

## Privatisation of higher education in India: A positive step

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### Abstract

Education is very important tool for everyone to succeed in life and get something different. It helps a lot in lessening the challenges of life difficult life. Knowledge gained throughout the education period enables each and every individual confident about their life. It opens various doors to the opportunities of achieving better prospects in life so promotes career growth. Many awareness programmes has been run by the government in enhance the value of education in rural areas. It brings feeling of equality among all people in the society and promotes growth and development of the country. In 21<sup>st</sup> Century become as necessary as food, cloths and Shelter. There has been an upsurge in the demand for higher education after independence, resulting in a substantial expansion in the number of universities and colleges in the country. India has the second largest higher education system in the world. As per UGC Annual Report 2014-15, as on 31.03.2015, the number of Universities had gone up to 711 (46 Central, 329 State, 205 State Private, 128 Deemed to be Universities, three Institutions established under State Legislation) and 40760 colleges in the Higher Education sector. The Indian higher education has already entered a stage of massification and the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in 2015-16 is 24.5 percent, which is 3.45 crore in absolute numbers. The current target is to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio to 25.2 percent in 2017-18 and further to 30 percent in 2020-21. The extant National Policy on Education (NPE) provides for a National System of Education which implies that, up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. The Government is committed to provide equitable access to quality education to all, by enhancing access to public funded education across all levels ranging from elementary to higher education.

This paper gives an overview of state of higher education system in India & highlights the need for private sector to step up in the field of higher education. Why Privatization is necessary in India. A detail information providing number of different types universities in different states of India. It is argued that privatization of higher education can be applied to improve the education system in all but with the regular control of some regulating authorities.

**Keywords:** higher education, privatization, UGC

### Introduction

There was need of privatization of higher education in India as it is a 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest populated country in the world so there is not that much institutions and universities run by Govt. bodies either state or centre which full fill the requirement of such big numbers students.

The University Grants Commission of India (UGC India) is a statutory body set up by the Indian Union government in accordance to the UGC Act 1956 under Ministry of Human Resource Development, and is charged with coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of higher education in Universities and Colleges offering UG, PG and Doctoral and Post-Doctoral courses in different stream. So that the basic structure of the University education could have uniformity not only at the micro level but also at the macro level of functioning. Unfortunately education was placed on the concurrent list, which over the years has played havoc.

Education is very important tool for everyone to succeed in life and get something different. That is why; higher education is in great demand. Increasing number of students is also a reason of growing demand of higher education. As the author already stated above that government can not absolve itself from responsibility of

providing higher education to its citizens. Government is responsible not only for providing access to all its citizens but also for trying to improve the quality of higher education. A huge investment is required to cater these needs. But in India, lack of sufficient funds continues to be a major hurdle. This article highlights some issues like why the private sector needs to step in the higher education sector? Would it be feasible to have public-private partnership in higher education? These issues are attempted to discuss here.

### Current Scenario of Higher Education in India

The higher education system in India includes both private and public universities. Public universities are supported by the Government of India and the state governments, while private universities are mostly supported by various bodies and societies. Universities in India are recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), which draws its power from the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. In addition, 15 Professional Councils are established, controlling different aspects of accreditation and coordination.

### The types of universities include

- **Central universities**, or Union universities, are

established by an Act of Parliament and are under the purview of the Department of Higher Education in the Union Human Resource Development Ministry. The UGC lists 46 central universities.

- **State universities** are run by the state government of each of the states and territories of India, and are usually established by a local legislative assembly act. As of 9 February 2017, the UGC lists 358 state universities. The oldest establishment date listed by the UGC is 1857, shared by the University of Mumbai, the University of Madras and the University of Calcutta. Note that most State Universities are "affiliating universities" in that they administer a large number of "affiliated colleges" (many located in very small towns) that typically offer a range of undergraduate courses, but may also offer post-graduate courses. More established colleges may even offer PhD programs in some departments with the approval of the affiliating university.
- **Deemed university**, or "Deemed to be University", is a status of autonomy granted by the Department of Higher Education on the advice of the UGC, under Section 3 of the UGC Act. As of 9 February 2017, the UGC lists 122 deemed universities.<sup>[7]</sup> According to this list, the first institute to be granted deemed university status was Indian Institute of Science, which was granted this status on 12 May 1958. Note that in many cases, the same listing by the UGC covers several institutes. For example, the listing for Homi Bhabha National Institute covers the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and other

institutes.

- **Private universities** are approved by the UGC. They can grant degrees but they are not allowed to have off-campus affiliated colleges. The UGC list of private universities as on 9th February, 2017 lists 258 private universities.<sup>[11]</sup>

India has 785 universities. There are universities of some kind in each of the 29 states of India as well as three of the union territories: Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry. The state with the most universities is Rajasthan with 73 universities. Tamil Nadu is the state with the most deemed universities, numbering 28. Gujarat has the most state Universities numbering 28, West Bengal has 26 state universities and Uttar Pradesh has 26 State Universities. Rajasthan has the most private universities (42), Uttar Pradesh has six central universities and Delhi has five Central Universities the largest number of all the states and territories.

Apart from the above universities, other institutions are granted the permission to autonomously award degrees. However, they do not affiliate colleges and are not officially called "universities" but "autonomous organizations" or "autonomous institutes". They fall under the administrative control of the Department of Higher Education. These organizations include the Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Indian Institutes of Technology, the National Institutes of Technology, the various branches of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, the Indian Institutes of Management (though these award diplomas, not degrees) and other autonomous institutes.

Table 1

State	Central University	State University	Deemed University	Private University	Total
Andhra Pradesh	0	20	5	0	25
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	1	7	9
Assam	2	12	0	5	19
Bihar	3	15	1	0	19
Chandigarh	0	1	1	0	2
Chhattisgarh					
Delhi	5	7	10	0	22
Goa	0	1	0	0	1
Gujarat	1	28	2	28	59
Haryana	1	14	6	19	40
Himachal Pradesh	1	4	0	17	22
Jammu & Kashmir	2	7	1	0	10
Jharkhand	1	8	1	7	17
Karnataka	1	25	14	12	52
Kerala					
Madhya Pradesh	2	21	1	23	47
Maharashtra	1	21	21	6	49
Manipur	2	0	0	1	3
Meghalaya	1	0	0	8	9
Mizoram	1	0	0	1	2
Nagaland	1	0	0	2	3
Odisha	1	16	2	4	23
Pondicherry	1	0	1	0	2
Punjab	1	9	2	14	26
Rajasthan	1	22	8	42	73
Sikkim	1	0	0	5	6
Tamil Nadu	2	22	28	0	52
Telangana	3	16	2	0	21
Tripura	1	1	0	1	3

Uttar Pradesh	5	26	9	28	68
Uttarakhand	1	10	3	11	25
West Bengal	1	26	1	8	36
Total	46	358	122	258	784

The above data is current as of 9th February 2017 Source Wikipedia

### Why privatization of higher education is required in India?

Privatization in higher education is required since long time as there are a lot of reasons for which we needed the same as follows:

1. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act' or '*Right to Education Act* also known as RTE', which describes the modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. What will happen with all those who completed their basic education or school education? Will Govt provide them higher education free as they are paying at childhood level?
2. How will Govt. manage to provide higher education to all students who want to study in medical, engineering, Law, Management, Teacher Training Institutions etc.
3. In private universities, there is no provision of political intervention of either centre or state govt ruling party.
4. Faculties are performing meticulously in private universities as they know, action will be taken against them if they are not perform well or may terminate from job.
5. Appointment of teachers in private universities mainly done on fair basis.
6. Vice-chancellors are appointed on merit basis not at all on political ground.
7. Infrastructure are always up to date in private universities and colleges.
8. In general, private universities and colleges offer better facilities and equipment and a better teacher-pupil ratio than state (public) universities. They do so because they can afford these advantages.
9. Privatization in education has increased the opportunities by increasing the scope of admissions in all levels of education.
10. Private Universities and Colleges always look for up gradation of the technologies that what they use in their institutes so that they are always up to date to the present times.

### Concluding Remarks

The role of the private sector in Indian higher education has increased significantly over the last decade, with majority of students currently enrolled in private institutions. It is a key to harness India's demographic dividend in education. This role will only increase considering the substantial investments required in the sector. The higher education system in India has exhibited impressive growth over the last decade to become third largest in the world and is likely to surpass the U.S. in the next five years and China in the next 15 years to become the largest system of higher education in the world.

The size of the private sector is about twice that of the public sector in terms of the number of institutions and student enrolments. India has over 31,000 institutions of higher learning, among the highest in the world. Central universities comprise seven percent of the total, state universities 46 percent and state private universities comprise 16 percent; deemed universities, 21 percent; Institutes of National Importance, about nine percent of the total. Overall, the number of institutions in the country has grown at the rate of 11 percent. Rapid growth of institutions, mostly private, has allowed students in dire need of qualifications to pay the requisite sum of money and attempt to acquire them.

Earlier, private sector participation in higher education has been in highly specialized areas such as engineering, management and medicine. However, the government's inability to invest heavily in higher education to take care of growing needs has left the field wide open to the participation of private players in this arena. Most private institutions do not receive aid from the government, whereas 52 percent of the grants of the University Grants Commission (UGC) go to central universities, catering to less than one lakh students.

There is a significant rise in the number of private universities in India. Around more than 60 percent of higher education institutions are private institutions in which nearly 60 percent of the students are enrolled. The private institutes provide under one umbrella all the undergraduate courses, specialized courses such as engineering, management, journalism, law, and art and design, among others. Currently To encourage greater private sector participation in higher education, the government has simplified the regulatory framework, while focusing on quality of higher education.

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