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**HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA: CHALLENGES AND SUGGESTIONS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Education is a purposive, conscious or unconscious, psychological, sociological, scientific and philosophical process, which develops overall personality of an individual. Education is a process both in narrower as well as in wider sense. Ancient people used to collect facts and information about nature for survival. This is nothing but education. In wider sense, education is acquisition of experience throughout life. Experience brings changes in human life and behaviour. It is a primary function of formal education to accelerate and facilitate social progress. Social progress means social change. In India, education system divided in mainly primary education, secondary education, higher education and distance education. There is many Problems to provide quality in education.

**KEYWORDS**

education, educational pattern, higher education, quality.

**INTRODUCTION**

**E**ducation is an aim of human life. Education of human being begins at birth and it ends with his death. It is the third eye of a person. It gives him insight into all affairs. It teaches him how to act justly and rightly. It leads him to realize the true significance of life. Education removes darkness and shatters illusion. A person without education is really blind. Education is an indispensable need of mankind. According to Vivekanand: "Education is the manifestation of the divine perfection, already existing in man." Gandhi say about education "By education, I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in the Child and man body, mind and spirit." We can say that education is a purposive, conscious or unconscious, psychological, sociological, scientific and philosophical process, which develops overall personality of an individual.

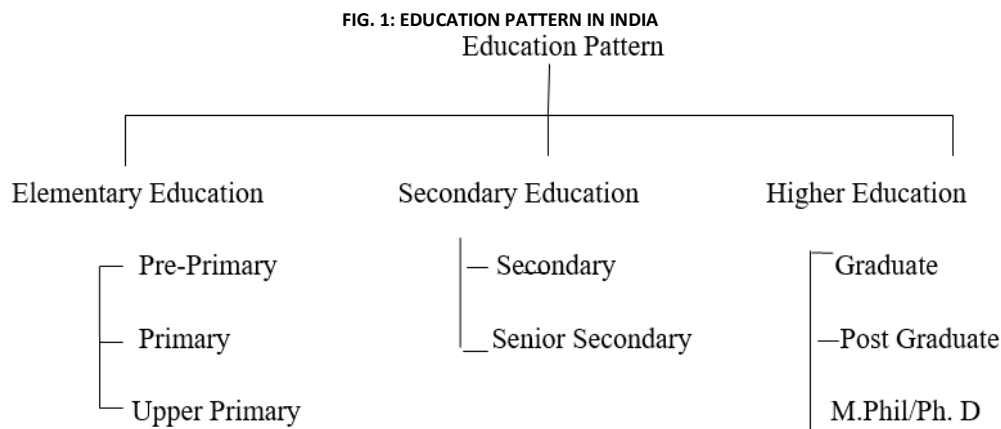
**IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION**

The education is process of instruction aimed at the all round development of individual, providing necessary tools and knowledge to understand and participate in day to day activities of today's world. Education not only impacts on human development and economic growth but also is fundamental requirement of democracy. At the start of a very young age, children learn to develop and use their mental, moral and physical powers, which they acquire through various types of education. Learning subjects in school is not enough one can learn history, maths, science in school and the book smart in addition, one can learn how to live life by knowing what to say when, acting a certain way in certain situations and be street-smart. Growth of economy and development of a country is depending upon the education system of that particular country. A perfect and successful batch of youth of a country is come from education sector. Education is key which allows people to move up in the world, seek better jobs and ultimately succeed in their lives. So education is very important and no one should be deprived of it.

**PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA**

In India, educational pattern divided mainly in three parts like primary education, secondary education and higher education. Primary and secondary education knows as school education where student takes basic knowledge about maths, science, social science and history of nation etc. Higher education refers to study programmes offered after senior secondary level leading to a degree or a diploma at university level. Distance education is also playing a good role in present educational system. It's provided degree and diploma in different fields by distance mode to whom not takes education regular any colleges and universities. There is educational pattern in India:

**EDUCATION PATTERN**



**HIGHER EDUCATION**

Higher education system of India is the world's third largest in terms of students, next to China and United States. Unlike China, however, India has advantage of English being primary language of higher education and research. India educates about 11 per cent of its youth in higher education as compared to 20 per cent in China. The main governing body at tertiary level is the University Grants Commission (India), which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between the centre and the state. Universities and its constituent colleges are main institutes of higher education in India. At present in 2011, there are 227 government-recognized Universities in India. Out of them 20 are central universities, 109 are deemed universities and 11 are Open Universities and rest are state universities. Most of these universities in India have affiliating colleges where undergraduate courses are being taught. Distance learning is also a feature of Indian higher education system. Even as higher education has been based on a Western "university model," it has developed in a way that is deeply rooted in societies of which it is a part.



## ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is a most part of a student education. He learns skills and techniques for higher education. Higher education changes society by new knowledge, skills, information and technology. Role of higher education is:

1. **Development of Human Resources-** For a long time higher education has fulfilled role of producing government and private sector leaders. Most important role of higher education is developing high-level human resources with necessary knowledge and skills for economic and social development. It is becoming important to expand higher education so that a wide range of human resources can be developed and the entire society's level of knowledge can be raised.
2. **Creation of Knowledge-**The ability to apply knowledge and technical skills is extremely important to economic development. Higher education must not merely teach new technology, but must develop human resources who can evaluate the need for these technologies and apply them.
3. **Self-realization of People-** Higher education helps people improve their income and quality of life through increasing knowledge or skills and then expand on their own choices available in life, including those related to work life.
4. **Development of a Healthy Society-** A role in reforming social system and cultivating social cohesion is demanded of higher education. This may be accomplished through production of the common asset of new knowledge, including spread of democratic values and respect for multiculturalism.

## CHALLENGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Since we have got independence we are facing challenges to establish a great and strong education system. Various governments come and gone, off course they tried to establish new education policies in education system but this is very sad to dictate that they were not sufficient for our country. Still we are facing lot of problems and challenges in our higher education system. There are many basic problems like inadequate infrastructure and facilities, large vacancies in faculty positions and poor faculty thereof, low student's enrolment rate, outmoded teaching methods, declining research standards, unmotivated students, overcrowded classrooms and widespread geographic, income, gender, and ethnic imbalances. There is no creativity in students. Our top class students are hard-worker but not innovative. They are not capable enough to produce new technology. There is a great need to revolution in higher education. There are just some challenges which should cover all aspect in present scenario of education and we have to implement hard on them.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Quality is an important factor when it comes to any product or service than it become well. There is four main role of higher education like:

1. Higher education as the production of qualified human resources
2. Higher education as training for a research career
3. Higher education as the efficient management of teaching provision; and
4. Higher education as a matter of extending life chances. So there is necessary to provide a quality in education to make a good and educate people for nation development.

There are some suggestions for improving quality of higher education.

1. **Industry and academic connection:** Industry and academic connect necessary to ensure curriculum and skills in line with requirements. Skill building is really very crucial to ensure employability of academic to understand and make sure good jobs.
2. **Student-centred education and methods:** Methods of higher education have to be appropriate to the needs of learning to learn, learning to do, learning to be and learning to become. Student-centred education and employment of dynamic methods of teaching will require from teacher's new attitude and new skills.
3. **International cooperation:** Universities in India have been a primary conduct for advancement and transmission of knowledge through traditional functions such as research, innovation, teaching, human resource development and continuing education.
4. **Action plan for quality:** Academic and administrative audit should be conducted once in three years in colleges by external experts for ensuring quality in all aspects of academic activities. University and colleges should realize need for quality education and come forward with action plan for improving quality in higher educational institutions.
5. **Privatization of higher education:** In any nation education is basic need for socio-economic development of individuals and society. Only 20% of population is educated in India. Privatization of higher education is absolutely necessary in a vast country like India as government alone is helpless to do so.
6. **Personality development:** Education should be for flowering of personality but not for suppression of creativity or natural skill. In the globalized world opportunities for educated people are naturally ample is scope. That is way the world can be developed for Peace, prosperity and progress by able and skillful man.
7. **Examination reforms:** Examination reforms, gradually shifting from terminal, annual, semester examinations to regular and continuous assessment of student's performance in learning should be implemented.

## CONCLUSION

According to former prime-minister dr. Manmohan Singh "The time has come to create a second wave of institution building and of excellence in fields of education, research and capability building." We need an educational system that is modern, liberal and can adapt to the changing needs of a changing society, a changing economy and changing world. The thrust of public policy for higher education in India has to be to address these challenges.

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