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**Emerging Innovative Trends in Higher Education  
An Interdisciplinary Approach**

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## A Perspective on Issues and Challenges in Higher Education

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### Introduction:

Education can take many forms and serve many needs. The earliest of civilizations more than 5000 years ago – in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China – bear this out. Over time, instruction of the young, which had previously occurred through interaction with knowledgeable with knowledgeable and skilled adults in the context of daily life, shifted to institutional setting such as royal courts and temples, each with its own standardized body of knowledge. Schools with prescribed curricula and appointed teachers were founded for various purposes to transmit knowledge and information, social values, and useful to train and select political, religious and social leaders and to ensure the loyalty of the populace to standing forms of governance. Standards of behavior, speech and appearance were a primary product of these schools while academic achievement was often secondary. Though this sort of social conformity, the public schools set the standards of conduct for British officials from the early 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Indian Higher Education system, which includes Technical Education, is one of the largest of the world, just after the United States and China. Higher Education is the most powerful tool to build a knowledge-based society for the future. Higher Education provides people with an opportunity to reflect on the critical social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. It contributes to national development through dissemination of specialized knowledge and skills. Being at the apex of the educational pyramid, it plays a key role in producing quality teachers for the country's education.

Higher education system has witnessed significant expansion in last few years, both in terms of the number of institutions and colleges as well as the student enrollment in various courses. India has more than 600 universities and over 30000 colleges with 285.63 million students till end of 2013. Some Indian institutes, such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), have been globally recognized for their education standards.

### Emerging Issues in Higher Education in India:

There are many basic problems faced by higher education system in India. These include Lower level of teaching quality, Financing of higher education, More concentrated on theories and rather than practical knowledge Inadequate facilities and infrastructure Quota system.

#### Lower level of teaching quality :

Many of the issues like lack of faculty, poor quality teaching, Traditional teaching methods, outdated and rigid curricula and pedagogy, lack of accountability and quality assurance and separation of research and teaching are raise questions on Indian education system.

#### Financing of higher education :

Expenditure on education in common and on higher education in particular by the government, is one of the parameters to judge the quality in education for at all nation. The State Government have already been spending 20-30 per cent of its revenue budget on education. It cannot afford to spend more. In India, higher education has received less attention in terms of public spending than other levels.





#### **Facilities :**

In Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, rates were 17-26% in 2014. In fact, the number of secondary schools is almost half the number of upper primary schools available in the country.

#### **Emerging Challenges in Higher Education India :**

India faces today a number of problems pertaining to poverty unemployment disappearance of moral and spiritual values. But in the last few decades a country wide problems/challenges have emerged in Higher Education system in India they are discussed as under.

#### **Our heterogeneous education system :**

Our heterogeneous education system based on geographical, rural-urban, rich-poor set up has posed in great challenge for the educational institutions. Varieties of colleges, universities, technical institutions have produced and different types and quality of Education.

#### **Economic Difficulties :**

Is one of the most troublesome changes that the present higher education system has imposed on the communities? The numbers of students are coming from the ordinary classes; many of them are unable to provide the minimum necessities of life for themselves. Economic miseries have grown due to the rising prizes, habits of wasting money on luxuries, increasing population. Shortage of food supply, selfish etc. students hold part time jobs in order to pay for the their educational expenses and must divide their attention between a job and college/University education.

#### **The supply-demand gap :**

India has a low rate of enrolment in higher education, at only 18%, compared with 26% in China and 36% in Brazil. There is enormous unmet demand for higher education. By 2020, the Indian government aims to achieve 30% gross enrolment, which will mean providing 40 million university places, an increase of 14 million in six years.

#### **Challenges of higher education in India :**

World University ranking (Indian Express, 2010) reveals that Indian institutions fare poorly in criteria like foreign students and faculty and ration of faculty to student. A study of the detail ranking shows that Indian institutions in top 500 list have an overall score of 30-48 against an average of 75-100 that the top 50 universities have the IITs which have scored in the academic reputation and employer reputation categories, have taken a serious beating in criteria like faculty-student ratio, international student and international faculty. In future we must develop our higher education to compete globally. This is one of the challenges of our higher education system in India.

#### **Best practices in higher education :**

ICT has the potential to bridge the knowledge gap, in terms of improving quality of education, increasing the terms of improving quality of education, increasing the quality of education opportunities, making knowledge building possible through borderless and boundless accessibility to resources and people and reaching population in remote areas to satisfy their basic right to education. The foreign universities would bring with them their best teaching, research and administrative practices to the host country. A few of such best practices are out line below.  
A faculty's efforts in enabling slow- learners through remedial teaching and counseling are recognized, appreciated, and suitably rewarded. The student feedback is taken in each course at the end of the semester, and members of the faculty are encouraged to improve upon their performance wherever required.





Continuous research and publication is construed to be a form of regular updating and knowledge creation in the chosen areas. This keeps the faculty active in research till retirement.

#### Conclusion :

After independence, there has been tremendous increase in higher education institutions of learning in all disciplines. But still India is way behind in providing world class education. Today, India is one of the fastest growing countries of the world with the annual growth rate going above 9%. In order to sustain that rate of growth, there is need to increase the number of institutes with quality education.

ICT has the potential to bridge the knowledge gap in terms of improving quality of education, incising the quantity of quality educational opportunities, making knowledge building possible through borderless and boundless accessibility to resources and people and reaching population in remote areas to satisfy their basic right to education.

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