



A GENERAL BRIEF REVIEW OF PROBLEMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN LAST TWO DECADES IN MAHARASHTRA (1995-2015) AND THEIR PROBABLE REMEDIES

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Abstract :

Education plays important role in today's progress and wellbeing of the human beings. The higher education is an important aspect of the education. The higher education encourages students to think. Thinking gives wisdom. But due to unwarranted interferences from the governments and from the private player higher education especially in Maharashtra is trailing in its quality and failing to deliver the desired fruits. Today many problems are raised in the field of higher education like shorter span of semesters, long days of exam periods, corruptions in the recruitment, plagiarism, shortage of government expenditure on higher education and research and what not. This article trying to study the current state of the higher education its problems remedies.

Keywords: CAS, GDP, UGC, Dropout Rate, NAAC, HRDC, Civil Society

Introduction:

The field of higher education is dynamic one. Every year or two it is changing. With the changing pattern in education, also some new kinds of problems are generating. It is the duty of the government, academician and civil society to identify the new problems and solve it as fast as possible. Government of India constituted various committees and commission like Kothari Commission, National Knowledge Commission, CABE Committee on Autonomy in Higher education and Yashpal Committee are major one. It is the government who plays major role in the clear policy making and implementation of it. In this regard Government of Maharashtra came with 'The Maharashtra Universities Act, 1994'. This act was a very good one to solve then prevailing educational problems. But then due to new market demands and change in



education pattern over the world, the act lost its relevance. Now again government has come with the new 'The Maharashtra Universities Act, 2017' to replace the old one. It will be interesting to see whether this new act can solve the present problems of the higher education.

Problems:

The author tries to list the problems in higher education in the special context to Maharashtra state.

1. Colleges and education institution run by the Private Educational Societies

We have no doubt that, due to private education societies and colleges, education has been spread in every corner of the Maharashtra. In Maharashtra Most of the Colleges are run and governed by the private education societies. With few exceptions, more or less the hidden aim of these societies to make profit from the colleges in term of money and socio-political gains. This hampers the basic goal of spreading good quality of higher education.

2. Corruption and Bribe for the entry in the Teaching profession

Teaching is a sacred profession. But due to deep greed of management of privately owned colleges they are demanding the bribe from job aspirants to entry in the service.

3. Service Conditions of the University and College Teachers are not attractive./ Complex Process of Promotion/ advancement

The service conditions and carrier prospectus of university and college teachers are not good. The teaching as a carrier is failed to attract the new and fresh talent.

4. No All India Service for education

'Education' is comes in concurrent list of the Constitution of India. As per the Indian Constitution, the central government as well as the state governments can make the laws and acts on the education.



5. Less number of colleges

Today India is housing the world's largest youth population. The population of Maharashtra is growing up with the each passing decade. Due to over population and less number of colleges, colleges are overcrowding with students. The lack of state education policy in this regards also badly affecting the future of the students.

6. Work culture in the college

The work culture is the soul of any organization. It is in general observation that every individual organization has its own way of working, i.e. work culture. The work culture always either motivates or demotivates the member of the organization. In Universities and colleges teacher have to perform many administrative responsibilities along with the regular teaching activity. If conducive work culture prevails then its effects can be visible.

7. Less physical infrastructure/ No Electricity

Generally the buildings of educational institutions own by state governments has poor physical infrastructure. This happened due to lack of financial support from the state government. But in reverse the buildings of educational institutions own by central government has good physical infrastructure.

8. Too much interference by government, university, education societies

The Teaching and Other Administrative Staff is governed by Government and Universities on one side education societies/management on the other hand. What to follow and whom to follow? This state of confusion is a common scene in education institutions.

9. No uniformity in Syllabus

Lack of uniformity in syllabus is the major drawback for the overall educational progress of the students. Students who studied out dated and poor syllabus cannot stand in the National level competitive examination.



10. Less promotion of soft skill in education

The education system in India today has colonial mindset. Education system in Indian not likes to change. It's acting like a rigid system. Today in globalized world if student wants employment they along with degree should have the some basic soft skills like, behavioral manners, atticates, good communication skills etc.

11. Less sex ratio

The sex ratio is not positive in education in India. As asocial customs and practice, giving education to the girls is not considered as good.

12. Less quantity and quality of Educational NGO's

There are Non- Governmental Organizations working in the improvement in the field of education. But their number and contribution in quality enhancement of education is very marginal.

13. Education is the most ignored topic in government list of reform as well as for society

India is one of the fast developing Nation in the world. In the process of development there are other issues which attract more attention than the education.

14. Less employable education system/syllabus

The present education system is not compatible with the current demands of the market. So, large numbers of students are not getting jobs. The present education system is not able to produce employable students. The condition of students belongs to rural areas are really bad in term of employability as compared to the students belongs to the urban areas.

15. More number of professional colleges but less quality of students

There are more number of professional colleges but it is producing less quality of students.



16. Unemployment – social unrest/under employment

Many qualified students are unemployed today. And the numbers of unemployed students are growing rapidly in coming years. This situation is creating a social unrest.

17. Lack of coordination for syllabus and industries demand

The syllabus prepared by the universities is not up to date as per demands of the Industries.

18. Less budget allocation outlet GDP 6% should be but now 2.5%

From last many decades Indian government is spending very less i.e. less than 2.5 of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) outlet on education. To develop education as per the world level government should spend more than 6% from the GDP.

19. High dropout rate

Due to poor economic condition many students got drop out from the primary and middle level education. Even in many communities, they are not willing to educate their girl child to pursue education.

20. Costly Education hub

From last decade many business houses and politicians has set up the educational hubs and complexes. They focused only to avail the professional course which fetches more profits to them. Sometime higher fees paying students get admission in these hubs, the merit sometime

21. Political nexus

Education in India is highly influenced by politicians, because many education societies and colleges are managed by the politicians themselves. Due to political nexus they can make favorable educational laws, rules and regulation to achieve their profits goals.

22. Extra business

Education has become the business the for many business houses as well as for many politicians of India.



23. Black money generation and dumping of black money economy

In big education institutions, contractual teachers are underpaid. For the recruitment the management generally takes large chunk of money from the teaching and non-teaching faculties. That generates the black money.

24. Reservation

In many institutions, government's reservation policy has been manipulated to get undue benefits.

25. High cost of education

The cost of the education has been increasing day by day. So it is not affordable to students belongs to the poor and below poverty line families.

26. Regional Imbalance in education

The spatial distribution of educational institutions and quality of education is not homogeneous at every corner of the India.

27. Less number of Noble Prizes

India is a vast country, housing second largest population in the world. It very disgracing for us that India till date produced very few Noble Laurent.

28. No research

It is a sad situation that very few institutions are busy in world level research and development works while rests of the education institute are doing nothing in promotion of research work. The universities, institute and colleges don't have reasonable number numbers of patens in Maharashtra.

29. No encouragement for research from government

To motivate the scientists and academicians to pursue the research is task of government. For any kind of research work it needs financial support. The government is failing to motivate and to give financial support.



30. Intake of Less quality students to Higher Education as well as in All India Services and Provincial Civil Services

In general the competency and quality of students in higher education had been declining from recent past. Also the bad quality students are reflected in the results of Union Public Service Commission and Provincial Civil Services.

31. Right to Education has become failure

The main purpose of the Right to Education has been maligned due to escape routes provided in the law itself.

32. Lack of Pre and On job Training :

At present the relevance of Human Resource Development Centers (HRDC) which are given role to train and expose teachers of colleges and universities to the newer teaching methodologies and new trained in their respective subject, has lost its relevance. They are just waste of time, money and resources. The present rules of Currier Advancement Scheme (CAS) the certificates of HRDC are mandatory. So the mindset of trainee is just to get the certificates with much intention of learning. The HRDC's, role also become casual.

Whatever the circumstances, situation and level of intellectual capability, the new entrant or candidate in teaching field should be given the professional on job or pre-job training at Institute of international repute. This will boost the confidence and focus in teaching outlook. Some training programs in foreign universities should be organized for the benefit of professors and associate professors.

33. No incentives and motivation to teachers from government.

The teachers in higher education don't have intensives and motivation either from government and society.

34. More nonacademic work to the teachers

The academic staff is more or less is engaged in non-academic work. And they cannot give sufficient time to students for their overall development.



35. Teachers less interested to work in backward and tribal areas

Due to the poor physical infrastructure and facilities many teachers are less interested to work in backward and tribal areas.

36. Inequality in access to higher education

Due to many socio-economic and geographical hurdles many students can not complete their education. Mostly higher education institutions are away from rural areas. That affects the students to access the higher education institutions.

Remedies :

After discussion of the problems in higher education, the author trying to list the solutions for them.

1. Nationalization of the Higher Education Institution.

Except the minority institution, all the private colleges and education societies should be taken over by the state government. It helps in better and effective governing of the colleges.

2. Omit of the Education Subject form the State List of the Indian Constitution and include it exclusively in the Centre List.

As per present Constitution of India, Education is in a Concurrent list of the constitution. For the benefit of students and to rapid educational development, Education should be in the Central List of the constitution.

3. Centralized Recruitment of Teachers from the bodies like State Public Service Commission.

Many deserving candidates who are willing to join teaching carrier, are not able to join it due to corruption and nepotism and other socio-economic factors. If any central recruiting agency starts recruiting them then the quality and qualified teacher would join the prestigious teaching job.



4. Transfer of teachers in every 5 years

There should be compulsory computer based transfer mechanism system for all the teachers in higher education. This will benefited to both students and the teachers in different ways.

5. Education should be employment oriented.

The education system of India and Maharashtra should be based on *One Nation One Syllabus*. The new education syllabus should aim to generate the employment.

6. Choice based education system

The present education system is quite ridged one. The students according to their choice don't have much freedom what to study and what not to study. It is indeed needed to start the choice based education system on large scale.

7. More numbers of Universities/ National Open Schools.

Government should establish the Central Universities for each district in India to cater the need of higher education. While in other hand they can also establish the national open schools at each district headquarter to cater the needs of basic and elementary level education. While establishing the Universities local geographical and socio-economic conditions should be taken for consideration.

8. Library cum reading rooms at every villages, Mohallas or wards.

We Indian traditionally have a village Panchayat for each village. A room of the Panchayat building can be used for the purpose of Library cum reading rooms and free internet kiosk.

9. Student's education performance should be linked to Aadhar.

The student's education performance and his educational documents can be linked to his Aadhar Card. The students Aadhar card can be used for variety of his benefits like Scholarship schemes to job search etc.



10. Skill centers to be setup for students to do jobs in college itself.

The government should think to setup the Skill Development Centre exclusively for the degree students, to make them job ready and ready to start enterprise etc. These Centers should be set up in each college.

11. Free education to all.

The human is great resource for the development of any nation in the world. In the case with India many students left the schools and higher education because they are not in the position to paid high amount of fees. Due to this condition the Nation loses the great brain. This could be used in nation building. To avoid this lose government should bring free education to all.

12. Fundamental duty (j)(k)

As per the Constitution of India, Article 51A, It shall be the duty of every citizen of India (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement.¹ and (k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.¹ It is our duty to fallow the above mention things by its letter and its spirit.

13. Service Conditions of the University and College Teachers are not attractive./ Complex Process of Promotion/ advancement

To attract new talent to the teaching field government should bring transparency in the requirement process. Non-academic persons should also get chance to enter in the teaching field any point of time. There should not be age bar the entry level. Different types of perks and regular intensives should be available to them.

The government should ease the promotion process of the teachers. There should be logical promotion process than the present one i.e. Academic Performance Indicators.



14. Private Education Society/ Colleges

The all the private education societies and colleges except the minority educational institutions should be nationalized.

15. Corruption and Bribe for the entry in the Teaching profession

To curb the corruption in the entry level of profession government should start the recruitment of teachers from the bodies like Union Public Service Commission.

16. Work culture in the college

There should be regular training of the teaching and non-teaching staff at different managerial institute, professional training companies and establishments. By this the staff will enriched by the different working environment. And they can choose the best style of working suitable for their institution.

17. Less number of colleges

To provide the higher education to the youth of the country, government should try to start new colleges as per the population of the local areas.

18. No All India Service for education

It is the need of time to bring the *education* subject exclusively in the center list. And if we are really serious about the education, then central government should constitute the Indian Education Service (IES) at par with IAS and IPS.

19. Less physical infrastructure/ No Electricity

To green energy i.e. solar power can be used for the electricity needs of the educational institutions.

20. Too much interference by government, university, education societies

If all educational institutions come under one rule i.e. central government, many problems of over government shall came down.

21. No uniformity in Syllabus

One syllabus for one nation is the call of the hour. If this happed a level playing field will be created for all the students of the country.



22. Less promotion of soft skill in education

The youth of India is highly capable to lead the world. But he lack in soft skills. As per the present industries and business demand, the college students should have soft skills. To teach the soft skills to students a special subject or a weekly class or a mandatory course of soft skills should be introduced in the colleges and universities.

23. Less sex ratio

The number of girls in education is less. And they have very less number and marginalized in the higher education and research. To change this picture government should give free and compulsory education to girls up to doctoral research.

24. Less quantity and quality of Educational NGO's

The NGO's are very important to enhance the quality of education. All NGO's working for higher education should be integrated in one umbrella and should share the common platform. Due to this integration more efficiency of the NGO's would be increased. That will benefit the higher education.

25. Education is the most ignored topic in government list of reform as well as for society

Now days, the work and style of governance are complex one. They have to perform different types of tasks. Form policy faming to executing the laws. In this situation education is lacking in attracting the needful attention of the government. The every government has different aims and objectives and if education is not falling in their category then you can understand the situation. To solve this problem there should be compulsory 6% expenditure every year dedicated to the education only. It is the need of time to focus more on the in higher Education.

26. High dropout rate

To tackle the high dropout rate in the higher education, government and NGO's should provide hostel facilities, scholarships and subsidized food to students.



27. Black money generation and dumping of black money economy

The attendance of the contractual teachers should be in biometric format and it should be linked with the government via internet. With the attendance records, the government can transfer the monthly payment to the teacher's bank account.

Conclusion:

Where there is a will there is a way. Whatever the situation we cannot underestimate the importance of higher education in the development of any nation. If we really want to make our India as a developed nation in the world and to make it a super power and to eliminate poverty, it is the need of time for all of us viz. civil society, government, NGO'S and with other stake holders to seat together and start improving the higher education in India. The improvement in higher education is not an overnight task. But we have to prepare definite road map to achieve the development. This article is small step to open ended topic of higher education. The author welcomes the suggestion and opinions of the stake holders in this regard.

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