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Information on Transparency in Higher Education

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Abstract The entire social system depends upon the arduous stature of higher education. A nation can tolerate any upheaval if the basis of higher education is sturdy and stout. The sustenance of development is only possible if the standard of higher education also evolves with the changing demands of times. Higher education has many stakeholders just as institution, students, faculty, management and finally of course society. For the overall development all the stakeholders should be dealt equally well by higher education institutes. But this is the sorry state of affairs that higher education is passing through a very crucial phase in India. There is a certain gap between Indian potential and exhaustion of resources. Honestly speaking transparency in goals, execution and in evaluation is direly required. In nut shell every challenge of higher education can be managed well if translucency and transparency are the major concern.

Keywords *Transparency; Fair and Clear Virtue of a System for Working; Higher Education; Education above than Senior Secondary Education*

1. Introduction

Higher Education is considered the back bone of any nation. The entire social system depends upon the arduous stature of higher education. A nation can tolerate any upheaval if the basis of higher education is sturdy and stout. The sustenance of development is only possible if the standard of higher education also evolves with the changing demands of times. To understand the needs of society; the higher education institutes should clearly and publicly publish and exhibit their resources and features. The curiosity about the various professional and vocational courses of masses remains unsatisfied because of the lack of proper information .If all the necessary information of HEI's is publicly available then whole of the stakeholders will be satiated. And all the objectives of higher education will be achieved.

Higher education has many stakeholders just as institution, students, faculty, management and finally of course society. For the overall development all the stakeholders should be dealt equally well by higher education institutes. But this is the sorry state of affairs that higher education is passing through a very crucial phase in India. Globally speaking India has very good potential but she lacks in excellent higher education institutes and universally employable graduates. Honestly speaking transparency in goals, execution and in evaluation is direly required. In nut shell every challenge of

higher education can be managed well if translucency and transparency are the major concern. It is evident from the following review that transparency is a serious concern for both developing and developed nations.

Osipian, Ararat L. (2014), this study analyses the issue of comparative corruption in the national higher education sectors in the United States of America (USA) and the Russian Federation (RF). Corruption in higher education, as well as the way it is addressed in legislation and court cases and reflected in the media, appears to be consistent with the trajectory and pace of reforms that take place in the USA and the RF. The continuing massification of higher education, with increasing enrolment rates in both countries, as well as the emergence of the for-profit sector, necessitate more control and coordination on the part of the governments, educational institutions and the public. The two systems of higher education slowly and independently converge. In both systems, professional hierarchies based on meritocracy clash with managerialism based on the thriving for-profit principle. As a result, forms of corruption in higher education may become more similar.

Pitman (2014), this article explores the relationship between mass education, higher education quality and policy development in Australia in the period 2008-2014, during which access to higher education was significantly increased. Over this time, which included a change of national government, the discursive relationship between mass higher education and higher education quality shifted from Conceptualising quality as a function of economic productivity, through educational transformation and academic standards, to market competition and efficiency. Throughout, the student was more often positioned as a servant towards higher education quality, rather than its benefactor.

Välimaa, Terhi (2014), this article discusses social dynamics of higher education which is one of the most crucial but neglected perspectives in comparative studies of higher education. We pay attention to the importance of time, space and contexts--both geographical and socio-cultural ones--to reveal how they influence on different social dynamics in various systems of higher education. The article focuses on the national higher education system level. Theoretically we approach higher education systems from a relational perspective paying attention to dynamics created by changing relationships between different actors in cultural, geographical and historical contexts.

Altbach, Philip G. (2014), India, with the world's second largest higher education system and a rapidly growing economy as one of the BRIC nations, faces significant challenges in building both capacity and excellence in higher education. India's higher education system is characterized by "islands of excellence in a sea of mediocrity." The mainstream universities are recognized as lacking in quality. Only the Indian Institutes of Technology and related institutions garner international recognition. This article analyzes the challenges facing India's higher education system in the twenty-first century.

Fries & Jeanette (2015), informed by the literature and professional practice, this chapter examines the unique mentoring challenges facing women and underrepresented minorities in higher education. Findings indicate that traditional mentoring approaches fall short in fully supporting the needs of underrepresented populations in higher education.

It could be concluded from above cited studies that higher education management needs sincere efforts to improve present status. Every procedure related to student, faculty, management and maintenance of standards should have sustainability in higher education.

2. Challenges in Higher Education

2.1. Admission in Higher Education

The rules and regulations of admissions in higher education need to be crystal clear. Greater emphasis should be on merit list, lucid fee structure and benefits. At the very first step of filing the application an aspirant should have clear picture of fee structure, infrastructure ,various facilities (just as hostel, mess, labs, workshops) and well qualified faculty. The quite similar facilities must be physically available in that very institute during the course too.

2.2. High Qualified and Well Trained Faculty

This is a great challenge. As a few good and competent teachers are available .The teachers for true teaching are very rare. Moreover in depth knowledge for subject matter is lacking. Latest knowledge and training is not a compulsory part of teacher profile. The Low payment by private institutes has undermined the status of teaching profession.

2.3. Role of Management

The management of higher education should have lot of transparency in their mission, objectives, planning and execution. The welfare of the students and teachers should be the priority. To provide the maximum exposure to latest technology, innovations, skills and pedagogies should be volunteer taken by the management. Good remuneration perks for the motivation of staff and scholarship schemes as well as student loans; are the feeblest areas in India.

2.4. Transfer in Higher Education

Universal standards of education increase its employability. An engineer who receives higher education from India should be equally good in foreign country.

Why an Indian graduate has to study further in abroad to get a job? Why a well-qualified Indian does feels insecure even after getting numerous degrees? Certainly the quality and standards of present higher education are not transferable in global scene.

2.5. Learning Outcomes

Truly speaking, the learning out comes of any higher education institutes are its students and their employability. If the passed out students are not efficient for any job then it should be counted the failure of the institute. Moreover mostly the institutions don't have clear cut placement policy for everyone.

2.6. Quality Assurance

The education imparted in the institutes is not of high standards. The practical values of this education are nothing in front of global competition. In fact the HEI's are less concerned about the qualitative approbation. As there is no controlling authority for higher education institutions therefore Indian institutes are found of substandard. Internationally they fail to attract the good school.

2.7. Role in Character Building

The higher education builds the nation great. The goals of the education should be to make complete human beings. The learned persons should have work culture as well as love and respect for work.

Moreover dedication to the profession and inclination to contribute as much as possible can make a nation invincible.

2.8. Role of State

Here it is quite mandatory to mention that state is the major authority to chalk out balanced transparency policy for all higher education institutes. To make higher education globally competent and fully employable is the responsibility of state. Degradation of the standards or the poor standards is the direct out comes of the policies of state. If the state will control the higher education institutes as an administrative head the challenge of transparency will be automatically managed.

3. Tools to have in Education

Numerous tools have been designed by the educationist to achieve transparency in abroad. In USA students have perhaps more higher education options than students anywhere else in the world. The students have free access to every detail of the desired institute.

Example A

Colleges Measure.org is a new joint venture between the American Institute for Research and Matrix knowledge group. This interactive website enables users to evaluate the performance of four-year public and private colleges and universities focusing on key out- come measures.

3.1. Keyout Comes Areas

1) Graduation rates
2) 1st year retention rates
3) Education related cost per student
4) Cost per degree
5) Student loan default rates
6) Ratio of student loan payments to earning for recent graduates
7) Cost alteration that quantifies the cost to educate first time full time under graduate who do not begin a second year.

Example B

Another tool for maintaining transparency was taken as a model named ISS Investing in student success pilot project of jobs for the future and the Delta project on post-secondary costs for Productivity and Accountability.

The organization recruited 13 colleges and universities with student's success programs.

ISS pilot project Reports

- That data on spending relative to performance were unavailable for most campuses out of (13 institutions) for all programs not just student success programs so student success programs' cost effectiveness could not be determined.

4. Other Reforms for Higher Education for Accountability and Transparency

A. State should require cost and student outcome data reported as California do.
B. Data should be presented so institution comparison can be made.
C. Publishing Accreditation reports. Implementing tires (multiple Accreditations)
D. Accreditation should be replaced all together by simply measuring and reporting what student learn or can do and publicize those results so parents, students and state legislation could make more informed decisions about attendance.
E. Media should play a significant role to attain transparency in admission and evaluation practices.
F. From initial information, registration, entrance test, admission, evaluation to declaration of results or any other important detail of a higher education institution should be publicly available in black and white.
G. Massification and vast expansion of higher education, with increasing enrolment rates, as well as the emergence of the commercial sector, necessitate more control and coordination on the part of the governments, educational institutions and the public.

In India the challenge of transparency has got acute because of the lack of awareness among students, parents as well as society. As earlier mentioned the higher education institutes (management) and the state cannot get rid of their responsibilities of providing transparency. It is a surprising factor that no serious initiative has been taken in this regard by any regulatory body like U.G.C. (University Grants Commission). Ministry of Human Resource and Development etc. Why cannot we do the experiments like Investing in Student Success (ISS) pilot project and launch Collage Measures.org? Why cannot India again become the hub of education as it was in the ancient India? Why should India remain leader in producing and supplying most efficient and skilled workers for the world? Why cannot India retain the best for herself? In short this is the peak hour to amend the system for the betterment of all.

6. Conclusion

In nut shell with rapid and accelerated growth of higher education institutes; it has become quite mandatory to have transparency, clarity and control of state and society in all the relevant issues and aspects of higher education. From initial information, registration, entrance test, admission, evaluation to declaration of results or any other important detail of a higher education institution should be publicly available in black and white. In this dynamic and fast changing educational world; India should focus on qualitative and clear system of higher education. No ambiguity and duplicity should be found in the policies of higher education institutes. The profit making tendencies should be checked seriously. Even if the institute claims for global competence, the facilities should be at par with their commitments. Brain draining could be checked if India provides international standards of higher education in both qualitative and transparent terms.

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