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## Status of Higher Education in Jammu and Kashmir

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### Abstract

*Humans have many needs; education is one of the primary needs for every individual to grow up. Investment in education pays in the long run and raises the wellbeing of the individual and can make him the real human being. Nations growth is not possible without the educated youth. The main contributor to the nation's prosperity is only education nothing else. Education is a main component for innovation, growth and development. India is the youngest nation in the world as it has more youngsters in the age group of 15-35 and has more college going students. India has shown a nice progress in the education system since independence by implementing various initiatives towards the education system. India has introduced many institutions of national importance like NIT's, IIT's, IIM's from whom best brains get emerge. No doubt education enrolment is ever increasing in colleges and universities but we are not getting the profitable and deserved productive persons for the productive society and don't have quality education when compared to other developed nations. This paper will emphasize on the problems of Higher Education in Jammu and Kashmir one of the states of India which has a great potential to develop from education point of view and will recommend some of the changes in the system for the further improvement.*

**Key words:** Education, Problems, Importance, Government, Quality, Changes, Participation.

### Introduction

Well-developed education system is the backbone for any nation to reach the sky. Countries across the world have developed their economies to the great extent due to highly educated professionals. India is a country where education system is not too well and lacks a lot in terms of quality, being the third largest in the world after USA and China but has the capability of surpassing these countries. (NASSCOM report) says that only 25% of technical graduates and 15% of other graduates are considered employable by ITI's, IT'S industry and one more survey was conducted among 800 MBA students out of which only 23% of them were considered employable which reflects the present condition of education system. But highly developed nations have always tried to utilise the human resources knowledge, skill and abilities in the best manner which have resulted in good. In every sector we need human resource that must be skilled whether it is government sector or private sector. Human resource is a worthy asset who could lead the nation towards the heights, without it is not possible to think of the development. When we say that particular country is a developed country, we talk of the people of that country who are actually developed who make the country prosperous. The people of the country could develop only when they are educated I.e. have obtained the quality education from their teachers who in turn should be highly professionalised and utilise the same knowledge in the best way for the benefit of the society of which is considered as a productive citizen. "Education is a right that transforms lives when it is accessible to all relevant and underpinned by core shared values," (said UNESCO director general **Irina Bokova**). Higher Education is a "path to scientific and economic progress" (Parray, 2015). Undertaking quality research holds the key for any university or college to progress and flourish. It is important for us to make ourselves aware whether we are offering the good quality education, have qualified professionals, have infrastructural facilities, have a suitable atmosphere which are the main parameters of the education system to make it effective one. This paper will focus on the problems of higher education system in Jammu and Kashmir one of the favourite destinations.

India has many states, one among them is the beautiful, charming, and fantastic, and belle state i.e. Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir is a state which is famous for its charm, scenery, suitable atmosphere, good

climate, beautiful people, beautiful gardens, surrounded mountains. Education system in Jammu and Kashmir is not well established and has become total failure on the part of authorities, teachers, students and society. As we know education is tri-polar process (**John Dewey**) in which all elements are equally important for its smooth running, progress and development. There are around 97 government Degree Colleges in Jammu and Kashmiri (**JK HED**). As per census 2011 the total population of Jammu and Kashmir is 12,541,302 of which male are 6,640,662 and female are 5,900,640 respectively. The literacy rate of the state is 67.16% which is higher than census 2001 which was 55.52% and which shows that male literacy rate is higher than female which is as 76.75% male, and 56.43 female (**census 2011**). When compared to other states of the country it like Kerala it is lacking too behind. Being the progress in the literacy rate, the education system has become totally failure when we look at the current position of the system. We are not progressing at a pace when compared with other countries. Faulty education system has put the whole state in darkness and threatens the long term competitiveness of economy. We are not getting the intellectuals form the higher education as there are many problems associated with it, which will be discussed in this paper one by one. Before we discuss the problems, we will have a look at some common myths of the higher education and quality parameters.

#### Some common Myths about Higher Education System

- ) More money means better schools
- ) Schools don't matter
- ) Teachers work less, get paid more
- ) Social problems lead education doomed to fail
- ) Tuition fees have to be paid in advance before you start degree.
- ) There are no grants any more
- ) Higher education courses last for 3 years
- ) Government colleges are worthless
- ) Competency based education is just fad and not for every one
- ) CBE is about skills not abstract knowledge
- ) Only professional, and practical courses help you to get job
- ) Colleges have become business places
- ) Graduate students become the debtors
- ) Private colleges are costly
- ) Excellent teachers are always good
- ) Students are not what they used to be
- ) Retention rate is not a big deal
- ) Students should pursue career that pays well
- ) Teachers are solely responsible for learning
- ) Only fewer and rich students get enrolled in private colleges
- ) College degrees are no longer wise investment
- ) Many universities employ students in part-time jobs while they are studying
- ) Teaching, experience don't matter

#### Quality Parameters of Higher Education

- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ Facilities
- ✓ Incentives
- ✓ Seminars
- ✓ Motivation
- ✓ Self- assessment
- ✓ Rewards

- ✓ Research and consultancy
- ✓ Innovative practices
- ✓ Leadership and governance
- ✓ Learning resources, curricular aspects, teaching learning evaluation etc.

### Problems:

Currently we are facing a lot of problems in the education system of Jammu and Kashmir which have spoiled the future career of the people and have put the state in darkness which needs to be addressed. Some of the main problems are discussed below in this paper:

- 1. Faulty recruitment system:** Current recruitment system followed by the government of J&K and the university is based on the favouritism. Only those candidates are being posted as professors who are their relatives, friends, cousins etc. which has put the career of the intellectuals at the brink. This reflects that the corruption level in the state is at its peak. Even the reforms regarding the recruitment rules are not being implemented due to negligence, ignorance of the authorities.
- 2. Political disturbance:** Because of the political disturbances the colleges and universities remain shutting for the most of time which has put the career of the students at the brink, as they are the futures of the nation. They stay at home due to strikes/hartals for the most of time.
- 3. Admission rules in colleges and universities:** The admission rules followed by the colleges and universities in the J&K are not based on the merit and as per prescribed rules. In Kashmir universities and technical colleges those students get admission who doesn't even qualify the entrance exams in the hands of whom our future lays. In technical colleges those who score even 10 marks out 160 are being admitted in the engineering colleges which reflect the present education system in the valley. Even in university exams we see the same position. Not only this, admission in some colleges and universities is based on the favouritism.
- 4. Research:** The teachers in the colleges don't possess research degrees like MPhil, PhD which is the core requirement for any teacher. And also in the colleges PhD is not being offered like in the other states of India which could have kept the professors busy in the research and an opportunity for the students to pursue research.
- 5. No computer labs:** Hardly we see the computer labs in the colleges and universities, if available but not well developed. Information technology has brought the revolution across the world, so students should get benefit from this facility. There are the graduates who don't even know how to start the computers in the J&K. Students should be well equipped with the latest technology.
- 6. Vacant seats of teachers:** There are many colleges and universities in the state where we have shortage of teachers due to which students suffer. Every day we come to know through media that students of some particular college are on strike as they don't have teachers available there.
- 7. Costly:** Colleges and Universities have become the business place where admission fee and examination fee is charged more when compared to other universities. If we compare the current examination fee between IGNOU and Kashmir University it is too high in Kashmir University. Because of this the poor people don't prefer the colleges and universities; their future has been put on brink. Even they have dream of becoming, doctors, engineers and other officers. We should keep in mind their future and dreams. When poor people fail to go college, their chances of earning decreases.
- 8. SWOC analysis:** Some universities and colleges in the J&K don't have even the concept of SWOC. When we talk about the NAAC accreditation, the core parameter for any accreditation is SWOC. Universities and colleges in the state have never done SWOC analysis in their respective institutes with the help of a college, university can come know whether they encounter any problem in regard to education which they can come out.
- 9. NAAC accreditation:** Majority of the colleges in the state are not NAAC accredited. When as per UGC norms all the colleges should be NAAC accredited so that they can eradicate the problems if any they have in their institutes. NAAC accreditation also facilitates the grants to universities and colleges if they are up to mark. It also facilitates the quality parameters required for institutes to maintain.

- 10. Administration:** Current administration that are the running the colleges are totally failure. If we take the examples of the principles that are considered as the head of the colleges, as most of them are not having management and administrative knowledge. They are like stubborn. They are not permitting the modern changes in the education system. They are following old methods for the running the education. And also the most principles in in the colleges don't possess research degrees and have been promoted as principles on seniority basis rather than merit basis.
- 11. Examination system:** Current examination system is pathetic as exams are never getting conducted on time due to political disturbances and many other reasons. University is conducting exams from last few years without knowing whether syllabus has been covered or not, students are ready to face exams or not. There is no particular session when exams can be conducted smoothly. Often exam papers get postponed which has become the routine and every year exam pattern gets changed, which results in inconsistency.
- 12. Motivation:** There is a lack of motivation on the part of students regarding studies. Students think colleges are the market place where buying and selling of products takes place rather than knowledge. They are of opinion that it is a place like gardens, parks where they come enjoy, eat and leave. Most of the time which students spend in colleges is often misutilised and wasted by keeping themselves busy with mobile phones in chatting. Students never visit library where they can benefit. Not only this around 50% of students doesn't go to colleges and 50% of teachers are not conducting classes interestingly.
- 13. Drop out ratio:** Drop out ratio in the colleges in the state is increasing. When the students will earn a degree then only they can start earning. With each degree earned the average earnings increase .
- 14. Lack of guidance:** In the colleges of J& k, students opt for the courses without proper guidance, then in between left the course and change the streams which waste their valuable time. They are not able to gain the exact knowledge that could change their life. They also lack the consistency.
- 15. Funds Utilisation:** No matter how much government is spending on the education system, but what matters is the proper utilisation of funds. If the funds are not being utilised judiciously, you cannot reap the benefits in the long run. Further some of the colleges get low funds; some get more which leads to inequality.

### Changes required:

Since the decades India is trying to progress from all spheres but still progressing at low rate when compared to other countries. If a country wants to walk hand in hand with the rest of the world, various changes should be brought in the education system. As we know everyone has dreamlike, when I grow up I want to be a doctor, engineer, pilot etc. Following changes should be brought in the current education system so that society could be benefited at a large from the education system.

1. Mugging up should be avoided
2. Know your subject
3. Different combination of subjects should be available
4. Colleges should be learner- centred
5. NAAC accreditation should be done for all institutes and who don't should be penalised
6. UGC norms should be followed to make education system effective
7. Greater autonomy should be given but in restrictive manner
8. Do away with favouritism
9. Infrastructure facilities should be made available.
10. Research should be made mandatory
11. Politics must be kept away from the education system
12. Pragmatists ideologies should be followed in education system
13. Higher authorities in colleges should possess managerial, and leadership skills
14. Equal opportunities of education to each and every person
15. Free and easy access to all irrespective of caste
16. Politics should not be brought in the education system
17. All the agencies associated with the system should be made realise the importance of education progress.
18. Research must be the main focus of the higher education

19. Proper counselling to the students should be given and colleges should make affiliations with the private companies
20. Real entrepreneurs should get emerge from the universities and colleges for which higher education should made whole hearted efforts.
21. Proper utilisation of Funds should be done.
22. Inequality should be reduced.

### Conclusion

As we know how important the education is for nay nation, so should develop the system in such a way which can make it the prosperous nation. Education is the only investment which pays high and rich dividends. To make it the profitable one all the agencies involved in this system should have proper authority, responsibility and accountability and should cooperate with each other to make it effective and efficient one. Teachers should be in a position to make the students productive persons rather than vulgar by becoming the proper mentor for them. Students should also be made realise the importance of education so that they can lead society towards prosperity. All the agencies associated with education system should get adhere to the quality parameters. We could witness large gains if we chose the right path and be ethical.

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