Envision Towards Academic Quality and Excellence in Indian Higher Education

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Abstract

India has the third largest educational system in the world after the United States of America and China. Higher education in India has been playing a pivotal role not only for the social and political development but also economic development of the country. Higher educational institutions help in creating and disseminating information based society in the 21^{st} century. The government of India has given much importance for higher education during XI Plan by allocating about nine fold increase in its budget to the tune of Rs 46449 crores as against Rs 4,700 crores for X Plan. The major concerns of Indian higher education especially during the XI plan are access and expansion, equity and inclusion, quality and excellence, relevant education and quality research.

Indian higher education system has lagged behind on pretty much every parameter of quality. The Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) World University Ranking 2011-12, does not feature a single Indian university in its list of top 200 universities. This reflects the ugly truth that quality & excellence is not a priority at institutional or policy level.

The main objective of the research paper is to explore and examine the major concerns of academic quality and excellence in the institutions of higher learning and to recommend the ways to infuse quality and excellence through five focused solutions which should be intertwined in the process to form a web in order to provide academic quality and excellence in higher education.

Key Words: Indian higher education, academic quality, excellence, intertwined and web.

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