



India's Higher Education System: Advancing Towards Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract:

Higher education (HE) plays a pivotal role in advancing the global sustainability agenda, significantly influencing sustainable development initiatives. As both an independent goal and a means to achieve other dimensions of sustainability, education remains a critical sector. The United Nations' fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) emphasizes promoting quality education, ensuring inclusive and equitable access, and providing lifelong learning opportunities for all. India, home to the world's third-largest education system, is projected to enroll over 70 million students by 2023. However, in the 21st century, HE in India continues to evolve, with higher education institutions playing a vital role in driving progress toward sustainable development (SD). The present study objectives focus on the overview of it in India, goals of HE, and sustainable development, and with educational implications towards 21st century HE sustainability. Though the HE system aims for excellence in research and instruction, and there are distinctions between efforts for social growth and social outcome. The present study advocates that with the help of HE teaching and research can improve sustainability with latest, innovative, real, new, etc. methods. HE institutions can improve with the help of all teaching and learning methods, strategies, approaches, etc. to play in human resource development of economic development with new innovative ideas and now discusses HE for sustainability for new initiatives, ideas, perspectives, etc. regarding social empowerment, economic development, etc. of the country towards change towards 21st century learning system, the results used for the regulatory authorities and tertiary institutions to revamp present policies, guidelines, etc. towards sustainable to reach the goals of HE system both nationally and globally.

Keywords: Curriculum, Higher Education, India, Sustainable Development Goals, Teacher Role

Introduction

India has the 3rd biggest occupying place in education in globe which will enter over seventy million students in 2023 and 21st century HE in India is still in a state of flux and institutions have a key role in the implementation sustainability. The present

study advocates that with the help of its teaching and research can improve sustainability with various methods and institutions can improve with the help of active learning strategies, to play in human resource development of economic development with new innovative ideas. It discusses for sustainability for new

initiatives and perspectives regarding social empowerment, economic development, etc of the nation the objective of active learning strategies as a driver for innovation, creativity in sustainable development of any country. Active learning strategies as Information Communication Technology (ICT) have driven change in the present education system. SD is a process of education that seeks to enable people and communities to act responsibly and make educated decisions for all around development of sustainability and the role of HE and sustainability to create positive environment, promote positive change in national development. Higher education in India as well as technical education has various aspects of professional education and technical education. India has produced numerous researchers, engineers, technologists, doctors, and managers who are highly sought after worldwide. Today, the Indian higher education system is embracing a new approach by integrating technical and ICT-based education. Technical education equips individuals with specialized knowledge and skills essential for national development. India, with its vast young population, holds immense potential to drive its steadily advancing economy. The significant contribution of skilled professionals and resources provided by higher education, particularly in technical fields, serves as a foundation for India's progress across various engineering sectors.

The nation has already stepped into an era of knowledge expansion and occupies a prominent position in the global education landscape. India hosts over 1.5 million schools with more than 227 million students and boasts nearly 1,000

universities and 42,000 higher education institutions, making it the third-largest higher education system in the world. The government's commitment to raising the gross enrollment ratio to 30% by 2020 has been a significant step in expanding higher education. Looking ahead, the central government has set an ambitious goal to further increase the enrollment rate from 27% to 50% by 2030, aiming for India to emerge as a developed nation by 2047.

Objectives

- ❖ Situation of HE in India
- ❖ Problems and difficulties that India's HE sector is facing
- ❖ Benefits higher education as a way to maintain steps of sustainability
- ❖ Suggestion for betterment, the standards of 21st century HE

Methodology

It is an outcome of the detailed analysis and by review of numerous secondary sources in amalgamation with personal observation and understanding of the current state of higher education, the challenges faced in the HE sector based on sustainability and its impact in the qualitative growth of HE domain in India

Problems And Difficulties

The Strike of HE concerning maintain sustainability in the country and emerging scenario of Indian economy have many problems Indian HE system does test create a positive environment as the international level, Unfortunately, neither of the universities, be it private/public, is not at par with the educational standards set up by the prestigious international universities. Hence it is not surprising that none of the Indian universities is listed in the ranks of top educational institutions. This is a serious concern as a lot has been spent on improvement and upliftment of

the educational sector and still there is a bottleneck in this sector. A keen insight into this issue evolved certain grey areas that need to be addressed by the nobles and policymakers to bring much-needed reform in the education sector.

Findings

Areas of Concern regarding quality for maintaining sustainability

Indian universities as well as technical colleges are facing many problems with faculty issues. Even leading institutions of India like IITs and IIMs are facing the problem of a shortage of faculty both in quantitative and qualitative measures. IITs, IIMs, and many Indian universities, central universities have many vacant posts. From time to time vacant posts should be filled up by Govt. of India or the state government and is a very important issue for higher education.

Poor Infrastructure

Most of the university campuses in India lack good infrastructure and are outdated equipment in laboratories, inadequate workshops, lack of Wi-Fi campuses, etc. These basic norms should be taken into consideration and adopted by the UGC, AICTE, etc. before granting permission to set up the institution.

Privatization

Privatization of HE is a critical issue for the best and quality education. As few private universities are giving quality and good education but most of them are not at par with their counterparts.

Research issues

Research plays a pivotal role in higher education, and India currently requires a strong focus on qualitative research and

development to advance its education sector. In recent years, the education system has undergone numerous reforms and significant improvements, driven by a commitment to fostering high-quality research. The Indian government should adopt a number of actions, such as establishing IITs and IIMs in new areas and providing funding for research scholars' studies.

Lack of Human Values and discipline

There is a lack of mutual respect among the students and faculty members and niche class of researchers and educators in the field of technical as well as non-technical education has failed to inculcate much-needed human values and professional ethics. In this modern age of machines and robotics, we are progressing at a very rapid pace in infrastructure and engineering sectors but at the cost of degraded moral and ethical values. The government is ushering in a new era in education with the "Make in India" initiative, which aims to strengthen higher learning. New institutes of excellence have been announced to promote regionally balanced development, with states like Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Assam benefitting from the establishment of AIIMS, IITs, and IIMs. Additionally, organizations such as the All India Council for Technical Education and the National Council of Education are playing key roles in this transformative effort.

Innovation Of Higher Education In India

Digital India Initiatives for maintaining sustainability

India needs more investment in it is to impart world class education, infrastructure facilities, etc. The opportunities for higher education have

increased manifold recently due to private participation and digital India provides a digital platform to maintain the social empowerment, economic empowerment. So we can say it is all around development of the society.

Innovative and Dynamic Pedagogy

Learning methods of higher education should be innovative and dynamic Quality education requires new ideas & new skills. Lecture methods should be delivered with innovative methods and workshops, seminars, other activities should be organized on college campuses.

Rich & Dynamic libraries

Colleges, University's libraries, etc. should be rich with good and relevant collections of books, journals, and research papers and the library must be equipped with the research magazines, encyclopedia, conference publications, etc. that must be made available to the students using web access and libraries play a vital role in 21st century higher education.

Suggestions And Educational Implications

- ❖ Need more universities with new innovative study methods.
- ❖ There is a dearth of reputed technical Govt. institutions/universities.
- ❖ A large pool of talented students completing their secondary education is not able to join such premier institutes.
- ❖ The primary reason being the lack of awareness in rural areas regarding innovative pedagogy systems.
- ❖ ICT is the top most need of India for maintaining world class education system

- ❖ Maintain environmental awareness and conservation, sustainable agriculture and food systems, renewable energy, waste reduction, recycling, social justice, equity, etc.
- ❖ Due to lack of awareness we cannot to take right decision for growth and development of nation private.
- ❖ The growth of it has led to the higher investment in higher education.

Conclusion

India's higher education sector faces numerous challenges, even as the nation steps into an era of knowledge expansion. Over the past few decades, advancements in computer and communication technology have significantly enhanced various aspects of human life, offering new opportunities for growth and development in education. Progress of our country is a must but not at the cost of human values. As the world progresses, people have to face a lot of social, economic, political, and cultural challenges that affect their daily lives. Quality Education addresses the issue and formulates a long-term solution for the same and it lays the foundation for the progress and development of liberal modern Indian society. Since education is the main driver of change towards sustainable development by increasing people's ability to turn their ideas into reality, we must be prepared for a joint effort to start reforms in the interest of the country. Education should not be viewed as a commodity, but rather as a mission, and Indian higher education in the twenty-first century should serve as a beacon of hope for the entire world.

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