

Impact of Globalization on Higher Education

Dr. Geeta Chaudhary

*Associate Professor, Department of History,
Meerut College, Meerut*

Abstract

Education plays a vital role in the development of a nation. Education is the best investment and perhaps the only tool which can be used to the socio-economic development, of a country. It is a key for the improvement of quality of life. Education is supposed as a tool for the self-realization of a person. Especially the higher education is the Backbone of a particular society, because the society is shaped by the quality and number of students coming out of higher education institutes. The globalization process has changed the face of the world making it a more and more knowledge-based society. However, the globalization process is directly related to the economy, but it also encompasses social and cultural changes. In a globalizing economy not only products and finance are circulates but along with its ideas and cultures also circulates and of course, the education system is not beyond it. Thus in the present research paper, an attempt has been made to analyze major constraints and challenges faced by the higher education in India in the era of globalization.

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Education plays a vital role in the development and progress of a nation. Education is the best investment and perhaps one and only tool that can be used to the socio-economic development, of a country. It is a key for the improvement of quality of life. Education is supposed as a tool for the self-realization of a person. “Education also has considerable potential, in its many dimensions and processes, for bringing about change, which can redress the imbalance between genders, social, religions, economic and other dimensions of human life.”¹ Especially the higher education is the Backbone of a particular society, because the society is shaped by the quality and number of students coming out of higher education institutes. The values and norms of higher education mold the personality of a person, which leads the socio-economic and political development. So it can be said that the institutes of higher education are the pillars of a society.

The globalization process has changed the face of the world making it a more and more knowledge-based society. However, the globalization process is directly related to the economy, but it also encompasses social and cultural changes. In a globalizing economy not only products and finance are circulates but along with its ideas and cultures also circulates and of course, the education system is not beyond it.

The thrust of Globalization is expected to push Higher Education to face far-reaching challenges. According to the Spanish sociologist, Manuel Castells, one of the leading authorities on Globalization states, “effects on the university will be more drastic than industrialization, urbanization and secularization combined. It is, the biggest challenge that the University has ever faced for more than a century and a half.” “Two of the main bases of globalization are **information and innovation**, and they, in turn, are highly knowledge-intensive. Internationalized and fast-growing information industries produce knowledge goods and services. Today’s massive movements of capital depend on the information, communication, and knowledge in global markets. And because knowledge is highly portable, it lends itself easily to globalization. If knowledge is fundamental to globalization, globalization should also have a profound impact on the transmission of knowledge. In this essay, I suggest that it does, and that its effects are felt throughout the educational system. The effects are of two kinds. The first is that globalization increases the demand for education, especially university education, and this increases pressure on the whole system for higher quality schooling, often producing perverse educational consequences, particularly from the standpoint of equity.”²

Thus in the present research paper, an attempt has been made to analyze major constraints and challenges faced by the higher education in India in the era of globalization. The scenario of higher education seems very gloomy and pathetic as it

faces many challenges as follows :

Education Explosion and Deterioration of Quality is the most important challenge faced by higher education, resulting in adverse situations. Education explosion means the wide expansion of the education sphere. Since independence, especially in the last three decades, our higher education system has expanded in an unpredictable manner. And the major causes behind this tremendous expansion is liberalization and globalization. There is huge expansion but not no serious efforts have been made to secure the quality of education. Governments' policy of mass education is resulting in swelling enrolment of a student in colleges. No serious criteria have been followed for the establishment of a new institute and admission, (especially in govt. colleges) resulting in quantitative expansion. The qualitative aspect is being neglected due to this policy. The open-door admission policy, lack of coordination between enrollment and manpower, lack of infrastructure and other basic facilities has resulted in the deterioration of the standard of education as well as the efficiency of the system. That's why the education system is failing to meet the changing needs and goals of society and losing its relevance. Most of the colleges are being established in an ill-planned manner and functioning merely as factories producing unemployed degree holders. Besides this, the standard of primary and secondary education is also responsible for the poor performance of students at the degree level; because when the base is weak how quality can be ensured at the upper level. College is merely producing literate masses not educated ones. **The Commercialization and Privatization** have also deteriorated the quality of education.

Due to the privatization of education professional and technical degrees are easily obtained by those millionaires who do not have the desired talent, quality, or even serious devotion for education. The institutes such as MBA, MCA, B.Ed, M.Ed., etc. are run by those businessmen for whom these institutes are only the means to gain more and more profit. In the same way, degrees availed by these institutes are the only a piece of paper as most of them do have not sufficient human as well as a physical resources. Education is a seller's market – lack of competition – no incentive to provide quality education.

Equity and Inadequacy of Coverage: The Privatization of education not only deteriorated the quality but also raised the issue of equity and inadequacy of coverage. Because of now education, especially the technical education has become the game of money. That's why the literacy rate of SC vs general and rural vs urban is unequal. This unequal distribution of education facilitates among these groups is also resulting in an imbalance ratio. Because when the institutes are being set up to gain the profit, the businessman establishes them in properly developed areas, not in needy places

(or neglected and underdeveloped areas). This is a comic-contradiction of the Indian education system, that on the one side some streams of education are so cheap that everyone can easily avail it, On the other hand, the professional and technical degree is far from the reach of middle-class society, one the one hand Govt. is establishing the college without any pre-planned way, one the other hand maximum institutes are being establish only in already developed and educationally exhausted areas. Thus globalization threatens democratization with increased social inequality and increased inequality in access to the high quality of education needed to develop democracy to that next level. Globalization may also weaken the power of the national state or regional governments to control economic development and the demand for education to the degree that they could in the past.

Lack of Coordination Between Degree and Job is also a relevant challenge, which is resulting in a crowd of unemployed and directionless youth, Due to open door admission and mass education policy, most of the students get enrolled without any devotion for education. “It has been observed that more than 90 percent of students demand for higher education in not need-based, not they come for real learning and knowledge. These students are interested in getting a degree only and because of the defective examination system they manage to pass in the examination. This general mass corrects the system and real learners suffer.”³ Former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam points out in his essay “Knowledge into Power” that a major problem before the country today is unemployability. Presently there is a mismatch between what is needed and what is offered. One of the main reasons behind it is the widening gap between academic knowledge and its applicability. Therefore an urgent need, to revise our undergraduate programs to fulfill the national and global demand.

The Question of Gender Bias and Globalization: Globalization seems gradual to be changing the status of women in both positive and negative manners. The positive aspect is that flexible organization in business enterprise requires flexible labor, and women are as or more flexible than men, and that information technology and telecommunications are spreading democratic ideas worldwide. The negative aspect is that women are paid much less than men almost everywhere in the world, and it is profitable for firms to hire women and pay them lower wages than men. Yet, both sets of reasons gradually seem to be driving both the education and the price of women’s labor up relative to men’s. For example, the percent of women in science and engineering university faculties is increasing worldwide.

The Problem of Values and Crisis of Character: The undeserved mass creates the *problem of values and crisis of character* is another major problem of the higher education system. “National policy on Education 1986 and the program of

action 1992 lays emphasis on value inculcation including culture of commitment, integrity, teamwork, ethics, social awareness and responsibilities to the environment and social issues. The future scenario of political, social-cultural and economic sectors will depend on the contributions of the students of institutions today.”⁴ Education should nurture some values in the learners, But unfortunately the scene of our higher education is not very healthy. “We have to promote through our temples of learning the values such as our cultural heritage, democracy, secularism, equality of the sexes, protection of the environment of social barriers, observance of small family norms and inclusion of the scientific temper.”⁵ But inappropriate and incomplete education has failed to achieve these goals and lost its relevance to society and socio-economic viability. Youth is suffering from a sick mentality without any vision.

Multicultural Education and the question of self-identity: As we mentioned earlier that in globalize economy not only products and finance are circulates but along with its ideas and cultures also circulates. Globalization redefines culture because it stretches boundaries of time and space and individuals’ relationships to them. So globalization necessarily changes the conditions of identity formation. Individuals in any society have multiple identities. Today, their *globalized identity* is defined in terms of the way that global markets value individuals’ traits and behavior. School or university may represent for a community a center of particular culture in a multicultural society, or, may represent a new definition of multiculturalism. Thus, the school or university becomes an important site of conflict between global culture *qua* preparing students to be economically successful in a global economic environment (scientific, global, economically-valued knowledge) and local cultural forms that build self-identity (self-knowledge). It becomes more challenging for the young if they migrated to different states or cities for education or occupation. Adjusting to a new environment makes them uncomfortable. Even people from that culture sometimes give annoying looks. Thus they are leading their lives as a marginal man.

Education is the mirror of a nation’s development. Our education system is one of the largest systems in the world; and this system is expanding year after year. To make the education more relevant and fruitful some suggestive should be followed such as :

- * The admission system of mass education should be modified. Only seriously interested and deserving students should be allowed for higher education. The selection of students should be on a merit basis.
- * Infrastructure facilities and basic necessities should be updated.
- * In the context of admission, appointment, syllabus, examination even establishments and institutes, should be free from political interference and student

union should be formed totally on a merit basis, So that the academic atmosphere of institutes should be maintained.

* Recruitment and promotion policy should also be modified so as to attract more committed candidates. The transparency of Recruitment and promotion should be maintained.

* The job-oriented program should be introduced to tackle the crowd of unemployed youth.

* A healthy environment for research should be maintained in colleges also.

* Above all the social, political, philosophical, and other values proclaimed by our constitution should be secured at any cost, So that the education should meet its goal & objectives properly.

* Policy on Higher Education is also linked to primary and secondary education which currently is in a very poor state. Because it produced a direct impact on higher education.

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