another area of challenges to the higher education in India.

Structure of higher education : Management of the Indian education faces challenges of over centralisation, bureaucratic structures and lack of accountability, transparency, and professionalism .As a result of increase in number of affiliated colleges and students , the burden of administrative functions of universities has significantly increased and the core focus on academics and research is diluted.

Needs of privatization in higher education:

As per UGC annual report 2014-2015,as on 31st March ,2015,the number of universities had gone up to 711 (46 central, 329 state, 205 state – private, 128 deemed to be universities and 3 institutions established under state legislation).

The need to privatize higher education is because of following reasons:

1. To increase competitive efficiency of public sector.
2. To meet the growing demand of higher education with rapid growth in population.
3. To reduce financial burden on government and for decentralization of educational institutions.

4. For imparting quality education and training and shaping of the curriculum according to global, national and local needs.
5. To fulfill the need for skilled manpower and to fulfil the need of the country in liberalization, privatization, and globalization.
6. To facilitate technological development and innovation based economic development.

Effectiveness of privatization in higher education in present situation:

There has been a fast growth of private educational institution in India .It is shown in table no:1

Table: 1
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

SL.No	Year	Share of self – financed institutions to total institutions	Share of students enrolment to total enrolment
1	2001	42.6	32.9
2	2007	61.8	58.9
3	2012	63.9	67.1
4	2015	65.2	68.3

Source: FICCI Higher education summit – 2015

Table 1 Shown that the share of unaided private educational institutions to the total number of institutions increased from 42.6 per cent in 2001 to 65.2 per cent in 2015.It is also seen that the share of students enrolment to the total enrolment increased 32.9 to 68.3 during the same periods. It proves that there is a fast growth in the number of private educational institutions and students enrolment in India.

The table 2 shows that the number of private universities in India:

Table - 2

SL.No	Name of State	No of Private Universities
1	Assam	4
2	Arunachal pradesh	7
3	Chhattisgarh	8

4	Gujarat	23
5	Himachal pradesh	17
6	Jharkhand	3
7	Karnatake	12
8	Madhya Pradesh	15
9	Maharashtraq	4
10	Manipur	1
11	Meghalaya	8
12	Mizoram	1
13	Nagaland	2
14	Odisha	3
15	Punjab	12
16	Rajasthan	41
17	Sikkim	5
18	Tripura	1
19	Uttar Pradesh	24
20	Uttrakhand	11
21	West Bengal	7
	Total	227

Positive effects of privatization on education:

1. Modernization of education
2. Qualitative reforms
3. Wider area for research and inventions
4. Bring new areas of employment.
5. Increase in vocational course
6. Helpful in expansion of education

Negative effects of privatization on education:

1. Expensive education.
2. Qualitative education not sure.
3. Not job security.
4. More4 importance to money rather than intelligence

5. Exploitation of teachers
6. Extra burden on children.

Findings:

This study arrives at the following findings-

1. This study find out various problems of government sector Indian higher education system such as – Gross Enrolment Ratio is quite low, no equity in GER among different sects of the society, poor infrastructure facilities, inadequate focus on research of higher education, lack proper management, political interference.
2. Privatization of education fulfil the demand of higher education in Indian society.
3. It increases the wider area for research and invention.
4. In most of the institutions , there is no freedom for innovation in teaching as the private institutions have their own set rules, methods which teacher have followed. Privatization has provided them job opportunities but not job satisfaction.
5. Privatization of education is increased the number of higher educational institutions.

Conclusion:

Privatization is important to expand education qualitatively as well as quantitatively. Here state and central government encourage the privatization of education to achieve the goal of higher education. But the lack of quality education the educated masses .In fact the privatization increase number of degree holders on one hand and unemployment on the other hand. Therefore the suggestions given in the study may be implemented to improve the quality of higher education provided through privatization.

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