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**GROWTH IN STUDENTS ENROLMENT, NUMBER OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

Indian higher education system has undergone a remarkable transformation during last six decades. At the time of independence, 2.1 lakh students were enrolled in higher education; now this number is increased to 69 times. During the academic session 2009-10, the total enrolment in all courses and levels in regular stream had been 146.25 lakh including 60.86 lakh women students, constituting 41.6% to total enrolment. The maximum number of women students are enrolled in the state of Uttar Pradesh (8.42 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (7.86 lakh), Andhra Pradesh (6.14 lakh), etc. It indicates that, still there is big scope for proper development of higher education system.

**KEYWORDS**

Higher education system, Students' enrolment, Universities.

**INTRODUCTION**

Indian higher education system has undergone a remarkable transformation since independence. The transformation, marked by a thirteen-fold increase in the number of university level institutions and a twenty five-fold increase in the number of students, has resulted in the emergence of the world's second largest higher education system<sup>[1]</sup>.

At the time of independence, there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges in the country with 2.1 lakh students in the higher education system. But, after independence, there has been a phenomenal growth in all these numbers. The increase in number of universities is 25 times, number of colleges 62 times, whereas student enrolment 69 times as compared to number at the time of independence. The phenomenal increase in enrolment of this order would not have been possible without the growth in the number of institutions of higher learning, both universities and colleges in particular which remained one of the main objectives of XI plan.

At the end of X Plan period (31-3-2007) there were 363 Universities (20 Central, 229 State, 109 Deemed and 5 Institutions established under Special State Legislature Acts) and 21,170 colleges in the country. At the end of the third year of XI Plan (2009-10), the number of universities has gone up to 493 (42 Central, 316 State, 130 Deemed and 5 Institution established under special State Legislature Acts) and the number of Colleges to 31,324, thus registering an increase of 36% in the number of Universities and 48% in the case of colleges in comparison to the figures at the end of X Plan<sup>[2]</sup>.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

A report of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty First Century (Delors Report), entitled '*Learning: The Treasure Within*' (UNESCO, 1996) suggested four functions for the universities. (i) to prepare students' for research and training (ii) to provide training courses oriented to the needs of society (iii) to be open to all to promote lifelong learning in its broadest sense and (iv) to strive for international cooperation<sup>[3]</sup>.

Livingstone (1974) has drawn attention to the fact that 'as universities in the twentieth century have grown, countless new functions have been grafted on with little regard for how this growth of one function will affect the operation of the other'<sup>[4]</sup>.

The Kothari Commission Report emphasized that there had to be (i) a radical improvement in the quality and standard of higher education and research; (ii) an expansion of higher education to meet manpower requirements of the nation and the rising social ambitions and expectation of the people; and (iii) an improvement of university organization and administration<sup>[5]</sup>.

'The National Policy of Education' (NPE), 1986, aims at not only developing manpower for serving the economy but also inculcating crucial values. The Policy envisages education to be : (i) a process of empowerment through the development of knowledge, skills and values (Education for Development) and (ii) an instrument of social change that provides means for upward economic and social mobility, through enhancement of qualifications (Education for Equality)<sup>[6]</sup>.

**IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

The present study will be helpful for the administrative offices like Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) for taking the decision in higher education planning.

**STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

In India, the growth of students' enrolment in higher education and higher education institutions is increased. What kind of growth is noticed during last five years? To study the impact of enrolment of women students on growth of total higher education.

**OBJECTIVES**

The Objectives of the present study are :

1. To study the growth in students enrolment in higher education all over India;
2. To study growth of universities and colleges;
3. To analyze the women participation in higher education.

**HYPOTHESIS**

The growth in students' enrolment and colleges as well as universities in India is increased out of the need of the society. The enrolment of women students' shows the very high degree of growth in higher education.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

For the present research work the secondary data is used. University Grants Commission, New Delhi has published its annual reports every year. The data published in these annual reports is used for the analysis.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION****1) GROWTH OF STUDENTS**

At the time of independence, 2.1 lakh students in the higher education system were enrolled. During last six decades the students' enrolment has gone up to 69.64 times in the formal higher education system as compared to the figures of independence in 1947. Table 1 shows the growth of students' enrolment during last five years all over India.

**TABLE 1: GROWTH OF STUDENTS ENROLMENT ALL OVER INDIA (2005-06 TO 2009-10)**

Year	Total Enrolment	Increase Over previous year	% Increase over Base Year	% Change over base year
2005-2006	11,338,253	675,509	100	--
2006-2007	12,102,521	764,268	107	07
2007-2008	12,981,179	878,658	114	14
2008-2009	13,782,837	801,658	122	22
2009-2010	14,624,990	842,153	129	29

Source: Annual Report of UGC, 2009-10.

**2) GROWTH OF INSTITUTIONS**

At the time of independence, there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges in the country. The number has been increased to 60.24 times during last six decades. Table 2 shows the growth of universities and colleges during last five years all over India. As many as 5,373 new colleges had been established in various states during 2009-10.

**TABLE 2: INCREASE IN NUMBER OF COLLEGES (2005-06 to 2009-10)**

Year	Total number of colleges	Increase over Base Year	% Change over base year
2005-2006	19,327	100	--
2006-2007	21,170	110	10
2007-2008	23,206	120	20
2008-2009	25,951	134	34
2009-2010	31,324	162	62

Source: Annual Report of UGC, 2009-10.

**3) WOMEN ENROLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

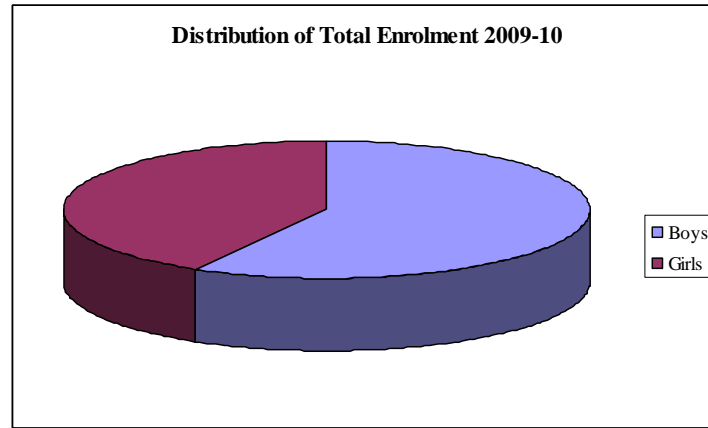
Distribution of women enrolment by state shows that the percentage increase has been almost static in the enrolment of women as compared to the total enrolment in all the states during 2009-10. Among the states, Goa with 59% topped in terms of women enrolment as a percentage of total enrolment of the state followed by Kerala (57%), Meghalaya, Punjab and Chandigarh (51%), etc. There are 24 states which had higher enrolment of women than the national percentage of 41.58%. In the rest of the states, the percentage of women enrolled observed to be less than the national average, with Bihar recording the lowest women enrolment of 30% only. In absolute numbers, Uttar Pradesh state had been on the top in enrolling women students (8.43 lakh) followed by Maharashtra (7.86 lakh), etc. Table 3 shows women enrolment in higher education system.

**TABLE 3: WOMEN ENROLMENT TO TOTAL ENROLMENT DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-10**

Sr.No.	State / Union Territory	Total Enrolment	Women Enrolment	% of women enrolment
1	Andhra Pradesh	15,36,501	6,14,600	40.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	15,864	6,504	41.00
3	Assam	3,10,011	1,33,305	43.00
4	Bihar	6,30,463	1,89,139	30.00
5	Chhattisgarh	2,44,328	85,515	35.00
6	Delhi	2,60,334	1,24,960	48.00
7	Goa	25,795	15,219	59.00
8	Gujarat	7,22,676	3,10,751	43.00
9	Haryana	3,79,666	1,63,256	43.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	1,28,488	61,674	48.00
11	Jammu and Kashmir	1,22,785	55,253	45.00
12	Jharkhand	2,25,142	76,548	34.00
13	Karnataka	9,48,222	4,07,735	43.00
14	Kerala	3,78,078	2,15,504	57.00
15	Madhya Pradesh	7,73,854	2,86,326	37.00
16	Maharashtra	18,28,341	7,86,187	43.00
17	Manipur	34,204	15,392	45.00
18	Meghalaya	39,536	20,163	51.00
19	Mizoram	13,223	6,215	47.00
20	Nagaland	23,185	10,897	47.00
21	Orissa	4,25,841	1,78,853	42.00
22	Punjab	3,88,184	1,97,974	51.00
23	Rajasthan	6,48,068	2,46,266	38.00
24	Sikkim	7,778	3,033	38.99
25	Tamil Nadu	10,60,543	5,19,666	49.00
26	Tripura	27,691	12,184	44.00
27	Uttar Pradesh	22,18,243	8,42,934	38.00
28	Uttaranchal	1,93,217	86,948	45.00
29	West Bengal	9,13,722	3,56,352	39.00
30	A & N Islands	2,979	1,549	52.00
31	Chandigarh	59,697	30,445	51.00
32	Lakshadweep	350	123	35.14
33	Daman and Diu	810	381	47.04
34	D & N Haveli	2,101	987	46.98
35	Pondicherry	35,070	17,535	50.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,46,24,990</b>	<b>60,80,373</b>	<b>41.58</b>

Source: Annual Report of UGC, 2009-10.





### FINDINGS

1. The national average enrolment of women students in higher education is 41.58%. Out of 35 states and Union Territories, 25 states have enrolment of women students more than the national average; where as 10 states are lagging behind.
2. In the year 2005-06, total number of higher educational institution in India was 19,327, which is increased upto 31,324. The growth of higher educational institution during this five year is 62 times.
3. The government has introduced globalization, privatization and liberalization policies has positive impact on higher education system in India.

### RECOMMENDATIONS & SUGGESTIONS

1. It is necessary to adopt special policy in those states where the women enrolment in higher education is below 51%.
2. Financial assistance to the women students may be given to increase in enrolment in higher education.
3. The enrolment of women students in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Lakshadweep is below the national average, which is to be uplifted by providing some new policies in this regard.

### CONCLUSIONS

1. During the academic year 2009-10, there has been 146.25 lakh students enrolled in various courses at all levels in Universities / Colleges and other institutions of higher education as compared to 136.42 lakh in the previous year 2008-09, registering an increase of 29% and 62% as compared to the base year 2005-06.
2. As many as 5,373 new colleges have been established during 2009-10, thus taking the total number of colleges to 31,324 in 2009-10 as against 25,951 colleges in 2008-09, registering an increase of 21% and 62% increase over base year i.e. 2005-06.
3. There has been a phenomenal growth in the number of women students enrolled in higher education since independence. The women enrolment which was less than 10% of the total enrolment on the eve of independence has risen to 41.58% in the academic year 2009-10.

### SCOPE FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. The enrolment of women students from urban and rural areas need to be studied.
2. The drop out rate of the women students during the higher education need to be studied.
3. Socio-economical impact on enrolment of women students' need to be studied.
4. The present affiliation system of the higher educational institutions needs to be studied.

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