# Globalization and Higher Education in India: Challenges and Opportunities

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**Abstract**

***India has created one of the biggest higher education systems in the world. Education is the backbone of a nation where higher education occupies the apex of educational pyramid in the formal process of Indian education. Globalization increased the demand for education in two parts. The first is the economic rising payoffs to higher education to global, science based, knowledge and intensive economy make university training more of a necessity to get good jobs. The second part is socio-political, demographic and democratic ideals increase pressure on universities to provide access to groups that traditionally have not attended universities. Knowledge society, information and communication technologies, the market economy, trade liberalization and changes in governance structures elements of globalization have a significant impact on Indian higher education. India's higher education sector has failed to map the future demand for various skills, Global Competition and Competitiveness as higher education system in India suffers from acute paucity of funds, lack of autonomy, burden of affiliation. Besides these higher education has been affected by-politicization, poor quality of intake, heterogeneity of student population, communication gap between universities and colleges, unsystematic growth of institutions, managerial inefficiencies, overcrowded classroom, wastage in instructional hours, poor course design, inadequate student service, inadequate material resources, inefficiencies in teaching, lack of training facilities for educational administers and teacher. Now the students have easy scope to acquire higher education because a lot of colleges and universities are opened for higher education. But contribute to national development urgent steps will be taken to protect the system from degradation. Therefore along with quantitative expansive of education quality must be maintain in relation to the global market. We should encourage foreign universities to come to India to setup in collaboration with existing Indian institutions, colleges to promote global research activities for sustainable development. It will also improve our educational standards as well as solve the burgeoning problem of enrolment. Opening Indian higher education to foreign competition will benefit us and boosts our growth.***

**Keywords— technologies, the market economy, trade liberalization and Global Competition and Competitiveness Knowledge society, information and communication**

Globalization has entered almost every aspect of human life, no human activity remained unaffected by globalization and education is no exception. Globalization in its basic forms neither particularly new, nor in general a folly. It is such complex set of process which has not only restructured the way we live but also influenced our day to day life. It is a process which made the boundaries between countries insignificant and the whole world transform into a huge group. Although globalization is often exclusively associated with the economic sphere, that is with process of production, distribution and consumption as well as with ever increasing global trade and financial service as Le Pere & Lambrechts discuss in his study of 1999. But this economic globalization is intractably interwoven with changes within the social, cultural

and political sphere (Waters 1995). It is extremely complex and multifaceted phenomenon. On one hand there is a tendency towards homogeneity, synchronisation, integration, unity and universalism. On the other hand, there is a propensity for localization, heterogeneity, differentiation, diversity and particularism. These processes are intricately interwoven and represents- in reality-two face of same coin. Thus the term globalization is sometimes used to indicate that it is not an ubiquitous or uniform process, but involves various terrains, manifests differently in various context and has different effect for people in different context (Braman & Van Staden 2000). It is hard to define globalization with a single definition because its meaning varies widely according to its context in which is used. So there are various scholars from various disciplines who defined globalization in their own discipline perspective. In sociology, the concern is with social change and the emergence of 'world society'. Even in sociology, scholars view varies about globalization as Anthoney Giddens & D. Harwe define it on the basis of interdependency and Time-space distanciation, and other side Wallerstain, Roseneu, and R. Gilpin define globalization on the basis of capitalism, technology and power. To identify the meaning of the term itself a topic of global discussion. So for this paper I took the most accepted and common definition that is globalization is the extension of the whole range of economic, political and cultural activities across the world landscape. Education is the major concern for all societies. Higher education occupies the apex of the educational pyramid in the formal process of education. Generally it comprises of three stages- graduate, post graduate and research program i. e. M Phil and Ph.D. higher education also comprises of general, technical, commercial, medical, engineering, law and other professional degrees and diplomas. Globalization increased the demand for education in two parts. The first is the economic rising payoffs to higher education to global, science based, knowledge and intensive economy make university training more of a necessity to get good job. The second part is socio- political, demographic and democratic ideals increase pressure on universities to provide access to group that traditionally have not attended universities. Knowledge society, information and communication technologies, the market economy, trade liberalization and changes in governance structures elements of globalization have significant impact on higher education. Therefore nations across the world have been striving to create the right educational environment to promote effective teaching and learning to achieve the unique requirement of globalization.

**Higher Education System in India**

India has one of the largest Higher Education System in the world. The higher education system in India grew up rapidly after independence. By 1980, there were 132 universities and 4738 colleges in the country enrolling around five per cent of the eligible age group in higher education. Today, according to Indian government data 2014, there is 42 central university, 310 state public university, 127 deemed university, 143 state private university, 1 central open university, 13 state open university, 68 institutions of national importance and 36671 colleges. In term of enrollment India is the third largest higher education system in the world after china and USA. While the average enrolment in a higher education institution in India is about 500-600 students, a higher education institution in united state and Europe would have 3000-4000 students and in China this would be about 8000-9000 students. This makes the system of higher education in India a highly fragmented one that is for more difficult to manage than any other system of higher education in the world. However, other than a handful few institution of national importance providing high quality higher education, the system is failing to produce wealth creators and creative intellectual leaders who are much needed in all sectors of the society.

**Framework of Indian higher education system**

The present format of higher education in India was started in 1857 with the inception of universities in the three presidency towns. For the smooth conduction of higher education India we have divided the whole system in to three parts as **Academic framework, Institutional framework and Regulatory framework**. In academics we have five important divisions as undergraduate level, post graduate level, research programmes and Diploma courses. Under institutional framework, the degree and diploma awarding institutions in India for higher education are Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed Universities, Private Universities, Open universities and Institutions of National importance. The institution imparting higher education at different levels, are regulated by University Grant Commission (UGC), All India Council of Technical Education(AICTE), Medical Council of India(MCI), Indian Council for Agriculture Research, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Bar Council of India (BCI), Distance Education Council

**Globalization and higher education**

Globalization has a multidimensional on Indian Higher Education System. On one hand it is creating opportunities for sharing knowledge, technology, social values, and behavioral norms and promoting developments at different levels including individuals, organizations, communities and societies, At the same time it potentially creating serious negative impact too unsystematic growth of institutions, politicization, burden of affiliation. So there are both challenges and opportunities, Indian higher education going through.

**Opportunities for higher education system**

As above mentioned globalization is creating opportunities for sharing knowledge, technology, social values, and behavioral norms and promoting developments at different levels including individuals, organizations, communities and societies. So there are various opportunities with globalization proposed for higher education sector given as below;

**1. Globalization and economic reforms** in India have yielded significant changes in the role of state and restructuring of social welfares education, employment, agriculture and health system. In higher education it was always the monopoly of middle class and elite groups of the society.

**2. Privatization of higher education**- There has been an increasing trend towards privatization of higher education in India. The quality and content of the education are industry oriented due to privatization. In this day age of globalization and privatization with competition and to meet the new challenges of the 21st century higher education should be radically transformed. India is required to set up a chain of educational institutions which are accredited, globally acceptable. We should also keep in mind that quality can come only from quality teachers and quality infrastructure, under quality leadership

**3. Women education**- Women literacy rate has grown over the three decades. Women education plays a very important role in the overall development of the country and improving the quality of life at home and outside.

**4. Commercialization**- Impact of globalization is commercialization of higher education due to which self financing courses have been introduced which has deprived many from getting higher education especially in countries like India where illiteracy still prevails and education is a dream to many. The existing policy of globalization of higher education is motivated by profits rather than social justice or the policy of the government. Its goals therefore are to meet the demands of the market.

**5. Teacher education**- In the global society today the aspects of rapid change, lifelong learning, flexible routes of learning and the use of technology have a major impact on all the

areas of teacher education. Major steps to be taken qualitative expansion, value based, competency based and ICT based teaching learning.

**6. Knowledge-** The impact of globalization on higher education is the transition to a knowledge society towards universities as knowledge-centers.

**7. Skill**- Higher education is seeking ways to meet the demands and challenges put forth by globalization. Higher education today is expected to produce skilled and trained workforce who can compete in this global market.

**8. Education policies**- Globalization also has positive impact on the education policies on higher education in India. In the last two decades Indian government has formed various committees, commission and also different kinds of economic bodies came to existence like NAAC.

**9. Entry of Foreign Universities**- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is important tool of globalization. As government lack of funds FDI is allowed into higher education. The foreign universities is expected to bring the quality infrastructure in teaching, research as well as physical infrastructure This will attract large scale foreign investments into India and also to an extent reverse brain drain. However, the government will have to create a level playing field for all institutions and also ensure that other factors are considered. Their entry should also increase the qualities in research areas and so on, rather than focus on undergraduate programs.

**10. Communication**- The effects of globalization on education bring rapid developments in technology and communications. It changes the role of students and teachers and producing a shift in society from industrialization towards an information-based society.

**11. E-learning**- People with disability get benefit from globalization only if they endowed with knowledge, skills, capabilities and rights needed to pursue their basic livelihoods. The introduction of technology into the classroom is changing the nature of delivering education to students is gradually giving way to a new form of electronic literacy , more programs and education materials are made available in electronic form, teachers are preparing materials in electronic form; and students are generating papers, assignments and projects in electronic form. Video projection screens, books with storage device servers and CD rooms as well as the emergence of on-line digital libraries are now replacing blackboards. Even exams and grades are gradually becoming available through electronic means and notebooks are starting to give way to laptops. Also, students can be examined through computer managed learning systems and do tutorial exercises on a computer rather than in a classroom.

**Challenges for Indian higher system**

Higher education in India is more privatized than other any advanced country. A large number of institutes are private and self financed. Most private institutes however concentrate on market driven disciplines such as medical, engineering Management and ignore social science and pure science. The License Raj continues to flourish in higher education sector in India causing confusion and uncertainty in the regulatory environment. Conflicts between multiple regulatory authorities are the standard norm. Major weaknesses are perceived to be bureaucracy, lack of de- regulation or related policies and lack of autonomy with respect to admission, course curriculum and among others. Autonomy (instead of affiliation) needs to be provided to Deemed and Private Colleges there by encouraging flexibility. Public Private Partnership is required for sustained inputs from industries to deal with the human resource requirements. Frequent political involvement and infringement of academic processes should be regulated, which result in lowering of academic standards raising the entry barriers for various jobs well above acceptable levels. Another major setback will be withdrawal of tax benefits which characterized the not- for- profit entities and redeployment of funds for creation of capital/infrastructure etc., which will be greatly affected. Capacity Constraint Prestigious

institutions are not able to accommodate all aspirants when compared to International Universities. As compared to China, an investment in building capacity is negligible (AICTE, 2007).

According to the result of a special survey "Higher Education: Free Degree to Fly (economist, February 26th –march 4th 2005), higher education is already a global business. The days when higher education is a matter of national policy and government regulation are rapidly fading. Higher Education provisioning is now globalized and in many ways, a commercialized affair and the way that the State had in goings on is vastly diminished, while private profit seeking companies have entered the education business, even government-controlled universities are seeking independence from governmental authorities. However, many countries including India continue to control the fee structure of their universities causing financial stress to foreign students, who are generally, May to pay much higher fees than local students. This has resulted in many universities openly soliciting entry of foreign students. To facilitate this process they have even tailored their courses to international requirements besides appointing agents abroad and publicizing the offer widely in the media. Hence a university is no longer a place where students apply to study. Universities are now actively pursuing students, especially foreign ones using a wide variety of strategies to market their courses. The student is now the customer or client. With globalization, Universities are spreading their reach beyond geographical and political boundaries.

Besides the above the development of higher education has been affected by-politicization, poor quality of intake, heterogeneity of student population, communication gap between universities and colleges, unsystematic growth of institutions, managerial inefficiency, overcrowded classroom, wastage in instructional hours, poor course design, inadequate students service, inadequate material resources, inefficiencies in teaching, lack of training facilities for educational administers and teachers.

## CONCLUSION

The need of the hour is not to fight the onset of globalization, but to turn the challenges into opportunities. The best revenge against the forces that cannot be stopped is turning them to our advantage. Education is one area where it can be done effectively. To contribute the national development, urgent steps will be taken to protect the system from degradation. Therefore along with quantitative expansive of education quality must be maintain in relation to the global market. Therefore the only slogan of today's higher education will be taught according to requirement. Higher education provisioning is a fairly capital intensive process. It is generally accepted that higher education contributes more to individual career building rather than wider public good. Universities should make provisions to provide loan and fellowship for research atmosphere and building. The need for financing of higher education for students, especially those coming from low income households needs special attention. We should encourage foreign universities to come to India to setup in collaboration with existing Indian institutions, colleges to promote global research activities for sustainable development. It will also improve our educational standards as well as solve the burgeoning problem of enrolment. Opening Indian higher education to foreign competition will benefit us and boosts our growth.

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