



AN ANALYSIS OF INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN RURAL AREA

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Abstract

Education is playing very important role in the development of the rural India. It is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality of the society. But higher education has the power of transforming human beings into human resources. Therefore it has considered backbone of the society. Along with primary and secondary education, higher education is also an instrument to build future generation. India is a big country in the world as population wise. Approx. 90% population is dependent on the agriculture activities. There are more than 6, 00,000 villages in India, nearly 501 villages do not have all weather physical connectivity. So in India majority of the higher educational institutions are urban centric. Even most of the higher educational institutions in rural India are lack of quality and gross enrollment ratio is very poor. As a result of that, rural population is deprived of quality education. Therefore ensuring access to quality education for all, in particular for the poor and rural population is central to the economic and social development. The paper highlights the present status of higher education in rural area, demand and supply side problems of higher education in rural India. Along with that the paper tries to find out possible solution to demand side and supply side problem.

Key Words: Higher Education, Rural Higher Education, Demand and Supply Side Problems.

Introduction

Education is one of the major components of Human Development process. It pave the course for building human capital and foundation for knowledge of any country. In other words, it can be said that a country's growth will be largely dependent upon its human capital and knowledge base. Many prominent economists have stressed on the importance of education. For instance Robert Lucas, an American economist quotes that "Investment on education leads to production of human capital which is crucial determinant in the growth process". Likewise the growth of the country is also largely dependent upon its human capital and knowledge potential of its society. It has given special attention towards education, which has now been part and parcel of economic planning. Investing on education development signifies the economic growth of a country.

Higher educations induct skill and knowledge needed for human developments which in turn plays a crucial role in the overall economic development of a nation. The positive relationship between education and economic growth has been stressed by development economists. Education as an important tool of development is a theoretical truth and a historical fact as proved in most of the developed economies of the world. The demand for higher education as well as the supply of higher education facilities involves economic costs both for the seekers of higher education and for the providers of the education facilities. Hence, there is basically an economic consideration on both the demand and supply aspects of higher education. Education is also one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality of the society and higher education is the backbone of the society. It has the power of transforming human beings into human resources. Along with primary and secondary education, higher education is also an instrument to build future generation. In India majority of the higher educational institutions are urban centric. Even most of the higher educational institutions in rural India are lack of quality. As a result of that, rural population is deprived of quality education. Therefore ensuring access to quality education for all, in particular for the poor and rural population is central to the economic and social development.

Review of Literature

A brief review of literature focusing on Indian higher education in rural area and supply and demand side problems in rural area. N.Konawar and S.Chakraborty (2013) they highlighted the Status of higher education in rural areas of India. In this present paper an attempt has been made, to give you the differences between Gross Enrollment Ratio between rural and urban areas. The rural urban divide continues as urban GER is about three times higher (23.79) than the rural (7.51). For women it is four times higher (22.56 for urban as compared to 5.67 for rural) whereas for urban men it is about twice and half higher than the rural men (24.77 for urban and 9.28 for rural). They also find out key issue and problems that the rural population is suffering in regard to education. Along with that the paper tries to find out possible remedies to overcome these problems.

Dr.Medha Gupte (2015) she tried to trace out what types of problem facing in rural area by students. She identified lot of disparity between the rural and urban areas. In village number of colleges are situated in remote, Backward and hilly area. In addition there is almost total absence of technological higher educational institution. This study shows lot of disparity in gross enrollment ratio between rural and urban area. In rural GER is 7.51percent in urban 23.79percent. This study clearly identified the problems of rural higher education and some remedial measures. Geeta Joshi (2013) mentions that higher



education being a part of socio economic system; university plays a significant role in the thinking process of young people. India lives in villages. She wants to memorize thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi and Ravindranath Tagore gave special attention to the education of rural people. In fact many institutions were meant only for rural people but over the period of years these institutions failed to receive the sufficient support and encouragement. **B. Komow, Raghav Khanna, R.K.Sharma (2012)** – The study traces the journey of higher education in India and analyzed the condition of higher education on post independence era. This study shows the positive correlation between education and economic development and identified the wide disparity in rural – urban area. Therefore author suggest the rural expansion of higher education institutions for reducing disparity between rural – urban area. Many colleges and universities were running with Skelton staff means shortage of teachers. Therefore author suggest the proper policy booster for too many of the issues of higher education in rural area.

Objectives

1. To examine the present status of Indian higher education in rural area.
2. To study the demand and supply side problems faced in the rural area.
3. To offer policy suggestion handles those problems.

Methodology

The research paper study is based on secondary data. The data is taken from different research reports, journals, Ministry of Human Resource Development, AISHE reports, UGC websites and research papers. The data collected from during the period 2010-11 to 2015-16. The statistical tool used like percentage.

Result and Discussion

Present Status Of Higher Education In Rural Areas

We have seen higher education is the backbone of modern society as it is empowered with the building up of the future generation. The below data prove that urban-centric nature of Indian higher education in rural area. Table1 shows that there has been significant growth of universities in rural and urban area. In India, 200,232,249,274,293 and 307 universities located in rural area, 421 to 492 in urban area from 2010 to 2016.

Table 1 Growth of University

Year	Universities	
	Rural	Urban
2010-11	200	421
2011-12	232	410
2012-13	249	418
2013-14	274	489
2014-15	293	467
2015-16	307	492

Source: AISHE Reports 2010 to 2016

In table 2 shows that the growth of colleges in both rural and urban areas. The total number of colleges has increased 32,974 to 39,071 respectively in 2010 to 2016. In percentage the number of colleges has grown up from 54.3 % to 60% in rural, declined 45.7% to 40% in 2010 to 2016. Therefore all these data shows Indian higher education system changing the pattern of urban centric to rural centric.

Table: 2 Growth of colleges from 2010-2016 (in Percent)

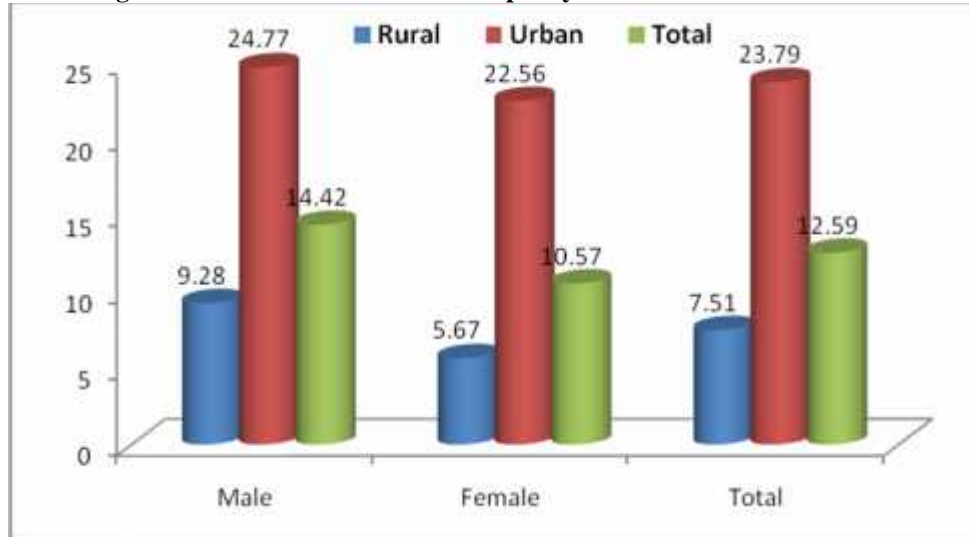
Year	Rural	Urban	Total
2010-11	54.3	45.7	100
2011-12	55	45	100
2012-13	55	45	100
2013-14	56	44	100
2014-15	58	42	100
2015-16	60	40	100

Sources: AISHE Reports



Table 3 shows that Gross Enrollment Ratio in rural and urban areas. The rural urban divide continues as urban GER is about three times higher (23.79) than the rural (7.51). For women it is four times higher (22.56 for as compared to 5.67 for rural) whereas for urban men it is about twice and half higher than the rural men, the corresponding figures being 24.77 for urban and 9.28 for rural.

Figure 3 Gross Enrollment Ratio disparity in rural and Urban



Source: UGC Websites

5.2 Supply and Demand Side Problems

Problems of higher education in rural areas may be classified from the point of view of demand and supply. Demand side represents the students and parents supply side represents the management of the college.

5.2.1 Supply Side Problems

In India, higher education passes through both the government colleges as well as the private colleges. In private colleges some colleges are aided and some are unaided, in case of aided colleges private management receives the monetary assistance from the state government and in case of the unaided colleges, the private management has to bear the entire financial responsibility of running the college. These are

1. All the rural colleges facing the problem of financial constraint, Because of less student enrollment in colleges. Therefore private colleges have raised the tuition and other fees to generate their own funds.
2. Most of the colleges in rural area don't have quality teacher to teach students. Quality of teaching depends upon quality of teachers. Always quality teacher prefer better colleges in the sense of better input, standard pupil teacher ratio, better facilities etc. and due to which the rural institutes has to suffer.
3. All the rural colleges lack the basic infrastructure. Due to policy of the government to reduce the aid on higher education, the government has reduced the aid.
4. Most of the colleges, which are established at the rural areas, belong to social science and commerce streams. The lack of job – oriented courses in rural colleges.
5. The problem of language is most important one because higher education is imparted in rural areas, in the vernacular language.
6. The most important problem is that of Dropouts. The dropout's rate refers to the percentage of students failing to complete a particular school, college or university.
7. Misuse of Grants, UGC provides financial assistance to the universities and colleges for various developmental activities. In rural area local bodies are not so strong, are not so conscious about the proper use of financial assistance, administrative bodies takes the advantage of it.
8. Lesser research activities. Some study seen that not more than 20% of all students enrolled in a doctoral research programme complete their work and almost 80% dropouts. A lack of motivation amongst university faculty to conduct research also stem from unavailability of good research students and a lack of professional incentive for research.
9. Poor Input. Higher education is concern with quality education with quality output, the biggest challenge for these institutes where minimum cut off mark is not applicable at the time of admission.



5.2.2 Demand side problems

Following are the problems, which are visualized from the demand side or point of view students and parents.

1. **Lack of adequate quality institution.** In the village a number of colleges are situated in remote, backward and hilly areas. In addition there is almost total absence of technical higher educational institution.
2. **High cost of education.** The problem is worse in case of technical education where it is only dream for the rural people mainly depend on agriculture. Even they cannot afford ordinary education.
3. **Absence of equity education.** There is large variation among the various categories of population based on rural or urban, rich or poor. On one hand GER stands low for the overall population.
4. Most of the **villages far away from the colleges**, the students in rural area are required to travel quite a distance to enroll in colleges
5. **Language problem** is a massive one.
6. **Opportunity cost.** Student age between 18-25 is the most productive age and youth spends his time in getting the higher education, his loss of earnings is a heavy burden on the parents.
7. **People belonging to remote rural areas have too little incomes**, which at times is too less to sustain a family of maybe four or five. Most likely, children from these families won't be sent to schools, instead would be asked to assist the earning member of the family to add up some extra income. On the other hand, teachers in rural educational centers in villages are paid poorly, often leading to lack of attention by teachers, ultimately forcing the students to suffer.
8. **Lack of proper infrastructure** at these rural schools is also a big concern. Most of the schools don't have proper classrooms, teaching equipment, playgrounds and even basic facilities like clean toilets. Thus, the poor condition of schools is big reasons to drive away students.

5.3 Remedial Measures

With the entry of LPG there is urgent need for making available various policies, programs and facilities in higher education. And this requires giving equal attention to the rural area.

1. There is a need to establish more and more higher education institutes or universities in rural area.
2. The Government and different organization like NGO should come forward to create awareness and to bring attitudinal changes in parents and community towards higher education.
3. Central and state government should make expenditure on higher educational institution to build a high quality education system
4. Educational institutions should arrange Parents Teachers meet where discussing like on academics, gender related issues, value conflicts, and latest developments should take place.
5. UGC should focus more on research based support to universities and colleges, which have located in the rural area.
6. Government should give the equal importance to both rural and urban higher education institution.
7. Government should establish special career counseling cells to students enroll themselves in other technical and professional courses.
8. In rural, administrative bodies must proper utilization of grants provided by state and central government.

Conclusion

The present status of higher education in rural area is slow establishment of colleges and universities, low enrollment, poor completion rates and high drop out. According to 2011 census, in rural area population is 68.84%, in urban area 31.16% it means majority of population is lives in rural area. It seems the higher education system has been highly rural centric. Therefore government should give special efforts have to made to address this problem.

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