

ROLE OF HIGHER-QUALITY EDUCATION IN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA

Dr. Shivali Sharma¹

Abstract

Governments everywhere in the world have assumed a significant role in educating their citizens and providing education for all. A variety of motivation guide societies provide strong support for education. Economic growth determines how much development will take place in the overall standard of living of society. Specifically, a more educated society may lead to higher rates of innovation and invention, make everybody more productive by helping firms introduce new and better production methods, and lead to more rapid introduction of new technologies and in this way economic development can be speeded up. This paper reviews the role of higher quality education in fostering economic growth and development of our country. It aims to study how educational quality affects economic growth with special focus on the role of higher educational quality. The purpose of this research is to examine the effect of quality education on economic growth in developing economies. The economic benefits of education to improve growth rates emerge to be very large. A more educated society contributes to higher rates of economic growth and thus enables the government to lessen poverty.

Introduction

Higher education is very important sector for the growth and development of human resource which in turn leads to the social, economic and scientific development of the country. Education is considered to have a strong connection with social and economic development. In contemporary times when the focus is on the knowledge economy, the role of education becomes all the more important in the development of human capital. After all, a society of literate and skilled citizens has more chances of development at the economic and social levels. Education can reduce poverty and social injustice by providing the underprivileged resources and opportunities for upward social mobility and social inclusion. Education in every sense is one of the basic factors of development. No country can achieve sustainable economic development without substantial investment in human capital. Education enriches people's understanding of themselves and the world. It improves the quality of their lives and provides greater social benefits to individuals and society. Education enhances productivity and creativity and promotes entrepreneurship and technological advancement. In addition, it plays a very crucial role in securing economic and social progress and in improving income distribution.

1. Bhavan's College of Communication and Management, Jaipur
E-Mail : shivalirs@gmail.com

Importance of Women's Education in India

Women's education plays a crucial role in the development of India. It has helped in the development of almost half of the population of our country. It has also improved the living standard of the families. Educated women support women's education and give better education to their children. Educated women help in reducing the mortality rate of infants in India. They handle their family in a better way than illiterate women. So, we shouldn't forget the importance of women's education in India.

Quality and Relevance of Higher Education

- Expansion of the University System
- Increasing the Relevance of Courses
- Parallel Field Placements of Students
- Increasing Options—A Cafeteria Approach for Undergraduates
- Interdisciplinary Courses at the Postgraduate Level
- Emerging Areas Such as Environment Education, Human Rights, Gender Issues, etc.

Qualitative Development of Education

The Role of UGC: The UGC has been entrusted with the qualitative development of higher education. The introduction of the National Eligibility Test (NET) by the UGC is in keeping with the attempt to establish higher standards of teaching. Academic Staff Colleges (ASC), Curriculum Development Centers, UGC panels on subject areas and examination reforms are other areas through which the UGC is trying to enhance the quality of education.

Enriching the Quality of Education: Higher education, both teaching and research can be enriched, through the electronic networking of libraries. Through the internet the goal of bringing information and knowledge to researchers and teachers located in the remotest parts of our country can be achieved.

The State of Higher Education

India's Higher Education System Faces Challenges on Three Fronts. According to this report, the Twelfth Five-Year Plan's recommendations on higher education from the perspective private sector of the suggests strategies for quality improvement in higher education. The three major challenges faced by India's Higher Education System are expansion, excellence and equity (Report of Higher Education in India Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017) and beyond).

Only 10% of Students Have Access to Higher Education in Our Country

According to the finding of a report "Intergenerational and Regional Differentials in Higher Education in India", authored by development economist, Abusaleh Shariff of the Delhi-based Centre for Research and Debates in Development Policy and Amit Sharma, research analyst of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, a huge disparity exist—as far as access to higher education is concerned—across gender, socio-economic religious groups and geographical regions. The report also compares India's low 10% access to higher education with China's 22% enrolment and the 28% enrolment in the US. Since the early 1990s, China's post-secondary

school enrolments grew from 5 million to 27 million, while India's expanded from 5 million to just 13 million, says the report. The report also emphasizes that higher education has the potential to enhance productivity and economic value both at the individual and national levels (Nagarajan).

Recommendations

- In order to increase quality teaching, learning modules should be developed.
- Sufficient training programmes for faculty members should be conducted to adopt new skills.
- Academic freedom, both for teachers and students should be provided to realize academic excellence.
- Research environment should be created among faculty members.
- If lectures are supported with the use of technology, teaching will certainly be more effective.
- Focus should be on internationalizing higher education, higher education should be collaborated with business. Students should be guided by teachers as they navigate their way through different types of providers to identify the right course and institution for them. Graduates, should be nurtured in such a way that contributed to the human capital in a productive manner because human capital is the primary indicator of economic growth. (“Higher Education Network”)
- Government should encourage foreign universities to come to India to set up independent operations or collaborate with existing Indian institutions. (Gupta)
- Good salary packages and benefits should be provided to the faculty members so that good teachers are drawn to this profession. (Journal of Education and Practice)
- Teachers should not be on contract basis.

Conclusion

Higher education system is essential for national, social and economic development of the country. Higher education in our country has expanded very rapidly. The major problem which we are facing today is how to increase the relevance of education, so that it enables the country to grow and develop as it enters a very competitive global environment. India has an agrarian economy, and as it faces a more prosperous global, industrial community in the 21st century, it urgently needs to focus on the quality of higher education it imparts to the youth.

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