

Indian Education System with Issues and Challenges: A Review

Kunal Upadhyay^{1*}, Harshita Gupta¹, Manish Sharma¹,
Kartik Singh Jadoun¹, Barkha Narang²

Abstract

Education in India is growing day by day and it has become more competitive. So, in India, a lot of institutes are building up. But the institute must provide good knowledge to the students, because if you give good education to the students, you will get success. In India, everyone has the right to education. But in India, there are a lot of issues and problems in the education system. Now the Indian government is trying to make changes in the Indian education system. They are attempting to give students an excellent education so they can become career-focused individuals. The education system always needs clarity. In this review paper, we will examine the types of education provided in India. What are the advantages or disadvantages, and what are the changes made to make it better or more job-oriented.

Keywords: Education policies, opportunities, quality, reservation system, revolutionized, right to education, seats

INTRODUCTION

In the world, the knowledge of technologies is increasing day by day, and science education is also increasing day by day. Our government is investing in research to provide good knowledge and technology to students. So, higher education is getting more and more competitive as a result of these changes. India needs to be provided with such practical knowledge to make the student employable, and the Indian education system is changing its higher education models and providing new features at every model of education. Higher education always plays a great role in the growth of any country's industry. And it also provides new knowledge at an individual level to develop the quality and vision of the person. But in the Indian education system, there are a lot of keyholes, like low study quality and the teaching is not provided by experienced people. Because of keyholes in the Indian education system, students are not satisfied with this.

So, there is one solution to this education system: we should make changes according to society's needs at that time or after 4 to 5 years. So, if we will fulfill the need of society then we can achieve the goal of good education system. We must make changes in the education system because education is the only thing that provides soul to men. We should initiate the use of technologies in the field of education and provide the knowledge needed to make students employable.

*Author for Correspondence

Kunal Upadhyay

E-mail: 2021pcecskunal089@poomima.org

¹Student, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Poomima College of Engineering, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

²Faculty Coordinator, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Poomima College of Engineering, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

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Science and technology are growing exponentially, so the knowledge base of all disciplines is expanding rapidly. The educational system invests in the responsibility of adapting and providing new knowledge and technologies to its occupants so that we can be updated from day to

day. And as new technologies are invented day by day, higher education has become more competitive. Changes in culture, motivation, and levels of skills required in securing employment for students and the cost of providing the service are forcing higher education institutions today to reformulate their educational models and add value in every aspect of their service [1–3]. Higher education becomes inputs to the growth and development of the industry as well as the country's development and is also seen as an opportunity to participate in the individual development process through a flexible educational setting [4]. It is essential to revise the current education system with growing competition, rapid variations in technology, decreasing quality of study, unbalanced demographics, and privatization.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Since in pre-schools there was no syllabus, there was no good curriculum. At that time, pre-school had only one way to start the education of the children. There is no solution based on knowledge. In past years, we have noticed that the number of students was decreasing in government schools, and the knowledge provided by the schools did not have any outcomes. Because of this, the poverty gap is increasing. According to the survey, 10% of the students cannot do a math calculation or read a single word of English. In the Indian education system, there is a gap in the relationship between higher education and secondary education. So the Indian education system provides a number of graduates every year but does not provide employed graduates who fight against the job and develop a new idea, and so on [5]. So many students are moving towards private sources. There is also a lack of technology or technical knowledge in government schools (Tables 1–4).

According to AISHE, 1047 degrees are awarded to students by institutes or universities.

Table 1. Data of universities and colleges.

Institutes	Number
1. University:	
State universities	456
Deemed to be universities	126
Central universities	54
Private universities	421
Total	1057
2. Colleges for B.A./B.Com	10500
3. College for professional education	42000+
4. Teacher training and education institute	8439

Table 2. The growth of universities and colleges.

Year	Universities	Colleges
1990–91	202	7210
2000–01	272	12903
2010–11	671	33214

Table 3. Enrolment of students in various fields.

Level	No. of students
Graduate	1.4 cr
Post graduate	2.3 lakhs
Research	1.43 lakhs
Diploma	1.89 lakhs

Table 4. Gross enrolment ratio in higher education from 2012–13 to 2018–19.

Year	GER
2012–13	21.50
2013–14	23.00
2014–15	24.30
2015–16	24.50
2016–17	25.20
2017–18	25.80
2018–19	26.30

In the market, technology is spreading day by day, but the education system is not growing with respect to it. We are not on the list of the top 100 colleges or universities in the world. A lot of governments have changed in the last 6 decades but they have failed to create the best education system. They changed the education policy, but it did not make a difference from the last policy [6]. They are making an effort to improve the standard of the higher education system (Figures 1–4).

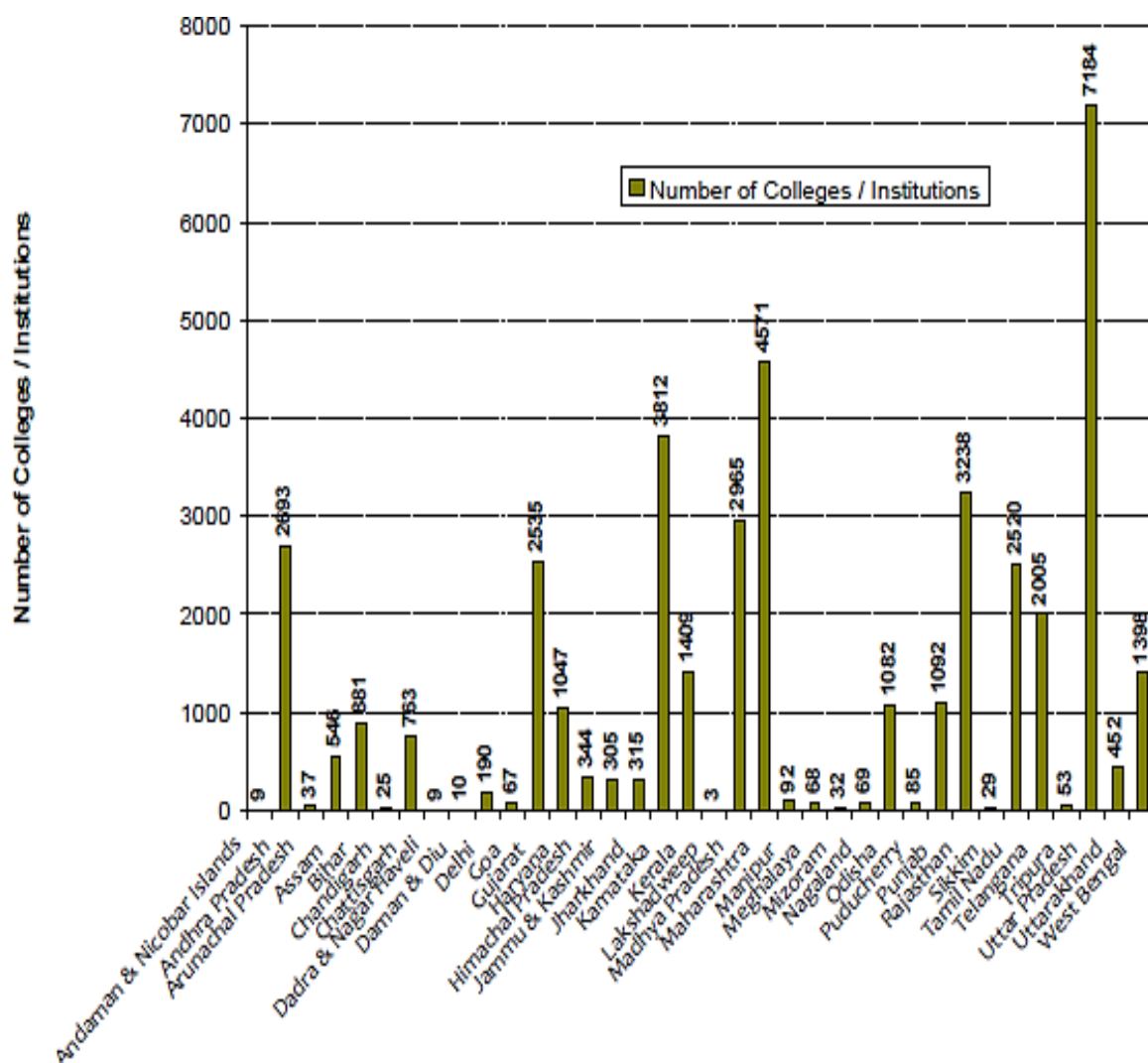


Figure 1. State-wise number of colleges/institutions during 2018–2019.
Source: AISHE Report 2018-19 and UGC Annual report 2018-19.

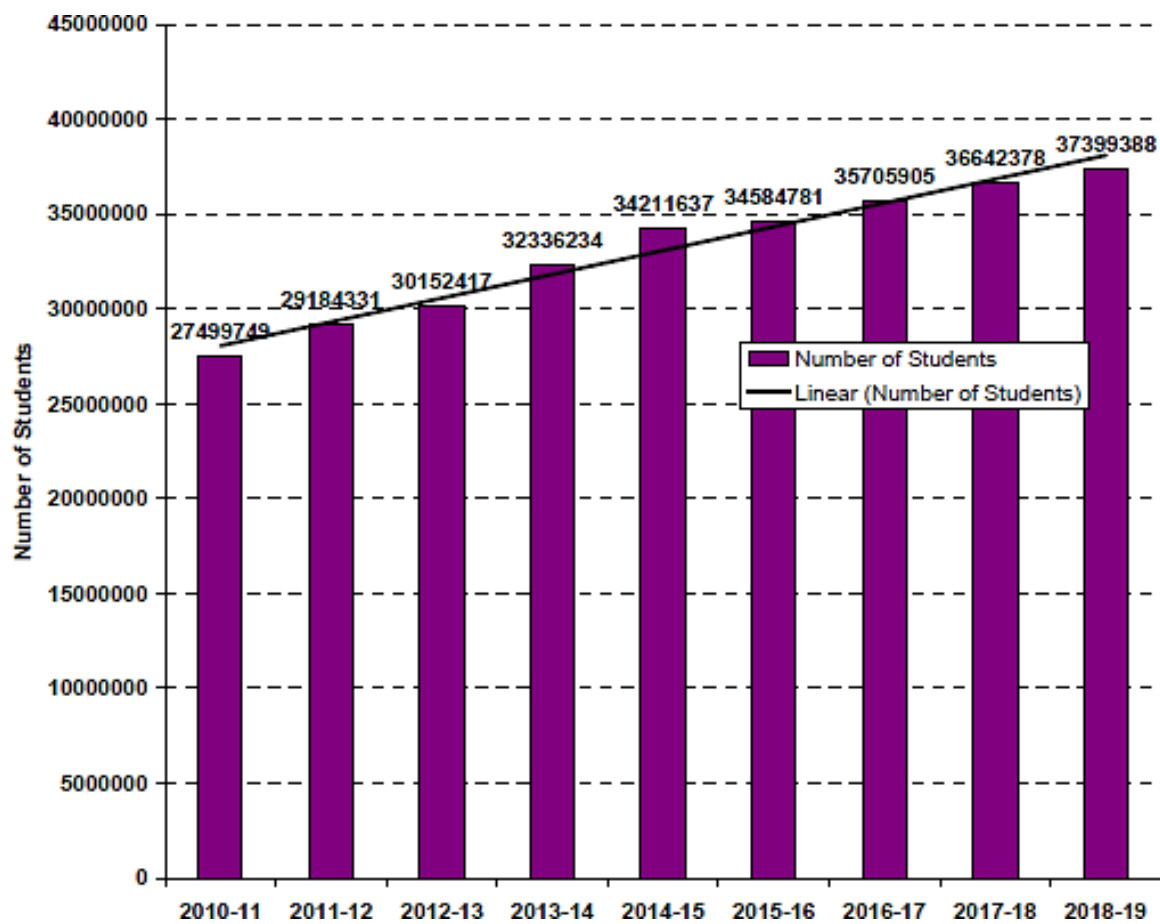


Figure 2. All India growth of students' enrolment (higher education) from 2010-11 to 2018-19.
Source: AISHE Report 2018-19.

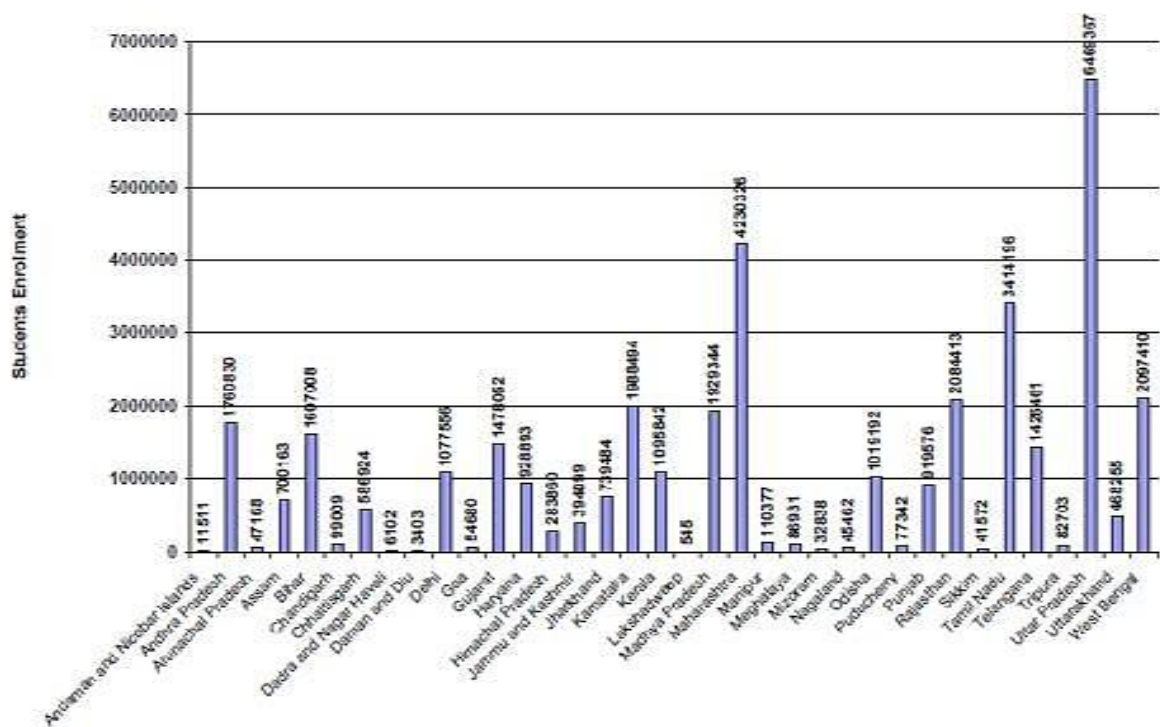


Figure 3. State-wise students' enrolment in higher education during 2018-2019 [7].
Source: UGC Annual Report 2018-2019.

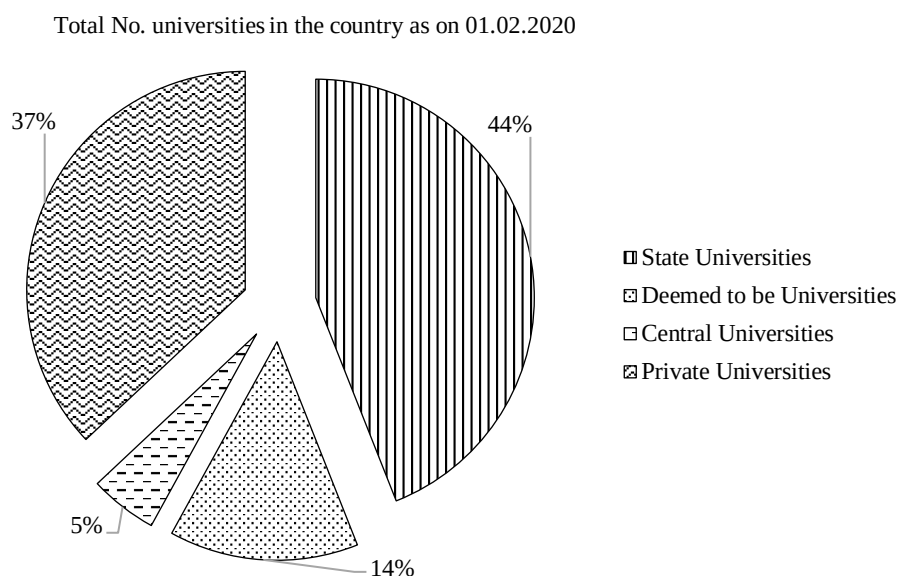


Figure 4. State-wise number of teacher: higher education during 2018–2019.
Source: AISHE Report 2018-19 & UGC Annual report 2018-19.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The learning outcomes are very poor, and this is mainly because of shortage of the qualified teachers. There is no proper monitoring system for teachers with which we can know that they have sufficient knowledge once they became teachers. The lack of IT and vocational courses in secondary education, coupled with the absence of a connection between secondary and higher education, results in students not being adequately prepared with the necessary skills for higher education. Consequently, there has been a proliferation of coaching institutes for entrance exams, which are exploiting students. In school, teachers do not give proper knowledge about the course; they just use to teach the textual content only. That is the reason why students join coaching institutes. And this is the cause of the coaching institute's ongoing growth. If proper knowledge and guidance are given to a student in schools, he or she does not need to join the coaching.

Class Size

Large class sizes are widespread in the pre-primary school education system. In classrooms, the number of enrolled students is so high that the teachers are inadequate to provide enough attention to the each individual student, and the student learning experience is scarce. Primary school teachers try to manage classes with strength of 50 to 60 students in many schools across the country. And due to the high number of students in a single class and the fact that the time for one class is less than an hour so the teacher cannot give proper attention to each individual student.

Quality of Student Intake

The quality of education is also affected by the number of students admitted to universities. Undergraduate students in India are the students who have graduated from upper secondary school (the age of children is 16 to 18 years old) [8]. Central or state governments have made no serious attempt to open any new schools at the upper secondary level over the past few decades. Only two such schools, Navodaya Vidyalaya and Kendriya Vidyalaya, have been opened by the federal government (both of which are central schools).

According to a recent British Council Report on Indian school education, the number of central government-run secondary schools is 42,119 and higher secondary schools is 24,808. These schools provide education to deserving students with nominal fees.

Accreditation

As per the data provided by the NAAC, as of June 2010, “not even 25% of the total higher education institutions in the country were accredited and among those accredited; only 30% of the universities and 45% of the colleges were found to be of quality and to be ranked at ‘A’ level” [9] (Figure 5).

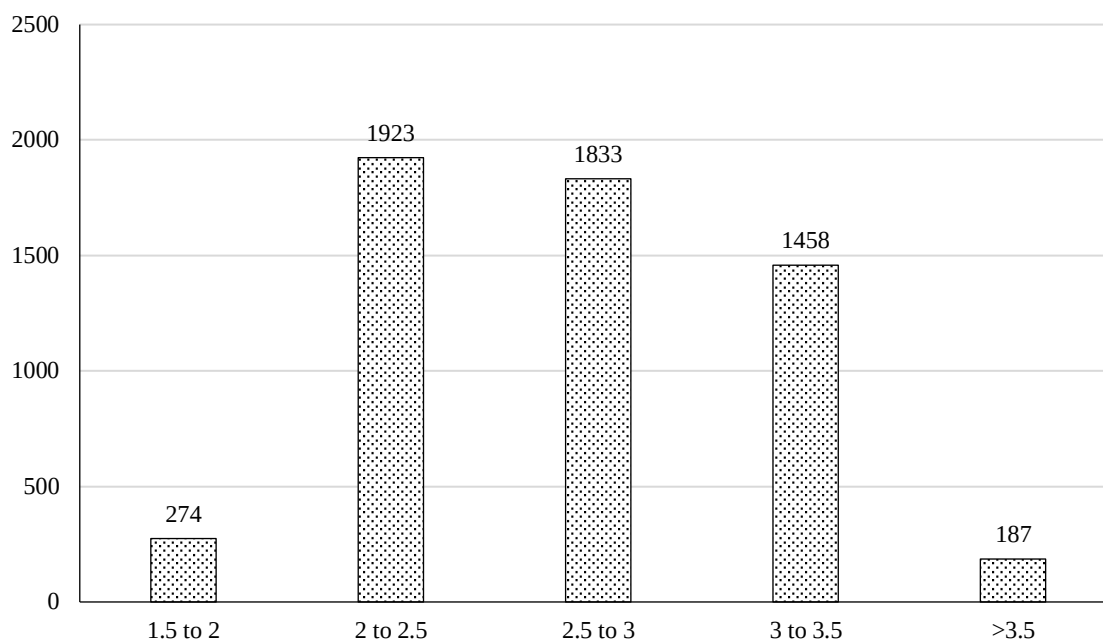


Figure 5. Number of institutions by national assessment & accreditation council grade (Data source: NAAC 2017).

Faculties

For many years, the shortage of teachers and the government educational system’s failure to attract and retain well-qualified educators have posed significant challenges and created problems for the quality of education. Despite numerous vacancies in higher education, a considerable number of unemployed PhD/NET candidates are available, yet they are compelled to apply to other departments, posing a significant shock and problem to the higher education system.

Lack of Quality Education

So here comes the important issue which is lack of quality education. So, most of the colleges and schools do not provide quality education; only few colleges, institutes, schools, and universities all over India provide quality education which is less than 20%. The colleges and universities which provide quality education are tier 1 colleges and universities. Here are some tier 1 engineering colleges in India which comes in at the top of the list and also provide quality education. These are also the dream colleges of engineering students.

- IIT Bombay
- IIT Chennai
- IIT Kharagpur
- IIT Gandhinagar
- IIT Kanpur
- IIT Delhi
- IIT Roorkee
- IIT Guwahati

In the top 100 universities listed by the “Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings”, none of the Indian universities could be found in that list. In the 2017 rankings by the HRD ministry, only

2,995 institutions (6%) participated out of around 51,000 strong higher educational institutions in India. In the overall rankings, of the 100 best institutions, 67 are from just eight states. Among the 100 best universities, 40 are in three states. Among the best 100 colleges, 77 are from just five states [10].

Quality of Teaching and Research

If we only look at the academic reputation and ratio of faculty to students, we can see that most of the universities which are located all over India do not have a good teaching ratio. The academic reputation, as shown in the QS classification, is based on teaching and research. Any university's teaching and research are influenced by both the faculty's and the students' calibre.

The quality of teaching is directly proportional to the quality of teachers. To effectively impart knowledge to students, teachers must possess a comprehensive understanding of their subject matter, curricula, and educational standards, as well as exhibit enthusiasm and a commitment to ongoing learning throughout their careers. There are a large number of universities and colleges in India, but only 20 to 30 universities/colleges with a high-level teaching staff are rarely considered. So, this shows a very disgraceful feature of the Indian education system. Beyond having so many universities, only a few of the educational institutes are counted in the list of quality education and come in the top ranking in the world [11].

Student-teacher Ratio (Figure 6)

The student-teacher ratio is decreasing day by day because proper attention is not given to the students.

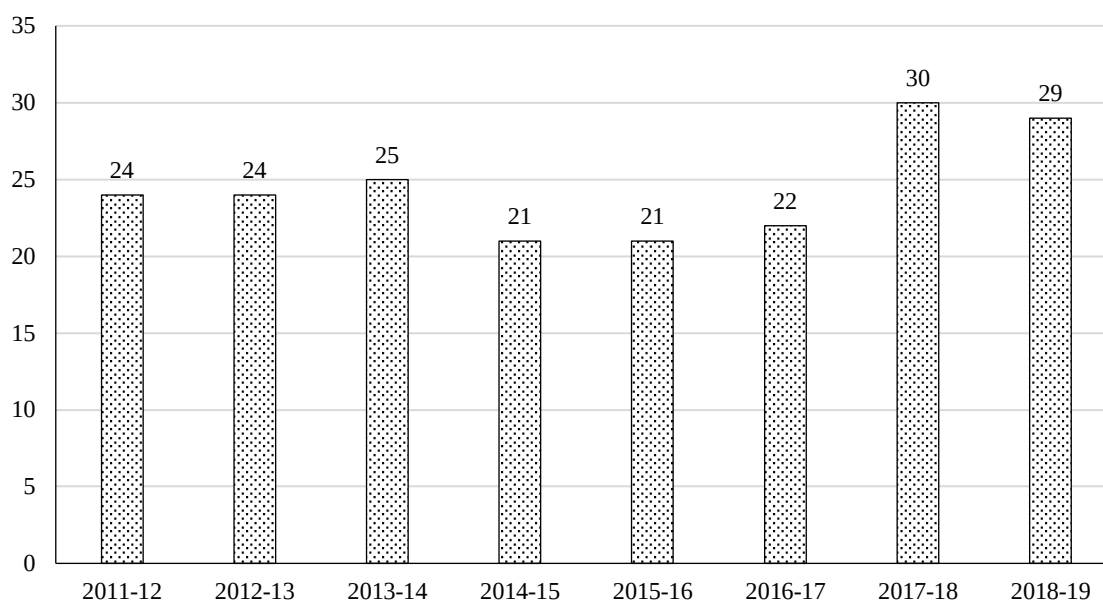


Figure 6. Student-teacher ratios (2011–2018).

(Data source: UGC (2018) and AISHE—various years).

No project-based Learning

Higher education lacks a learning-based project. Young graduates must acquire new skills, particularly practical ones, that will help them find employment. Hence, project-based learning is not at all a focus of ours. Theoretical knowledge is simply insufficient; we also require practical expertise. And we need to implement the knowledge in our project so that we can make it better.

Gap between Education Provided and Industry-required Education

The industry is facing difficulty finding suitable employees because the education provided to them in colleges is not appropriate for direct employment in the industry. Consequently, companies are

compelled to invest significant amounts of money and time in providing employee training, so they can work effectively within the company.

Lack of Available Resources

The quality of education depends directly on the learning process. There is a less availability of learning resources in Indian colleges. Most of the colleges have poor-quality library buildings. And do not have good infrastructure either. This leads to poor service at the library. The number of books is much smaller; there is no magazine, the books that are present in the library are old edition books; and the ratio of books to students in the college is also lower, which means that there are fewer copies of the books present and there is no question solving magazine that raises the level of new knowledge and quality. There are also poor internet facilities for accessing online databases and resources. And no proper lab is available for the students, and in the lab, computers are not working properly.

Examination-ridden Curriculum

In India, most universities have more than one curriculum loaded with theoretical knowledge. This curriculum is only concerned with passing the exam. The curriculum does not rise to the level of market demand. Old and outdated curriculums are still followed by most universities as the demand for quality and skills changes every day due to globalization [12]. There is no upgrade in the curriculum as per the new technologies, and the old methodologies are still in place.

Lack of Facilities

As per the 2016 Annual Survey of Education Report, 3.5% of schools in India had no toilet facility, while only 68.7% had useable toilet facilities. 75.5% of the schools surveyed had libraries in 2016, a decrease from 78.1% in 2014. The percentage of schools with separate girls' toilets has increased from 32.9% in 2010 to 61.9% in 2016. 74.1% of schools had drinking water facilities and 64.5% of the schools had playgrounds [13–16]. Also, the majority of them lack adequate internet access and computer labs.

Research and Innovation

The research sector in institutions of higher education is lacking. The resources and facilities are insufficient, as is the limited number of quality faculties available to advise the students regarding that. Moreover, Indian higher education institutions are not associated with the research centers. So, this is another drawback of higher education in India. And some colleges do not support the students, who are investing time to some research, they just want them to study their courses only and because of the lack of quality faculty, they do not guide the new students.

Reservation Policies in the Indian Education System

The reservation policy is not proper. The actual backward caste is still not getting the benefits of the reservation system; only educated people are taking advantage of it. And there should be proper rules and regulations for who should get a reservation according to their background and financial status, not their category. Because of this, people who do not have good financial status are not able to take advantage while those who have well-managed backgrounds and are not having any financial problems are taking advantage.

And there should be proper rules to get the seats so that no general-category student faces any issues because general category people also have financial problems.

CONCLUSION

We know the importance of quality education. It directly affects all aspects of the growth of a country and helps it stand high on the overall platform. In India, during the past seventy years, higher education has developed a lot in terms of quantity. However, we are still missing quality education, as expected. To improve the quality of education, the concerned experts have to think about the parameters (such as

enough infrastructure, an updated curriculum, skilled faculties, learning resources, financial help, and well-planned guidelines with a proper road map) of quality education. In order for teachers to properly attend to each and every child present, class sizes must be reduced.

Advantages of the Indian Education System

1. Compulsory education
2. Affordable fee structure
3. Advancement in teaching methods
4. Education is more accessible due to technological advancements.
5. The Indian syllabus covers a vast area of education.
6. The vast area of subjects covered ensures that students have as much knowledge as possible.
7. Some subjects teach students about the long-lost culture of India, which they should be aware of.
8. Since students learn so many subjects, some of them find it easier to determine what field they want to pursue as a career.
9. Subjects like Economics and English help students in their day-to-day lives.

Disadvantages of the Indian Education System

1. Socially conscious people are taking advantage of the reservation system.
2. Lack of practical knowledge
3. No scope for other fields except studies.
4. Most subjects, such as chemistry and physics, teachers only focus on textbook knowledge, when they could be fun, applied subjects to learn.
5. There is a lesser focus on physical education and sports. And mainly focuses on studying all day long.
6. Sex education is not given in Indian schools, which is something that needs to be thoughtfully inculcated each year for students.
7. There is less focus on character building, as many schools do not have lessons on etiquette and mannerisms.
8. The subject matter and homework put a tremendous amount of stress on students, which is incredibly difficult for many students to bear, and they cannot focus on themselves.
9. Large classes in schools mean that there is less focus on each student's learning. This is hazardous to a student's educational journey during and after school.
10. Since most knowledge is only memorized and not retained for the long run, students feel lost after school. Many even remain unemployed.
11. Many schools charge exorbitant fees, which become a burden for parents. Schools with affordable fees generally have fewer funds, which affects the quality of education.
12. Examinations are more focused on end results than continuous learning.

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