

## **Indian Higher Education Struggling To Breath Freely: Where is The remedy?**

Dr. Vivek Nath Tripathi School of Education , Bab Shaeb Bhimrao Ambedkar University ,  
(A Central University )Lucknow Email. [viveknathtripathi@gmail.com](mailto:viveknathtripathi@gmail.com) Mob 941805412

In context of imparting a qualitative higher education, the Indian institutions fail to achieve any dignified status in the world. And the basic reason which lies behind this blunt truth is that our Higher Education System is still struggling to breathe independently in an open air atmosphere. Its existence is being captured by its own mentors; it is being attacked very freely and willingly in terms of human well as financial resources. And more importantly the thing which is dragging behind our Higher Education System is the lack of positive and progressive thinking of the persons associated to it either directly or indirectly .

Education is the future foundation of any nation. One of the most sensitive among the pillars of development and prosperity. But how much sensitive is our government towards this issue? This could be just figured out when we look back few months / year ago into the HRD ministry events of placement and replacement of the ministers in which the qualifications and degrees of the person in the supreme in charge is being scanned under a question mark continuously. The entire drama shows the highest level of insensitivity towards the education of the country which is the most sensitive pillar for the progress of a nation. Education is the most valuable asset of a nation. It frames the young mind to promote the development of the country. And beside the other factors responsible for a nation to flourish full fledge, the higher education system plays a major role in growth and development of the country. And in no case its contributions to the society can be minimised.

Now herecomes the giant question who is going to rescue our higher education system from the clutches of all evils,whetherpolitical evils or non political evils . Further moving forward on the role and the extent of interference of the governing authority into the functioning of the institutions, I am just briefly focussing on the recent notification of the UGC in which it has invited the list of quality journals from all the universities and colleges for the purpose of approval of the journals, which are to be counted in API score for the promotion as well as appointment of the faculty. But see the irony in this list of the recommended journals , UGC has not indexed many reputed and honoured journals published by NCERT, ICSSR, NEEPA and many other bodies created by parliament. It has ignored the fact that there this is a separate agency which provides ISSNbased on certain parameters. UGCshould not interfere in the standardization of the journals and parameters. And then, after a week of this notification, **UGC again notified on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017, requesting the institutions to send the list of those journals subject wise , which are not included in the list of journals already notified by UGC, duly recommended by the subject expert committees. After a year Gap exiting list of journal approved by UGC again replaced by UGC cairelist of Journals asnotified on 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 2019 .This is in no way a dignified** behaviour of an apex body which is given the authority to nourish the mediate step should be taken to embolden and empower our higher education to make it more competent, progressive and standardized. Well,

And other side if we look the proposed new education policy the well written document highlighted the problems of education along with solutions but from past six years the educationist as well as common man is waiting eagerly for new education policy to be implemented practically and the real scenario. a ray of hope is seen through the window of last year budget when our hon'ble finance minister looked committed through his words

as he said, “ It is our commitment to empower higher education institutions to help them become world class teaching and research institutions. An enabling regulatory architecture will be provided to ten public and ten private institutions to emerge as world class teaching and research Institutions . This will enhance affordable access to high quality education for ordinary Indians , A detailed scheme will be formulated. We have decided to set up a Higher Education Financing Agency (HEPA) with an initial capital base of 1000 crores. These funds will be used to finance improvements in infrastructure in our top institutions and will be serviced through internal accruals .”

Besides this budgetary note, there lies a practical problem that the grant issued by the government in for one session is not completely utilised by the institutions and hence either brought forward to the next successive session or returned back to UG. This problem needs to be immediately checked. and this can be done by establishing an agency like election commission towards which all the other higher education institutions should be made liable and answerable for the utilization of the granted resources . Not only this, every individual from higher to lower level engaged in higher education should be directly answerable to that commission. Further, this commission should not be under the influence of any political agency or party or government . It should be given complete autonomy but with definite guidelines. It should be a very well defined autonomous agency with well defined reasonable powers. Also the persons given the responsibilities to serve this commission should be honest, sincere and truthful. They should be beyond the influences of any kind of personal interest , selfishness and politics . The government should appoint the officials having deep insight into the country’s higher education . Because most of the problems are the outcome of our approach and thoughts. So it is important to bring people with positive and progressive approach beyond any kind of influences.

Presently our higher education needs to be freed from the clutches of political and selfish motives. It needs to be freed from all the evils so that it may contribute to its highest limit in the prosperity and progress of the nation . It's an applaudable step by the government on its part that it is showing commitment towards the higher education system of the country through the current budget announcement. And last but not the least, if all the above mentioned steps and suggestions are framed out and implemented appropriately, there shall be no doubt that the face of our higher education system would definitely change and shall become more and more bright and hence brightening the future of our nation .

**References:**

1. Union Budget 2017-2018 by the government of India –
  2. Notification by University Grant Commission, on dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
[www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in)
  3. Notification by University Grant Commission, on dated 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 2019 [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in)
-