

Higher Education in J&K – Issues Challenges and Suggestions

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Abstract—Education is the spinal column of social development by which human resource is developed. A well-educated population, equipped with pertinent knowledge, attitudes and skills is indispensable for economic and social development. Higher education is an imperative segment of education which helps the students to upsurge self-confidence, self-respect and self-dependent. The narration of the world proves that education has been the root cause for any change which takes place in the social, cultural, spiritual and economic aspects of human life. The higher education system of India is the 3rd largest in the world, after China and the United States. Jammu and Kashmir (J & K) State is considered as one of the most educationally diffident states with reference to the education indices such as literacy rate, dropout rate, teacher student ratio and the amalgamation pattern of the educated people. With the great hard work of the State Government, over the period, the education scenario improved in the State quite substantially. This research paper aims to reveal the development and current scenario of higher education in the state of Jammu and Kashmir by analyzing the various data. This paper aims to identify emerging issues and challenges in the field of Higher Education in the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J & K). Finally the paper concludes various suggestions for improvement in quality and quantity of higher education in the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J & K).

Keywords: Higher Education, Issues, challenges and suggestions.

1. Introduction:

Education is the backbone of social development and most important and powerful instrument invented by mankind to shape and mould himself in a desirable manner. A well educated people equipped with relevant knowledge, attitudes and skills are essential for economic and social development in the 21st century. The record of the world proves that education has been the root cause for any change which takes place in the social, cultural, spiritual and economic aspects of human life. Education is not only a significant social activity but is also a venture in human resources particularly higher education. Jammu and Kashmir has seen a consistently high rate of economic growth in the recent years. It has now become a main player in the global knowledge economy. India's higher education system is the 3rd largest in the world, after China and the United States. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)

State is considered as one of the most educationally backward states with allusion to the education indices such as literacy rate, dropout rate, teacher student ratio and the absorption pattern of the educated people.

2. Objectives of the study:

1. To analyze the current scenario of higher education system in J&K.
2. To identify the Emerging issues of higher education in J&K.
3. To identify the Emerging Challenges of higher education in J&K.
4. Suggestions for improving quality of higher education (J&K) and Conclusion.

3. The current scenario of higher education system in J&K:

3.1 Universities in the state of Jammu and Kashmir:

TABLE-3.1

Universities	Number
Central universities (J&K)	2
State universities (J&K)	8
NIT universities (J&K)	1
Cluster universities (J&K)	2

3.2 Government colleges in the state of Jammu and Kashmir:

TABLE-3.2

Colleges	Number
Jammu division	47
Kashmir division	46
Ladakh and Kargil	4

3.3 Private Colleges in the state of Jammu and Kashmir

TABLE-3.3

Private colleges in Jammu division	Number
B.Ed.	79
M.Ed	01
Degree Colleges Offering following courses Arts, Sciences, MBA, BBA, MCA, BCA & PGDCA	22
Law	06
Craft Management and Entrepreneurship Programme (CMEP)	NIL
Engineering College	04
TOTAL	112

TABLE -3.4

Private colleges in kashmir division	Number
B.Ed.	76
M.Ed	Nil
Degree Colleges Offering following courses Arts, Sciences, MBA, BBA, MCA, BCA & PGDCA	19
Law	04
Craft Management and Entrepreneurship Programme (CMEP)	01
Engineering College	01
TOTAL	101

3.5 50 New Degree Colleges established in the state of Jammu and Kashmir:

TABLE-3.5

Colleges	Numbers
un-served areas	30
women in places where there are no separate women colleges	10
professional colleges	08
Administrative Staff Colleges	02

4. Budget analysis 2019-2020 for higher Education in the state of Jammu and Kashmir:

- Rs 250.00 crore allocated for up gradation of infrastructure in New Degree Colleges.
- Rs 3.50 crore to prepare students for competitive exams like IAS/KAS/ JEE/NEET/Banking.
- Rs 2.00 crore earmarked to invite reputed career counselors for counseling of the students in Higher Secondary schools & Colleges.

5. Emerging Issues:

There are many basic problems faced by higher education system in the state of Jammu and Kashmir:

5.1 Lower level of teaching quality: Our education system is afflicted by issues of quality in many of its colleges and universities. Many of the issues like dearth of faculty, poor quality teaching, conventional teaching methods, outdated and rigid curriculum and pedagogy, lack of accountability and quality assurance and separation of research and teaching are raise questions on J & K state of higher education system.

5.2 Financing of higher education: One of the most important things that have to be noticed is the issue of financial constraints regarding higher education before the government. Expenditure on education in general and on higher education in particular by the government, is one of the parameters to judge the quality in education.

5.3 Traditional methods of teaching: Professors still stick to those older methods of teaching like board, marker. They don't like to make use of audio visual aids in teaching. Also they are not state-of-the-art with the information available and what global industry demands.

5.4 Inadequate facilities and infrastructure: In J & K, many of the colleges don't have adequate infrastructure or facilities to teach students. Internet and Wi-Fi facility is still out of contact of many students.

5.5 Quota system: Bringing the reservation and quota system for different categories in education lost its quality. Even deserving candidates of general categories are ignored and on quota we have to select other person from reserved category even though he is not suitable.

6. Emerging Challenges:

6.1 Our heterogeneous education system, based on geographical, rural-urban, rich-poor set up has posed in great challenge for the educational institutions. The number of colleges, universities, technical institutions have produced and different types and quality of Education. Some of them are really imparting qualitative education although a few others are doing the dirtiest job.

6.2 Economic Difficulties: Is one of the most troublesome changes that the present higher education system has imposed on the communities? The numbers of students are coming from the usual classes; many of them are unable to provide the minimum necessities of life for themselves. Economic miseries have grown due to the increasing prizes, habits of wasting money on luxuries, increasing population, scarcity of food supply, corruption, selfish etc. students hold part time jobs in order to pay for their educational expenses and should divide their attention between a job and College/University education. Near about seventy five percent of the total students community today, have been facing the financial

problems. Earn while learn scheme cannot sufficiently support student to face economic challenges.

6.3 Lack of Moral values: Rapid growth of science and technology and subsequent industrialization has caused a great and danger to our old morals and values. The younger generation's disappointment and revolt is the outcome of a decaying system of values.

6.4 Escalating of low quality, money making Institutes.- As an effect of that huge gap, people who have no reason to be in the field of education want to capitalize on the shortage of supply. It's no secret that the education commerce has long lost its noble cause and is more of a business. Politicians, realtors, businessmen/women - basically anybody who wants to mint some serious cash, start to open colleges. (Probably already own half the colleges in the state).

7. Suggestions for improving quality of higher education:

7.1 Academia and industry alignment -academia and industry alignment is necessary to ensure curriculum and skills in line with requirements. Skill developing is really very crucial to ensure employability of academia to understand and make sure good jobs (keeping in view knowledge + skills+ global professional skills = good jobs).

7.2 Incentives to supervisors and Research scholars- Incentives should be provided to supervisors and research scholars to make these professions more attractive for the younger generation.

7.3 Novel Practices- The new technologies recommend vast opportunities for progress in all walks of life. It offers opportunities for economic intensification, better health, better service delivery, better learning and socio-cultural advances. Though efforts are required to improve the state's innovative capacity, yet the efforts should be to build on the existing strengths in light of new understanding of the research innovation-growth linkage.

7.4 To drum up resources- Effective measures will have to be adopted to drum up resources for higher education. There is also a need to recount the fee structure to the student's capacity to pay for the cost. So that, students at lower economic levels can be given highly subsidized and fully subsidized education.

7.5 Student-Centered edification and Dynamic Methods- Methods of higher education also have to be appropriate to the needs of learning to learn, learning to do, learning to be and learning to become. Student-centered edification and employment of dynamic methods of education will require from teachers new attitudes and new skills. Teaching methods throughout lectures will have to subordinate to the methods that will lay stress on self-study, personal consultation between teachers and pupils, and dynamic sessions of seminars and workshops.

7.6 To endow with Need Based Job-Oriented Courses- All round development of personality is the purpose of education. But the present day education is neither imparting true knowledge of life and nor improving the talent of a student by which one can achieve laurels in the field one is interested. So, amalgamation of arts subjects and computer science and science and humanities or literature should be introduced so that such courses could be useful for the students to do jobs after recruitment in some industries which would reduce unnecessary rush to higher education.

7.7 International collaboration- With the increased development of transport and communication, the global village is witnessing a growing emphasis on international collaboration and action to find satisfactory solutions to problems that have international dimensions and higher education is one of them.

7.8 Towards a New hallucination- In this new age, great cultural achievements of the past have to be recovered and enriched in the context of the contemporary advancement so that human race can effectively meet the evolutionary and revolutionary challenges and bring about a new type of humanity and society marked by integrated powers of physical, emotional, dynamic, intellectual, ethical, aesthetic and spiritual potentialities.

7.9 Stroke Plan for improving excellence- Academic and administrative audit should be conducted once in three years in colleges by external experts for ensuring quality in all aspects of academic activities. The self-finance colleges ought to come forward for accreditation and fulfill the requirements of accreditation. Universities and colleges should realize the need for quality education and come forward with action plan for improving quality in higher educational institutions.

7.10 To increase magnitude of Universities- We need more universities because we are more in number and present number of universities is too less

7.11 Examination Reforms- Examination reforms, gradually shifting from the terminal, annual and semester examinations to regular and continuous assessment of student's performance in learning should be implemented

7.12 High-tech Libraries- Our university libraries have a very good collection of books, but they are all in mess. A library must be online and beneficial for serious study. Jammu & Kashmir universities should concentrate more on providing quality education which is comparable to that of international standards.

8. Conclusion:

In concluding words, over the period of time, growth have been take place in higher education(j & k) in terms of institutions, enrolments etc. but it is not sufficient. Economically Jammu And Kashmir State is facing various challenges regarding higher education, which need to overcome through appropriate policy formation and their

effective implementation. The department of Higher education in Jammu And Kashmir State plays many roles. It is of astonishing importance to many and reforms are often seen as significant threats to specific, social arrangements that provide benefits to powerful groups. The affairs of state is the result and most often the changes are not implemented language has been a similar issues in which government attempted to solve in difficult social and political problem through policy relating to higher education. To conclude, Higher education in Jammu And Kashmir State is an extraordinarily important part of modern Jammu and Kashmir society and it is intertwined in the political and social systems of the society. It is in need of revolutionize, advancement and imperative. In order to efficiently plan for reforms and improvement, it is necessary to have in realistic perceptions of what is possible and what is not.

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