



Higher Education In Rural Areas: Issues And Problems

Dr.(Smt.) Anju Baghel
Head Of Department .(Edcation)
Ilva Commerce & Science College
Indore, Madhy Pradesh, India

Abstract

Higher Education is the back bone of the modern society. It has the power to change human behavior and personality. Along with primary and secondary education higher education is also an instrument to build future generation .Most of the India's population belongs to rural areas but majority of the higher education institutions are urban centric. Even most of the higher educational institutions in rural areas are lack in quality. In present age the impact of globalization is changing the scenario of higher education with aspirants from every knock and corner of the world pursuing specialization in branches of higher education.ICT and globalization has expanded and play an important role in rural areas. Though India attained freedom almost seven decades ago but the literacy rate is comparatively lower in rural areas. The reason behind that a number of problems facing rural higher Education .This paper is an attempt to highlight the key issues and obstacles of higher Education in rural areas. Along with that this paper tries to suggest some possible remedies to overcome these problems.

Key Words: Higher Education, Rural Areas, Problems

Introduction

In this emerging scenario of knowledge based society of 21st century, higher education becomes a crucial issue in creating skilled and knowledgeable human resources to meet the forth coming challenges of the changing world. Higher education imparts in depth knowledge and understanding so as to advance the students to new frontiers of knowledge in different walks of life. It is considered to be the major area in promoting and accelerating the process of national development. A nation cannot move without a skilled and competent quality of the citizens. Amartaya sen and Jean Dereze (1995) argued higher education as one of the most important inputs that influence the all around development of any nation especially in the field of economic, physical, social, cultural, ethnical and spiritual. Education enables people to build up their capabilities, there by broadening their entitlements and facilitating expansion of freedom which is turn is the primary end and economic liberalization have bought radical changes in our approach to higher education and its related issues i.e. employment, management,

finance etc. That is why the higher educational system has started. In India higher Education institutions are mostly located in urban areas, where it is not possible for all the youth to take admission in these institutions. Besides those rural areas colleges have faced many problems to produce students as marketable products instead of creating ethical, informed and enlightened citizens.

Objectives:

I To know the problems of higher Education in rural areas of India.

II To find out best possible suggestions to cope out those problems.

Higher Education for Rural Areas

India as a developing country and one of the influential economies in the world cannot ignore the reality of its rural scenario. The country where the most of the people are below of the poverty line, definitely have some special and energetic programmes for rural development. We are now in the 69 years of our independence; but this achievement has not yet been conceptualized to welfare state and fulfillment of the needs of every corner. It is necessary to know clearly that rural



development is not limited to the issues for under developed countries, infact many of the developed countries have very active rural development programmers. The main policy under the term is to develop the underdeveloped villages. Here education as the key instrument for social change and mobility can play a better role in rural development of a country like India. According to its own multidimensional nature rural development is the approach to bring about the desired positive changes in the socio-economic and cultural life of the rural people for maintenance of equality and fraternity which is one of constitutional and democratic feature of our nation, we must have to link the remote areas to urban so that it transported modernization in thinking and developing outlook towards a balanced society.

Therefore the present paper focuses on rural development aims at finding the ways to improve the rural lives with participation of the rural people themselves so as to meet the required need of the area. Education naturally facilitates them to actively participate in their sustainable development in a very integrated development approach. The determining factors of rural development are also dependent on educational consciousness of the masses which influences in better benefit of the rural people. In the context of globalization and effort towards poverty reduction, emphasizes should be given on educational opportunities through different ways so that it develops self esteem and self confidence to make own destiny. Higher education must notice only on national development, but also enlightens the rural areas with higher skills to meet the satisfactory employment for raising the 'rural suns'. Higher educational institutions which are established in rural areas have the major role for transformation and up gradation their personal and social status through proper instruction and guidance. So in this situation some problems have been discussed, which

create hurdles in the achievement of positive results.

Problems Facing Rural Higher Education

1 Lesser Number of Institutes – In comparison to the urban areas there are very few higher education institutions in rural areas. In the villages a number of colleges are situated in remote, backward and hilly areas.

2 Gross Enrollment Ratio – The gross enrollment ratio, measures the access level by taking the ratio of the persons of all age groups enrolled in various programs, to the total population the age group between 18 and 23. The GER in rural areas is much lower than in urban areas.

3 High Dropout Rate – In village area very few students seek higher education. The reason behind that is burden of family, poor infrastructural facilities, lack of monitory support, financial problem etc.

4 Problem of Equity- There are widespread differences in rural and urban area occupation disparity, gender disparity, inter-state disparity etc. Due to regional disparity in economic development and also on account of uneven distribution of institutions of higher education, higher education facilities are not available to all sections of society.

5 Lesser use of ICT- Most of the rural colleges, use of ICT is hardly seen while teaching. In villages electricity problem is a common phenomenon so teachers in rural areas institutions are using only traditional methods and they are unable to make teaching learning process effective.

6 Poor Infrastructure Facility- Quality education is possible when facilities, resources and technologies are upgraded. This is a major hurdle. Most of the rural institutions are devoid of proper classrooms, lighting facilities, frequent power disturbance, drinking water, ill stocked libraries and under equipped laboratories.

7 Quality of Teachers- Well qualified and highly committed teachers are critical to higher education institutions. It is



disheartening to note that most of teacher of colleges in rural areas lack advanced training to cope up with the changing setup.

8 Medium of Instruction- In rural area most of the colleges are using only in regional languages. They find very difficult to study in English. This language is almost missing.

9 Cost of Education- One of the main factors of lower enrollment in rural area is the cost of education. Technical education sometimes only a dream for most of the students of rural areas where the people are mostly dependent on agriculture.

Problems Faced By Students

Over crowded classes.

Inadequate library and laboratory facilities.

English language problem.

Limited choice of selecting the course/ subject.

Lack of advanced computer facility.

Suggestions

1 Equal importance in Rural Areas – with the entry of globalization along with liberalization and privatization there is urgent need for making available policies, programs and facilities in higher education and this requires giving equal attention to rural areas. For this feedback from the rural students about the awareness and utilization of facilities from time to time is must.

2 Enhance Quality of Education – For this well qualified and skillful teachers should be appointed. Care must be taken to develop skills of teachers for improving teaching learning process, creating a conducive academic environment, improving infrastructure and enhancement of ICT, laboratory facility and enrichment of library facility.

3 Checking Dropout Ratio - The most important task is that of tackling the problem of rural dropouts. This calls for creation of a social awareness of the advantages of seeking and completing higher education and its repercussions on the future generations.

4 Establishing Career Counseling Cells – Career counseling cells must be established by the government so that students choose

technical and professional course apart from general courses. Besides, the students can select subject according to their capacity and job opportunity.

5 Adequate Fund – to build a high quality education system adequate funding must be made available by the central and state government. At the same time making higher education affordable to all specially to lower income people, disadvantageous student and backward students.

6 Checking Proper Utilization of Grants - The regulatory bodies should ensure proper use of funds on the basis of priority.

7 Improve Infrastructure Facility- Computer and internet facility, scientific laboratories, classrooms and library facilities should be improved.

Conclusion

Education is the key which alone can prove a solution to multiple issues. It should be available in all corners of the country. If we really want to self dependent society we should fill the gap between rural – urban disparities. Higher education opens the door of opportunity and prepares a solid background for ultimate growth in almost all areas. So it is a need of present age to expand higher educational institutions in the rural areas and to turn rural people dreams into reality.

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