Indian Higher Education: Reforms in the Context of Political and Economic Changes

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Agenda

- **Context of Sociopolitical and Economic Changes**
  - Demographic and socioeconomic changes

- **Landscape of Indian Higher Education**
  - Scale, scope and complexity of institutions
  - Regulatory framework

- **Reforms in Indian Higher Education**
  - Intentions and status of reforms

- **Engage**
  - Your experiences, questions, comments
Sociopolitical and Economic Context
Global talent supply chain…

“More than 100 million people from India – the equivalent of the combined labour forces of the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Spain – are projected to join the workforce by 2020. With the youngest age profile among large economies and the largest national workforce, India holds great potential to become one of the most attractive talent providers.”
Expanding middle class…

14 million HH (2001-02)

47 million HH (2009-10)

"For the first time, the number of high income households is set to exceed the number of poor households in 2009-10"

High income households: annual earnings over Rs 1.80 lakh ($4000)
National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
Growing prosperity and affordability…

43,000 (2008)

127,000 (2009)

Number of US$ millionaires
(Asia-Pacific Wealth Report 2010)
Growth in technology related services

2.8 million (direct)

8.9 million (indirect)

Employment in Information Technology Services (2011-12)
(India Budget, Services Sector)
Lagging in human development

India (134)

Sri Lanka (97)

Human Development Rank (2011)
Landscape of Indian Higher Education
Massive growth in highered institutions

~13,000 (2000-01)

~33,000 (2010-11)

Number of Colleges
(Source: MHRD/UGC)
Issues of access…

Gross Enrolment Ratio: a comparison

- India: 17.27%
- China: 23%
- Global average: 26%
- Brazil: 34%
- UK: 57%
- Australia: 77%
- US: 83%

Chart source: Livemint 29/Dec/11

Source: UGC, E&Y-India report
Islands of excellence…

2%

~10,000 / ~500,000

Number of seats in IITs / number of test takers
(2012)
Concentrated in business & engineering...

Number of AICTE approved institutions (AICTE)

- Engineering: 2,972 (2005-06) vs. 1,475 (2009-10)
- Management: 1,940 (2005-06) vs. 1,052 (2009-10)
## Scale, scope and complexity...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Universities</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions Deemed to be Universities</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Universities</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Universities</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions of National Importance</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions Established under State Legislature Acts</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Universities</strong></td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colleges</strong></td>
<td>31,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Enrollment</strong></td>
<td>14.6 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Universities</td>
<td>1.9 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Affiliated Colleges</td>
<td>12.7 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data as on 31.Dec.10
Ministry of HRD, India (2011)

- 87% of total student enrollment
- 80% in Three-year degrees in Arts, Science, Commerce
- 88% in Undergraduate

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Affiliation system—inconsistent quality

- There are ‘unitary’ universities (with or without constituent or associated colleges), and there are affiliating universities.
  - Affiliating universities recognize and facilitate colleges located in district and sub-divisional towns, or even distant places which would have remained, otherwise, unserved.

- 6 central universities and 114 state universities which are affiliating in character (private state universities and deemed universities are non-affiliating)

- Over 85 percent of the students are enrolled in these affiliated colleges

Source: University Grants Commission, 2011
Selected Regulatory Authorities

- All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)
- Medical Council of India (MCI)
- Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)
- Dental Council of India (DCI)
- Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)
- Indian Nursing Council (INC)
- Bar Council of India (BCI)

- Central Council of Homeopathy (CCH)
- Central Council for Indian Medicine (CCIM)
- Council of Architecture
- Distance Education Council (DEC)
- Rehabilitation Council
- National Council for Rural Institutes
- State Councils of Higher Education

Source: www.ugc.ac.in/inside/pcouncil.html
Opportunistic private highered... incoherent regulatory system

IIPM

• 4,000+ students
• 400+ faculty
• Ranked #5 by Zee Business

ISB

• 550+ students
• 100+ faculty
• Ranked #13 by Financial Times

IIPM-Best only in claims?

http://www.ft.com/businesseducation/isb

Both not recognized by AICTE

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The neglected vocational stream...

Outmoded Vocational Schools Fail to Teach Skills for India's Booming Economy

Private corporations and foundations step in to offer much-needed training that the public sector can't provide.

- “Only 2 percent of the 48 million young people working in companies with 100 employees or more have received any formal training, compared with 50 percent in the United States.”

The Chronicle of Higher Education
The unattractive doctoral education...

UGC REPORT

India needs 300,000 more professors

By Prashant K. Nanda
prashant.n@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday said the nation needs about 300,000 more professors, revealing the extent of faculty crunch in India’s higher education system.

The report prepared by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in association with vice-chancellors and educationists will help policymakers decide on a road map to tackle the issue.

“The task force (committee) notes that more than 300,000 is the shortage of faculty in the system at present. It may be noted that the establishment of a reliable database itself is a major hurdle in addition with the issue of faculty shortage,” the human resource development ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

The report also says India needs about 100,000 more teachers per year in the coming decade for its colleges.

age, the IITs can appoint NRIs (non-resident Indians) and PIOs (persons of Indian origin) to permanent faculty position. However, foreign nationals (can be) appointed on contract basis for a fixed tenure of not exceeding five years,” the ministry informed the Lok Sabha on 3 August.

With the government planning to create more space for students in higher education and encourage private participation, the student-teacher gap will only increase if it’s not addressed soon. The Centre has said it wants to add 25 million students to the current 15 million in higher education as India’s economy grows.

“The government is talking about setting up hundreds of colleges, but only buildings can not better education. The government needs to rope in industry personnel; they may not have PhDs, but have experience,” said Shobha Mishra, head of the education wing at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce.
Conceptual Classification of Indian Higher Education

High Quality

Government (G)

Type 1
Centrally-funded (3%)

Type 2
Deemed Universities (~2%)
State Private Universities

Private (P)

Type 3
State-funded (~45%)

Type 4 (~50%)
Privately-funded

Low Quality

Reforms
Five year plan (2012-17)

- Expansion
- Equity
- Excellence
Several reform bill proposed (in limbo…)

- Higher Education and Research Bill
- National Accreditation Regulatory Authority Bill
- Foreign Education Institutions Bill (Regulation of Entry and Operations)
- Prevention of Malpractices Bill
- Education Tribunal Bill
- and more…
Summary

Challenges
- Large, complex, growing higher education system
- Incoherent regulatory framework

Opportunities
- Growing aspirations, prosperity and affordability
- Leveraging “demographic dividend”

Reforms
- Strengthen vocational and doctoral education
- Privatize with enforceable regulation and transparency
- Develop a profession of higher education
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Additional resources

- Blog on international higher education covering India - http://www.dreducation.com/search/label/India
- Foreign universities - a reality check University World News, March 2010 (http://bit.ly/aDc7Ns)
- Department of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD, India (http://mhrd.gov.in/higher_education)
- AICTE (www.aicte-india.org/)
- UGC (www.ugc.ac.in/)