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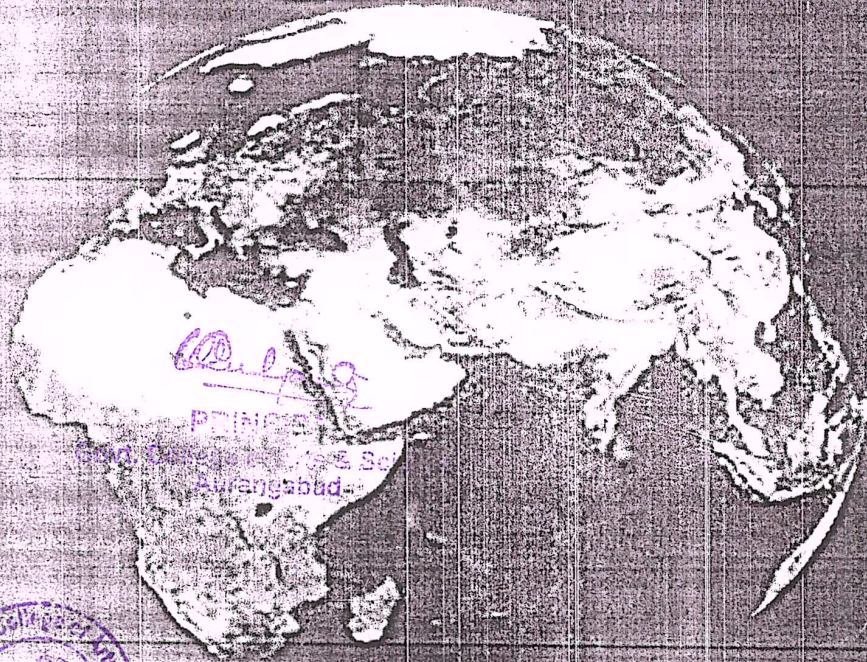
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1

Geographical Aspect of Higher Education in India

Dr. Baliram P. Lahane

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Nanded, Dist. Nanded (MS) India

Research Paper - Geography

ABSTRACT

Higher education in India has experienced phenomenal expansion since independence. India has produced scientists, engineers, technologists, doctors, teachers and managers who are in great demand all over the world. Higher education is very important for a developing country like India and it is encouraging to increasing human development. Now it is one of the top ten countries in our industrial and technological capacity, because of the significant contribution of manpower and tools provided by higher education, especially, technical education. India has already entered into the era of knowledge explosion. Higher education provides specialized knowledge and skilled persons for national development. In next few decades, India will have world's largest set of young people. While the correlation between people and higher education is not up to the mark. Education is an essential tool for achieving sustainability.

Keywords: Higher Education, Issues, challenges

Introduction:

Education is one of the significant factors instrumental to the development of a



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country. It should be transformed to the needs of the time and changing scenario of the world. It provides an opportunity to critically reflect upon the social, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. India needs more efficient and educated people to drive our economy forward. There are many Indian around the corner who known for their capabilities and skills. To develop India as an education hub or to become a prosperous partner in global economy, India has to qualitatively strengthen education in general and higher education with research and development in particular.

Aims and Objectives:

This paper aims to identify emerging issues and challenges in the field of Higher Education in India.

1. To analyze the current scenario of higher education system in India
2. To study the of total student and girls enrolment (000) in Higher Education
3. To identify on the Emerging issues of higher education in India
4. To identify on the Emerging Challenges of higher education in India

Higher Education Scenario in India

The growth of students' enrolment is more than the growth of number of teachers over the period of time, may be due to the massive investment by government at school level in form of primary as well as secondary education. Rise in enrolments and institutions at school level, there is mushrooming growth in higher education institutions at the end of 2014 there were 677 Universities and 38000 colleges in India. But still we need more than 1500 universities to cater the demand. Most of these universities have affiliated colleges where undergraduate courses are approved and taught.



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**Table- 1 Growth of Higher Education Institutions and Their Intake Capacity in India**

| Year → Institutions & Enrolment | 1951 | 1961 | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2012 | 2014 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| No. of University | 28 | 45 | 93 | 123 | 177 | 266 | 574 | 677 |
| Number of colleges | 578 | 1816 | 3227 | 4738 | 7346 | 11146 | 35539 | 38000 |
| No. of teachers (in 000) | 24 | 62 | 190 | 244 | 272 | 395 | 733 | 817 |
| No. of students enrolled (in 000) | 174 | 557 | 1956 | 2752 | 4925 | 8399 | 22373 | 28000 |

Source: UGC Reports

Above table shows that our education system is improving not only in number of colleges and universities but also in enrolment. Above table reveals that there has been appreciable growth of higher education since 1951. Number of university level institutions and colleges has grown up from 28 to 677 and 578 to 3800 respectively from 1951 to 2014. Growth of higher education level wise student enrolment boys and girls 2010-2011 has revealed in table -2. The study explores the fact that the women enrolments ratio is less when compare to male.

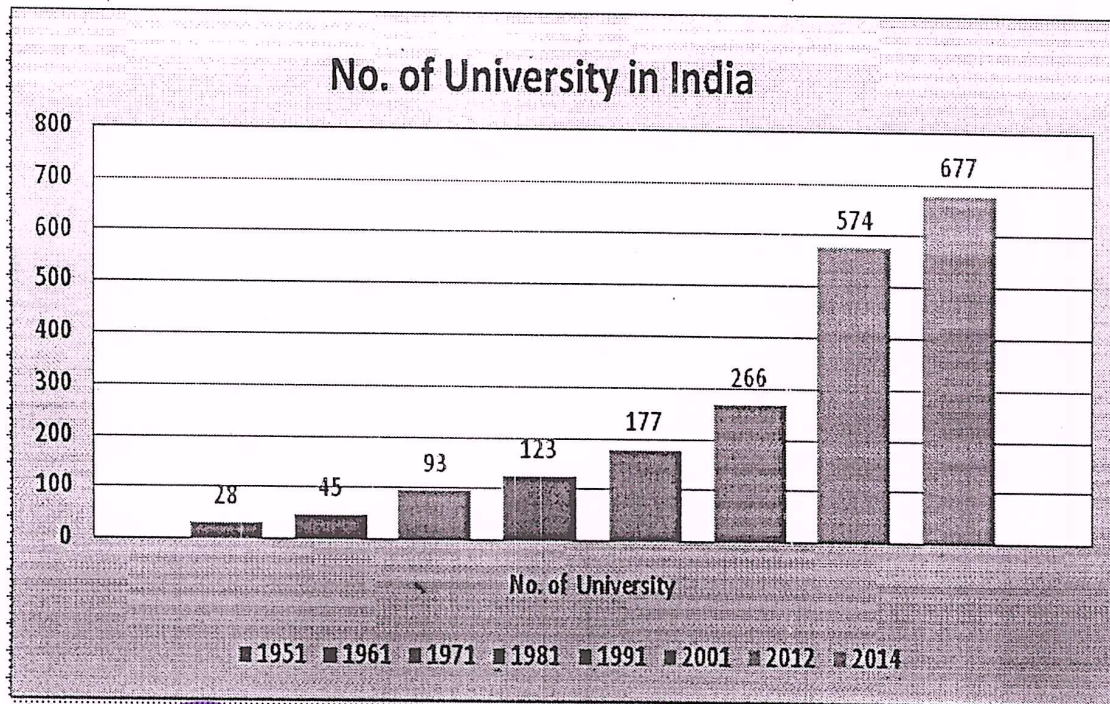
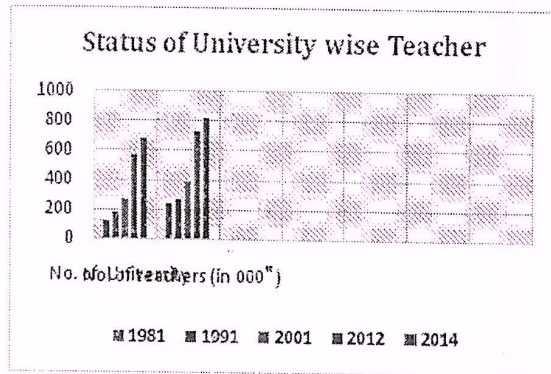
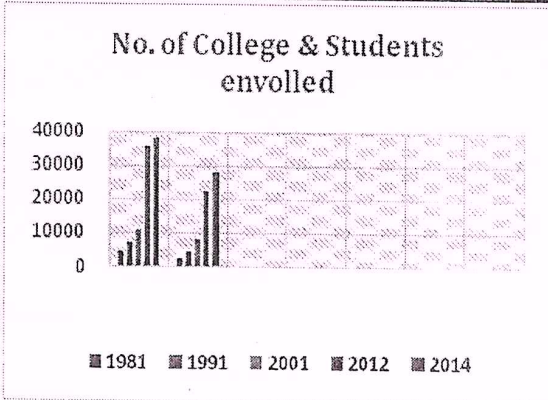
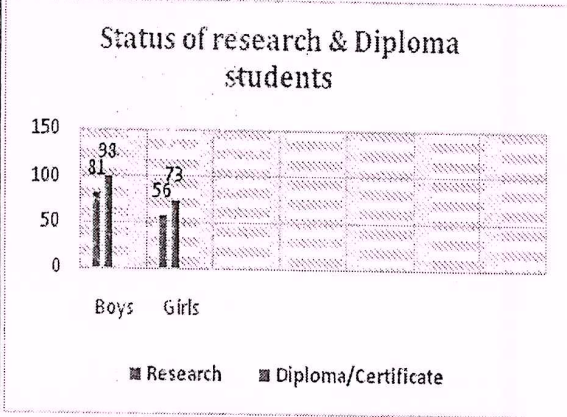
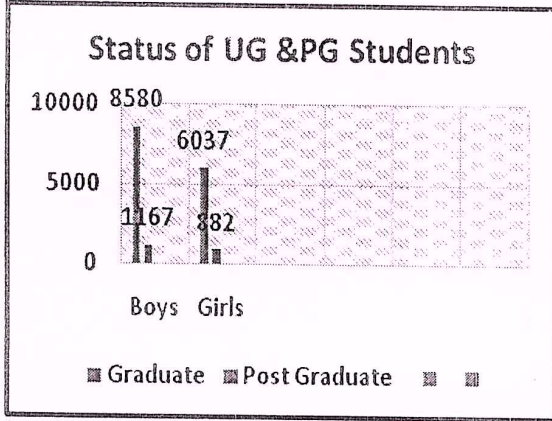
Table -2 Growth of higher education level wise student enrolment boys and girls 2010-2011

| Sr. No. | Level wise students enrolment(0000) | Boys | Girls | Total |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | Graduate | 8580 (58.6) | 6037(41.4) | 14637 (100) |
| 2 | Post Graduate | 1167(56.9) | 882(43.1) | 2049(100) |
| 3 | Research | 81(59.1) | 56(40.9) | 137(100) |
| 4 | Diploma/Certificate | 98(57.3) | 73(42.7) | 171(100) |

(Bracket numbers indicate in %)




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Emerging Issues

The role of higher education in the emerging scenario of knowledge economy is very crucial and multifaceted for any country in general and India in particular. 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, Traditional methods of teaching, Privatization, Inadequate facilities and infrastructure Quota system.

1. Financing of higher education: One of the most important things that have to be noticed is the issue of financial constraints regarding higher education before the government. 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. More concentrated on theories and rather than practical knowledge: Indian education system is more focused on theoretical knowledge rather than practical knowledge.
2. Traditional methods of teaching: Professors still stick to those older methods of teaching like board, marker. They don't like to make use of audio visual aids in teaching. Also they are not up to date with the information available and what global industry demands.
3. Privatization: In the present scenario, privatization of higher education is apparently a fledgling but welcome trend and is essential to maintain creativity, adaptability and quality. The economic trail of liberalization and globalization demands it. In India both public and private institutions operate simultaneously. Approximately 50 per cent of the higher education in India is imparted through private institutions, mainly unaided involving high cost. However, the situation is not so simple. Private providers, in the interest of maximizing profit, have every incentive to 'minimize costs' by compromising on the quality of education provided in their institutions. Today, high salaries are available but the commitment is less. Thus, it is the need of the hour to free the higher education system from unnecessary constraints and political interference.




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4. Lower level of teaching quality: Our education system is torture by issues of quality in many of its institutions and universities. 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. 2.
5. Inadequate facilities and infrastructure: In India, many of the universities don't have adequate infrastructure or facilities to teach students. Even many private universities are running courses without classrooms. Internet and Wi-Fi facility is still out of reach of many students. 3.
6. Quota system: Bringing the reservation and quota system for different categories in education lost its quality. Even deserving candidates of general categories are ignored and on quota we have to select other person from reserved category even though he is not suitable. 4.

Emerging Challenges

The system of Indian Higher education is the second largest in the world which fulfills the educational requirements of millions of students who come from different sections of the society since it is the student community that can help to generate healthy academic atmosphere in institutions of higher learning. No doubt that India faces today a number of problems pertaining to poverty unemployment disappearance of moral and spiritual values. But in the last few decades a countrywide problems/challenges have emerged in Higher Education system in India they are discussed as under. 4.

1. Our heterogeneous education system, based on geographical, rural-urban, rich-poor set up have posed in great challenge for the educational institutions. Varieties of colleges, universities, technical institutions have produced and different types and quality of Education. Some of them are really imparting qualitative education although a few others are doing the dirtiest job. Thanks to UGC, for publishing the list of such a fake Universities and Institutions indulging in educational malpractices. 5.



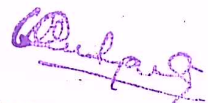
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2. Interference of political factors: Most of the Institutions, imparting education (Aided-no aided) are owned by the dominant political leaders, now playing key role in governing bodies of the Universities. They have established their own youth cells and encourage students' organization on political basis. They exploit the students' energy for their political purposes. The students forget their own objectives and begin to develop their career in politics.
3. 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 increasing prizes, habits of wasting money on luxuries, increasing population, scarcity of food supply, corruption, selfish etc. students hold part time jobs in order to pay for the their educational expenses and should divide their attention between a job and College/University education. Near about seventy five percent of the total students community today, have been facing the financial problems.
4. Rapid growth of science and technology and subsequent industrialization has caused a great and danger to our old moral and values. The younger generation's dissatisfaction and revolt is the outcome of a decaying system of values.
5. Student-Centered Education and Dynamic Methods- Methods of higher education also have to be appropriate to the needs of learning to learn, learning to do, learning to be and learning to become. Student-centered education and employment of dynamic methods of education will require from teachers new attitudes and new skills. Methods of teaching through lectures will have to subordinate to the methods that will lay stress on self-study, personal consultation between teachers and pupils, and dynamic sessions of seminars and workshops.
6. Lack of Moral values: Rapid growth of science and technology and subsequent industrialization has caused a great and danger to our old moral and values. The younger generation's dissatisfaction and revolt is the outcome of a decaying system of values.




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7. Action Plan for Improving Quality- Academic and administrative audit must be conducted once in three years in colleges by external experts for ensuring quality in all aspects of academic activities. The self-finance colleges must come forward for accreditation and fulfil the requirements of accreditation. Universities and colleges should realize the need for quality education and come forward with action plan for improving quality in higher educational institutions.
8. Action Plan for Improving Quality- Academic and administrative audit must be conducted once in three years in colleges by external experts for ensuring quality in all aspects of academic activities. The self-finance colleges must come forward for accreditation and fulfil the requirements of accreditation. Universities and colleges should realise the need for quality education and come forward with action plan for improving quality in higher educational institutions.
9. World Class Education- Indian government is not giving priority to the development of Standard in education. India must aspire for the international standard in education. Many national universities like in the USA, UK, Australia, etc. allow studies in higher education for foreign students in their countries and through correspondence courses as well. In the same way India Universities of world class education can also offer courses of studies to Foreign students taking advantage of the globalization process. To achieve that goal it must adopt uniform international syllabus in its educational institutions.
10. Personality Development- Finally, education must be for the flowering of personality but not for the suppression of creativity or natural skill. In the globalized world opportunity for the educated people are naturally ample in scope. That is the way the world can be developed for peace, prosperity and progress by able and skillful men.

Conclusion:

1. In concluding words, we can say that over the period of time, growth have been take place in higher education in terms of institutions, enrolments etc. but it is not sufficient. Indian economy is facing various challenges regarding higher education, which need to overcome through appropriate policy formation and their effective



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implementation.

2. Higher education in India plays many roles. It is of extraordinary importance to many and reforms are often seen as significant threats to specific, social arrangements that provide benefits to powerful groups.
3. The politics is the result and most often the changes are not implemented language has been a similar issues in which government attempted to solve in difficult social and political problem through policy relating to higher education.
4. To conclude, Higher education in India is an extraordinarily important part of modern Indian society and it is intertwined in the political and social systems of the society. It is in need of change, development and important. In order to effectively plan for reforms and improvement, it is necessary to have in realistic perceptions of what is possible and what is not.

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