

# Innovation and Quality in Higher Education Institutions: A Review

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## **Introduction:**

The Process of liberalization and globalization has brought radical transformation in Indian education system. In this context the educational institutions have started process of resource planning and restructuring for maintaining the qualitative service to society. The society's expectations of universities and colleges have multiplied. All countries around the world aspire to have world class universities so as to achieve a competitive edge over other countries in the region. The requirements of industry from education have increased. Thus the educational institutes should locate the requirements of achieving quality structure and enhancements in higher education. Amidst huge quantitative expansion in the number of colleges and enrolment of students, monitoring of overall teaching learning system on regular basis is required for evaluation up gradation and sustenance of desired quality standards in each and every college. As quality of higher education is directly linked with the development of country and hence its significant and needs special attentions.

## **Higher Education in India:**

India has the distinction of being the second largest education system in the world next to china. The phenomenal growth in the number of educational institutions as well as students which occurred during the last three decades resulted in deterioration of quality of higher education. The higher education system suffers from lack of capacity as well as from lack of quality. The main worry in case of any fast expansion is depletion in quality, education sector is no exception. There is a certainly a growing demand for higher education but quality should not be compromise with the expansion requirement of higher education

The prospects and development in the higher education sector in India needs a critical examination in rapidly globalizing world.

Higher education system in India has been expanded remarkably after independence. There are 20 universities and 500 colleges at the time of independence, at present there are 519 universities and 25951 colleges in India apart from the general education there is steep rise in professional educational institutes in the form of Engineering colleges, polytechnics, etc. all these higher educational institutions contribute considerably to

rapid accumulation of specialized human capital. Globalization has multidimensional impact on higher education. It has increased the need for reforms in higher education with the particular reference to information technology and more emphasis on its research and developmental activities.

Management of quality in education enables the student to keep pace with the challenges offered by life. Quality institutions are those which widely use the most appropriate and best practices. Quality has to build in to system slowly and steadily. Quality enhancement in higher education is deliberately process of change that leads to the overall improvement of all stakeholders. Quality enhancement is an inclusive concept and a collective enterprise. It involves everyone who teaches, supports and guides the students and managers and administrators of higher education institution. The main focus of the institutes should be on the policies and practices to enhance the quality of students learning. It will also examine all institutions ability to manage the standards of academic awards and the quality of the learning opportunities it provides for its students.

The unplanned growth of higher education coupled with lack of resources affects the quality of education. The rapid growth of higher education over the years has sometimes resulted in dilution of its quality and standard which in turn has affected the quality of man power produced. Quality impact and reference are the important criteria by which society measures university performance. Improving the quality of higher education has therefore, become a primary concern of the countries the world over. In order to compete in the global market it is necessary to bring about qualitative improvement in the system of our higher education.

The GOI initiated a planned development of higher education in the country with the establishment of University Grants Commission (UGC) in 1953. The UGC provides grants under both plan non-plan schemes to the educational institutions. In addition grants are also provided to maintain and improve the standards in the educational institutions through various programmes and schemes introduced during the plan period UGC has made a number of efforts to improve the quality of higher education.

### **Innovation:**

Innovation is a characteristic of communities that brings them in the forefront of technological advancements with economic gain resulting into better quality of life. Innovation is a successful implementation of creative ideas in specific context having impact on economy and society. Innovation inputs included fiscal policy education and innovation environment. Innovation outputs included technological performance such as patents technology transfer and other R&D results. Educational innovation is basic that prepares ground for technology and business innovations.

### **Quality:**

Quality is complex phenomenon based on perception by individual with different perspective on product and services. According to oxford dictionary quality means degree of excellence. The quality of any product can be quantified measured and compared with other product. But it is difficult to measure the quality of education as it is a service. The British Standard Institution defines quality as “totality of features and characteristics of

a product or service that bear upon its ability to satisfy the stated or implied needs”. It emphasis that quality of input such as students, faculty member, infrastructure, learning activities, extracurricular activities and the quality of output in terms of student and graduates. In the era of global competitiveness, it is utmost important that Indian products of Universities should be as competent as products of other countries. Unless the quality of our Higher educational institutions is enhance through innovation and creativity it would difficult for Indian students to compete globally. In order to survive in the competition the Universities and Colleges shall have to focus attentions on quality education.

### **Assessment of Quality:**

Quality gaps are evidently increasing in Higher education both in terms of academic standards and as well as educational facilities. The availability of qualified staff, reference books, research culture, efficient administration system and good students support systems are still wanting in Indian Higher education systems. The UGC undertook many steps and introduce many programs for building a system of accountability and assurance of quality. UGC introduced faculty improvement programme, university leadership programme, academic staff colleges etc for improvement in quality of higher education in India. UGC also formed an autonomous body namely National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) to rank the quality education imparted by the institutions on easily identifiable scales.

Quality assurance mechanism requires an integrated approach of all the aspects of educational activities of the institution. It include mission and objective of the institution, faculty strengths, input output level of student, infrastructure evaluation, curricular teaching learning process, feedback system, cultural and social activities etc.

### **Conclusion:**

Higher education system in India has been expanded remarkably after independence. The unplanned growth of higher education coupled with lack of resources affects the quality of education. In order to compete in global market it is necessary to bring about qualitative improvement in the system of our higher education. The UGC undertook many steps and introduced many programmes for building a system of accountability and assurance of quality.

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