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ARTICLE

## Indian Education in Context to Globalization

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### Introduction

Education is the key to any nation's development process. It takes us from darkness to light, from untruth to truth and from wrong to right. The quality of education depends on the teaching-learning process, infrastructure, resources and environment. The term 'globalization' means integration of economies and societies through cross country and flowing of information, ideas, technologies, goods, services, capital, finance and people. Cross border integration may have several dimensions viz: cultural, social, political and economic. It means integration of economic, political and cultural systems and trends across the world for economic growth, prosperity and democratic freedom. Hence globalization gives rise to the terms like 'Global Village' and lays emphasis on decreasing the importance of national borders. It has increased flow of people, ideas, knowledge, capital, technologies, etc. throughout the world. Therefore, globalization is an important concept today for students in higher education so as to understand and appreciate it because of the demand in business and industry and to hire people who can work with the people of other nations and cultures.

### Features of Globalization

Global perspective means sharing and cooperation with others allowing them to use whatever resources and common goals are there to attain. The purpose of globalization and global education is to develop a 'global perspective' and sensitize the youth for understanding the multicultural world and maintaining peace and harmony in the world.

**Globalization has several features.** These are: students and staff mobility; borderless education; global language; international research collaborations and funding; models of learning, especially learner independence; growth of offshore finance and telecommunication that can link banks, stock markets, companies and organizations together in a global network; increasing migration of peoples within and across national boundaries in search of work; growth of transnational corporations and multinational corporations/organizations; the establishment of new offices, study-abroad, sites and campuses abroad and the increasing number of globally outstanding universities outside their traditional concentrations.

### **Globalization of Higher Education**

Globalization has great impact on the institutional framework in developing countries. It is changing the way in which governments perceive their role in the society. It has also far reaching implications for socio-economic development and educational systems of countries all over the World. With abundance of natural resources, India has huge young and skilled man power to excel in every walk of life. Acceleration in this trend can be characterized by three essential factors-- economic activity spreading worldwide, increase in technological innovations especially in the areas of communication and transportation, and interdependence between people and nations. Globalization of education has come to a centre-stage after WTO's initiative of it under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) in 1995. It was accepted by around 140 countries. Jane Knight defines the key terms relating to globalization of higher education as follows:

- **Internationalization of higher education:** Typically, 'the process of integrating an international, intercultural, and global dimension into the purpose, functions (teaching, research, service) and delivery of higher education' a different process than globalization.
- **Cross-border education:** The movement of people, knowledge, programs, providers and curriculum across national or regional jurisdictional borders. Cross-border education is a subset of 'internationalization of higher education' and can be an element in the development cooperation projects, academic exchange programs and commercial initiatives.

- **Trade of education services:** Cross-border education initiatives that are commercial in nature and are usually intended to be for profit (though this is not always the case); a term primarily used by the trade sector.

Hence many universities in different countries are adopting various means in order to promote globalization in the field of higher education.

### **Development of Higher Education in India**

Higher education can play an instrumental role in the achievement of these outcomes through the creation of knowledge networks, research and innovation centres, corporate-backed institutions, and support for faculty development. Over the last 50 years, the Government of India has provided full policy support and substantial public funds to create one of the world's largest systems of higher education. These institutions, with the exception of some notable ones, have however, not been able to maintain the high standards of education or keep pace with developments in the fields especially in knowledge and technology. Higher education system of India needs help. No more than 20 percent of India's 90 million college-age citizens go to college. Fifty-one percent of Indian population is under the age of 25. Without proper access to education the country's demographic dividend could turn into a demographic disaster. While the most under-privileged members of that age group don't even make it through high school. Many students in the country's rising middle class are unable to find places in higher education institutions because the system is so small.

In 2007, the Indian Government announced a nine-fold increase in higher education spending over the next five years. While this came as good news to a sector characterized by limited supply and uneven quality, four years later it is apparent that a more intensive effort is required. For India to maintain its economic growth in a global market, it needs to nearly double its number of students in higher education by 2012. Higher Education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in its institutional capacity in the years since independence. The number of Universities/University-level institutions has increased 18 times from 27 in 1950 to 567 in 2012. The sector boasts of 42 Central universities, 285 State universities, 53 State Private universities, 130 Deemed universities, 112 private universities, 33 Institutions of National Importance (established under Acts of Parliament) and five Institutions (established under various State legislations). The number of colleges has also

registered manifold increase with just 578 in 1950 growing to be more than 31,300 in 2012. According to estimate of the National Knowledge Commission, the country needs to build 1,500 universities within a period of five years to empower enough people with the skills to sustain rapid growth.

India is the third largest higher education system in the world (after China and the USA) in terms of enrolment. This means that the average number of students per educational institution in India is worse than the US and China. In US and UK, percentage of enrolment in higher education is 82.4 and 60.1 respectively. In India, regardless of recent increment due to private players, current enrolment is merely 12 %. Even Asian countries have higher enrolment rate like 91% in South Korea, 31% in Philippines, 27% in Malaysia and 20% in China. To maintain the positive trends and an economic growth rate of 7%, India's higher education gross enrolment ratio (GER) would need to boost from 12 to 20 percent by 2014.

A University Grants Commission report has stated that a majority of 567 universities are not enrolling enough students despite of their huge campuses. It has also suggested that some Indian universities may have to double their student enrolment in the five years to March 2017 in order to provide educated and skilled manpower to meet the demands of a growing economy. India needs to deal with issues of both quantity and quality. Every year nearly 0.4 million Indians go abroad for higher studies spending approximately \$ 12bn. This leads to not only loss of foreign exchange, but also 'Brain Drain', as most of these rarely comes back to India subsequent to completing their courses. There is no doubt that the state of affairs in public universities in India is not so good. Many don't have experience and many are trying to just grow money without quality. In this situation, globalisation of higher education can raise a new ray of hope in developing quality of education.

### **The Positive Impact of Globalization of Higher Education**

The current globalisation of higher education creates both challenges and opportunities. In the context of globalization and knowledge economies, higher education in its knowledge producing and disseminating function, is recognized as an essential driving force for national development in both developed and developing countries. Globalization will tend to benefit the people who are economically viable or people who are aware about the developments or those who can avail the facilities. There is an urgent need in developing countries before accepting or promoting globalization to provide easy accessibility and

awareness for facilities like internet and other technologies on which the globalization of education is highly based. In particular, the positive impacts of globalization may include the following.

- Creating values and enhancing efficiency through the above global sharing and mutual support to serving local needs and growth;
- Developing alternative types of cross-border program delivery, such as branch campuses and franchise and twinning arrangements;
- Promoting international understanding, collaboration, harmony, and acceptance to cultural diversity across countries and regions;
- Emerging new types of providers, such as international companies, corporate universities, IT and media companies;
- Developing multipurpose learning centres like off campus education, internet based distance education for providing national as well as international universities degree;
- Global sharing of knowledge, skills, and intellectual assets that are necessary to multiple developments at different levels;
- Mutual support, supplement and benefit to produce synergy for various developments of countries, Communities and individuals; and
- Facilitating communications, interactions, and encouraging multi-cultural contributions at different levels among countries.

Children and adults can now learn in a variety of ways and no longer have to be physically present in an education institution. Among the important factor of change, globalization has played and would continue to play an important role in the field of higher education. It will impact positively on the whole education system especially on higher education in the developing countries like India.

### **Some Negative Impacts of Globalization**

In recent years there are also increasing international concerns with the dangerous impacts of globalization on indigenous and national developments. In particular, the potential negative impacts include the following:

- Increasing the technological gaps between advanced countries and less developed countries;
- Promoting the dominant cultures and values of some advanced areas;
- Increasing interest of parents to get their children admitted to foreign educational institutions that will cost us precious foreign exchange;
- The students may get uprooted from their basic values and morals of their own culture and nation in the process of adopting themselves to the values of the world;
- Increasing possibility of offering sub-standard courses to the students, which may lead to cheating of innocent citizens of India;
- Increasing inequalities and conflicts between areas and cultures; and
- Preference may be given to high pricing students by the suppliers of education i.e. institutions.

Keeping in view these negative points, this will not be healthy for the overall development of the developing countries especially for the lower sections of the society who form a major part in these countries like India. Thus globalization of education can be said to benefit only those who are already benefitted.

### **Recommendations and Suggestions**

Education is a major concern for all societies. It is one of key local factors that can be used to moderate some impacts of globalization from negative to positive and convert threats into opportunities for the development of individuals and local community in the inevitable process of globalization. How to maximize the positive effects and minimize the negative impacts of globalization is a major concern in current educational reforms. Finally, there are some pragmatic strategies to facilitate, encourage, and sustain global-oriented teaching in higher education. The recommendations and suggestions can be included:

- Increasing the size of the international student body population;
- Engaging students in classroom, co-curricular, and other educational activities that heighten their awareness of internationalization;
- Fostering service learning, undergraduate research, and experiential education that includes an international component;
- In the present scenario, the global trends should be reviewed in the context of reformation and up gradation;

- Government should form an apex body (with public and private participation) to exercise control over the institutions entering in India;
- Requirement of autonomy is a necessary for fulfilling institutional missions through quality, relevance, efficiency, transparency and social responsibility.
- Higher education institutions, through their core functions (research, teaching and service to the community) carried out in the context of institutional autonomy and academic freedom, should increase their interdisciplinary focus and promote critical thinking and active citizenship;
- Revenue generated by foreign institutions should be invested in primary education so that the base will also get stronger;
- In the face of increasingly scarce resources, stakeholders should encourage to explore and intensify the use of electronic library resources and tools to support teaching, learning and research.
- Higher education institutions must invest in the training of faculty and staff to fulfil new functions in evolving teaching and learning systems;
- Creating values and enhancing efficiency through the above global sharing and mutual support to serving local needs and growth;
- Development of joint and double degrees with other institutions in other countries; and
- Measures in supporting the integration of foreign students and personnel in India.

In order to integrate into the world economy, people must not only acquire the knowledge and tools of traditional knowledge, but above all, they must be capable of acquiring new skills in the context of globalization. Indeed, the resulting rapid change in technological and scientific knowledge make learning a permanent process, a lifelong learning process in the words of the Report of the International Commission on Education for the 21st Century to UNESCO, entitled: Learning, the Treasure Within.

## Conclusion

It can be said that globalization has a multi-dimensional impact on the system of education. It promotes new tools & techniques in this area like E-learning, Flexible learning, Distance Education Programs and Overseas training. In the 21st century, education systems face the dual challenge of equipping students with the new knowledge, skills and values needed to be competitive in a global market. At the same time also producing responsible adult graduates, good citizens for their country and for the world. In the present borderless information society, education needs to develop awareness of environment, peace, cultural and social diversity, and the concept of a global village. But for all that there is a need for high level of funding for research. Finally it may be said, that the Higher Education System in India while critical for the development of the economy, is afflicted with some serious concerns. It is a long way from a transformational change which is envisaged by various committees. Finally, this is the time to consider steps to make India into the world's major hub for higher quality education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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