

Modernization - the Changing face of Higher Education in India

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Abstract: Education is the most crucial investment in human development in every society. The educational institutions have an important role to play in the social progress of any society. Higher education, viewed in the modern society as an organized effort imparting skills, attitudes and value that make up the blue prints in the process of modernization. Modernization is the process of socio-cultural transformation. It is a thorough going of change involving values, norms, institutions and structure of every society. Modernization has various effects in our life but it has deep impression in the field of education in India.. It has brings so many new changes in the field of Indian higher education system. The spread of modern education in the second half of the 19th century led to the emergence of new scenario of education system in India. The diffusion of technical knowledge by modern educational institutions can help in the creation of skilled manpower. Using new tools of teaching become very effective in modern era. This paper has mainly focuses on modernization in higher education in India in the context of new changes (Privatization, Globalization, ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and Distant Education and their impact on higher education.

Key Words: Education, India, Higher, Modernization, Change.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Higher Education System in India is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China. Indian Higher Education system has expanded at a fast pace from the last two decades. Over the last decade, India has shown a remarkable transformation in the field of higher education .According to the *report on Higher Education in India- vision 2030*, "India is the single largest provider of Global talent, with one in four graduates in the world being a product the Indian system."(University News, Jan - feb.2017). The aim of higher education is of taking the Nation into 21st century cannot be achieved unless we have the necessary skills and competencies. The skills and competencies can be developed through systematic approach to revitalize and modernize our higher education system in the era of modernization. The main policy initiatives of the higher education sectors are:

- Networking and information technology.
- To spread distance education.
- State specific strategies.
- Enhancing the importance of higher education through curriculum reforms.
- Establishment of different kinds of advanced centers and institutions for higher education and research.
- Setting up of women study centers and cells.
- Networking of universities and colleges etc. (vimal vidhushey, 2016).

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2. HIGHER EDUCATION: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Indian higher education system is world's one of the largest. It operates at two levels- national and state. (UGC 2003).Contemporary higher education system is an agent of modernization in various forms is of the western origin. It is passing through the process of modernization. India has a rich tradition of higher education. In the ancient time, a Guru imparted knowledge about Vedas, Upanishads, and etc. (University News, oct.2016) .in that time the education was mostly learning as thought of means of salvation and self realization. The foundation of modern education in India was established by the British. Macaulay policy of 1835 promotes education system. Sir Charles wood dispatch 1854 which the first time recognized and need for mass education and finally the first Indian education commission 1882 which recommended the initiatives of private Indian agencies in the expansion of higher education. (Yogendra Singh, 1986).

After independence, which coincided with the post –Second World War era, India made concentrated efforts to improve access to higher education and the system grew rapidly after independence.

3. MODERNIZATION:

The term modernization refers to a model of a progressive transition from a tradition to a modern society .the process of modernization has brought a significant change in the life of man since the advent of scientific thinking and its applications in the human practice. Modernization in India started mainly with the westerner contact, especially through establishment of British rule .This contact had brought about many far reaching changes in Indian culture and social structure.(Yogendra singh,1986).the growth of the modern system of education, in suppression of the traditional indigenous system of education which has developed in the country with the establishment of the British rule in India in the beginning of nineteenth century.(G.R.Madan,1966).The spread of modern education in the second half of the 19th century . Now days, the higher education system if India is the world's third largest in terms of students, next to China and United States. Higher education has changed in the past two decades due to modernization. Higher education is of vital importance for the development of the country and it is a powerful tool to build knowledge based society of the 21st century. Modernization brings new changes in the field of higher education in India.

4. NEW CHANGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH MODERNIZATION:

We entered in 21st century, the era which is full of technologies and new inventions and the role of higher education in the development of a nation is well established. In the era of modernization there are various emerging changes which effect higher education are as follows:

- **ICT (Information and Communication technology):** The concept of ICT is widely used all over the world. Information and Communications technology is an extended term for information technology (IT).It is an umbrella term that include any communication device or application i.e. radio, television, computers and network hardware and software, satellite system and so on). The role of ICT in higher education is becoming more and more important and will continue to grow and develop in the 21st century. ICT in higher education are being education is being used for developing course material, academic research, student enrollment, and teachers and outside the world, communication between learners and in the libraries. ICT help to update knowledge according to the present scenario for the development in higher education. It is ICT which help both the teacher and students to have access to huge amount of information available across the world. (University News, July 2017).
- **Privatization:** Privatization is a process which can be defined as “transfer of assists, management, functions or responsibilities relating to education previously owned or carried out by the state to private sector. It may include companies, religious institution or nongovernmental organization. The private initiative in higher education has not new phenomena in India, for instant, some of the prestigious modern universities in India even established by the efforts of certain dedicated individuals with private financial aid. Privatization of higher education has both good and bad effects. In this age of privatization with competition and to meet the new challenges of the 21st century, higher education should be radically transformed. India is required to set to set up a chain of higher education system
- **Globalization;** Globalization refers to the increased interconnectedness and interdependence of different societies around the world. It is a process of growing and expanding to exist throughout the entire world. It is refer to the increasing inter connections of different nations and people around the world through investment, trade, popular culture, education and other forms of inter actions. Globalization has a multidimensional impact on higher education in India. It has underlined the need for reforms in the higher educational system with particular reference to the wider utilization of information technology, giving productivity dimensions to education and emphasis on its research and development activities.
- **Distance Learning:** Distance learning is a modern system of non-formal education in India. It is also called open learning. The Directorate of Distance Education was started in 1972 as the Institution of Correspondence Course to cater to the need of students who cannot pursue formal college education in India. These courses provide incentive to students who discontinue education because of lack of aptitude and motivation or for want of economic wherewithal. It is imparted through correspondence or postal courses, electronic media like radio, televisions and audio cassettes.

5. POSITIVE IMPACT:

Modernization means to adopt modern ways, to have modern spirit and character based on rationalism and scientific thinking. It refers to the change in the way of living, communication, urbanization, literacy, change in residence and profession etc. The necessitate modernization to touch education and thus, it cannot remain without its impact on higher education. As above discussed that modernization in higher education means new changes like Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Globalization, Privatization and Distance Education. Modern

technology has opened vista for modern man which has led to the shrinking world. Globalization is one such change that has brought about acceleration in hi-tech changes over the fast fifteen years and hence created a new global economy which is powered by technology. Fueled by information and driven by knowledge. In today world the transmission of information and explosion of knowledge is very fast. In the new millennium ICT plays an important role in supporting powerful, efficient, management and administration in higher education system. It is specified that technology can be used right from student administration to various resource administration in an education system in india. 21st century is the age of liberalization , globalization, privatization, distance education system and information technology and communication. In this context, quality assurance is demanded everywhere and quality comes from quality education. A teacher forms an education system. Therefore this fact should always be kept in the mind that, it is the teacher educators who have to take the responsibility of quality and it is only the ICT based education which ensures the quality reforms by the teacher educators because human resources are more important for any kind of development as compared to other resources. The main bases of globalization are information and innovation. Globalization has caused a rapid expansion of a global higher education system. The impact of globalization on higher education has led a rapid development in information technology and communication. The Globalization has been shaping children, the future citizens of the world into global citizens. Privatization of higher education is one of the most recent changes that that has acquired in the field of higher education with the mushrooming of self finance teacher training institutions where there is plenty scope for teachers. All the private institutions provide facilities to the staff in order to compete in education market. Such institutions generate their own funds through higher fees, user charges and full use of resources. Some of the distance and open universities have much effect on higher education in India.

6. NEGATIVE IMPACT:

Modern society is a changing society. In the modern era education aims at communicating empirical knowledge about science, technology, and other types of specialized knowledge. These changes in higher education system have taken place to meet the demands of the changing society. This transformation has led to some far-reaching consequences as follows:

- Due to impact of modernization many of the cherished values of the past have lost their previous importance. This situation has created confusion both to the individual and to the society. In the absence of meaningful human values the life of modern educated man has become more mechanical and materialistic. (C.N.Shanker Rao, 1990).
- Modern day education has spread more ignorance than knowledge.
- Modern education is producing machines out of pupil.
- Modernization in education leads to dangerous face of science and technology that is growing at a fast rate today. The uncontrolled growth of technology and science and the directionless development in science have today added much too human tensions, anxiety and misery. (Vimal Vidushy, 2016).
- Modern education includes heavy study materials on modern science and technology into the syllabus due to this inclusion and overemphasis on this, courses of study of study on classical language and literature had to be altogether dropped. This has prevented the modern learners from knowing their own past traditions and cultural heritage. *"It is argued that in such circumstances an individual would be cut off from his roots and his creative faculties, particularly his emotional and spiritual talents, would languish for want of nourishment."* (Parimal B. Kar, 2009)

7. CONCLUSION:

From the above discussion we conclude that Indian higher education system is very critical component of the nation and the role of higher education in the development of a nation is well established. That is an era of modernization where the world of education and learning are changing rapidly, bringing new realities and challenges to higher education system. There are various emerging trends which effect higher education system in India. New technological changes become essential parts of one's life and modern education. There are so many lightened waves of modernization (Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Privatization, Globalization and Distance Education).these changes has broken down the physical barriers and has potential to provide the opportunity for higher education to a person located in any part of the country. New changes of modernization change the scenario of old education system. It has a positive impact on higher education system as well as negative impact like self- centism, losing value of our traditional culture, human tension, anxiety and misery. Thus we can say that in order to modernization the present society, Indian education system should look to the problem cited above. If we can combine our moral and spiritual education system then we can reach in our goal and we can move rapidly toward modernization through an ideal system of education.

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