

Issues and Opportunities in Higher Education System in India

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ABSTRACT

Improvement of higher education system is required for the development and progress of any nation. The Indian higher education system is flawed due to several issues such as varying quality of teaching, rising cost of education, quota system, political influence etc. However there are emerging opportunities such as scope for research and innovation, benefits due to the collaborations at national and international level, better job opportunities etc. In order to tap the opportunities effectively and address the issues efficiently, there is a need for a proactive, collaborative and holistic approach in higher education system in India. The current research paper has been prepared on the basis of both primary as well as secondary sources of data. The primary data was collected from a sample of 75 respondents on the basis of a selective list of issues and opportunities of the higher education system in India. Information was collected from the secondary sources such as research papers, reports, newspapers, surveys and websites.

Keywords: Higher Education System in India, Issues, Opportunities

1. INTRODUCTION

The higher education system in India is one of the largest in the world with 51,649 institutions. The enrolments have also increased considerably. In India, the Department of Higher Education, MHRD, is responsible for the overall development of the basic infrastructure of Higher Education sector, both in terms of policy and planning. Under a planned development process, the Department looks after expansion of access and qualitative improvement in the Higher Education, through world class Universities, colleges and other institutions. As per the findings of All India Survey on Higher Education 2018-19, conducted by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of India, the total enrolment in higher education has been estimated to be 37.4 million with 19.2 million male and 18.2 million female. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education in India is 26.3%, which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group. In a panel discussion by the US-based think tank The Brookings Institution on reviving higher education in India, experts felt that a disruption is required in the sector. Majority of the higher education institutions (HEIs) in India fall under the affiliating university model where the supervisory authority for most colleges is the university or a government authority. They often lack the capacity to effectively regulate their colleges and hold them accountable. Even though there are autonomous institutes, their number is very less (only 2.1%) of the total number of HEIs in the country.

For the improvement in higher education system in India, there is a need for a robust, accreditation system which will take into account the persistent issues and emerging opportunities. In the words of the learned scientist and inventor Benjamin Franklin, 'an investment in knowledge pays the best interest'. In a socio-economic development of any country the human capital plays a very significant role. Therefore there is a need of investing time, money and energy to have a proactive, collaborative and holistic approach in higher education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To understand issues and opportunities in higher education system in India
- To recommend measures for addressing the issues and tapping opportunities

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Ahmad Sheikh, Younis (2017) observes that there are opportunities for India to collaborate at national and international levels on areas of systemic reforms including quality assurance, international credit recognition and unified national qualifications framework. Equality of educational opportunity in higher education is considered essential because higher education is a powerful tool for reducing or eliminating income and wealth disparities.

Kakkar, Kareena & Dash, Manoj. (2011) conclude that education for all cannot be achieved without quality and hence value. Any policy aimed at pushing enrolments towards 100% must also assure decent learning conditions and opportunities. The massive expansion of educational opportunities will translate into tremendous opportunities for all sections of the society including women, children, rural communities, urban slums, tribal groups and other economically and socially disadvantaged communities and help India move towards a more equitable society.

According to **Matliwala, Kirti. (2016)**, education is a very important factor for the development of a country. To develop India as a digital nation or to become a prosperous partner in global development, India has to strengthen higher education in research and development. We should encourage universities to become cradles of higher learning and research, contributing generation of high skill global human resource force. To develop India as a digital nation or to become a prosperous partner in global development, India has to strengthen higher education with research and development.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data Collection - The present research is a descriptive research based on

Primary Data

- Method of collection: Survey method by using a structured questionnaire
- Scale: Likert scale was used to measure opinions.
- Sample size: 75

Secondary data: Collected from various research papers, reports, newspapers, surveys and websites.

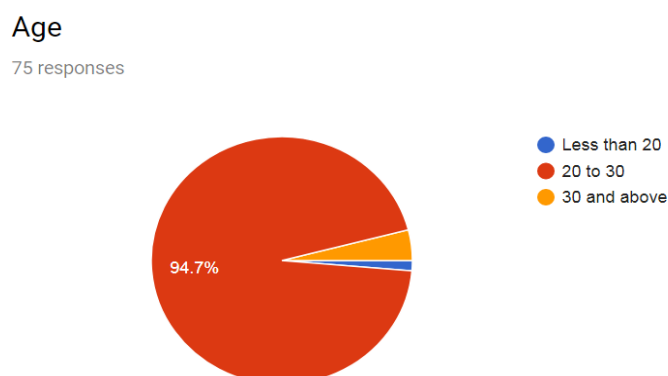
3.2 Limitations of the study

The study mainly covers the issues and opportunities of Higher Education System in India.

4. IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE OF THE STUDY: The present study will help academicians, researchers, corporate sector, policy makers and citizens in understanding issues and opportunities in the higher education in India.

5. ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY DATA -

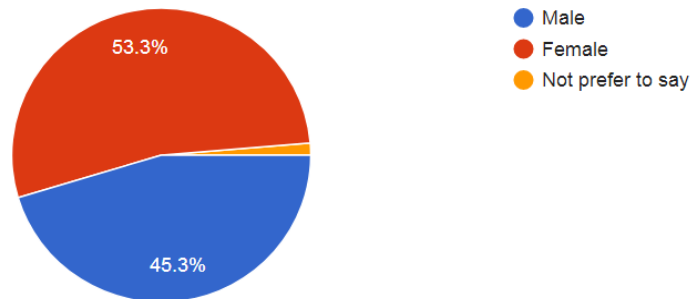
Profile of Respondents



Finding: Majority of the respondents are from the age group 20-30.

Gender

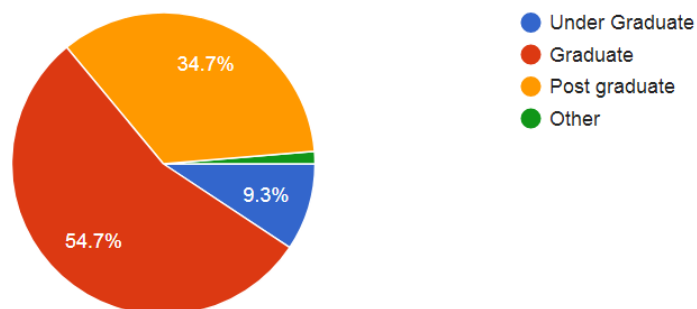
75 responses



Finding: Majority of the respondents are female.

Education

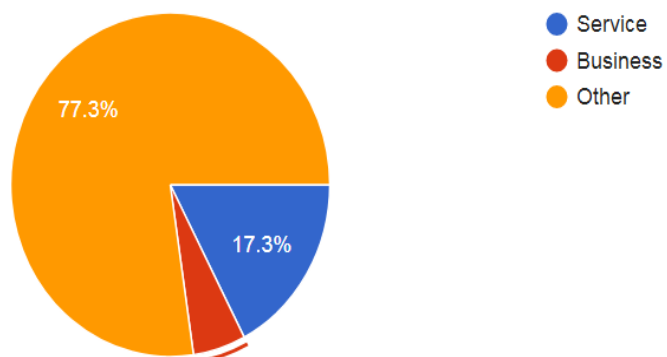
75 responses



Finding: Majority of the respondents are graduates.

Occupation

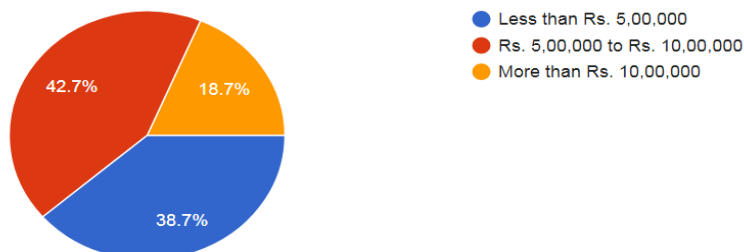
75 responses



Finding: Majority of the respondents have occupation other than service and business.

Annual Family Income

75 responses

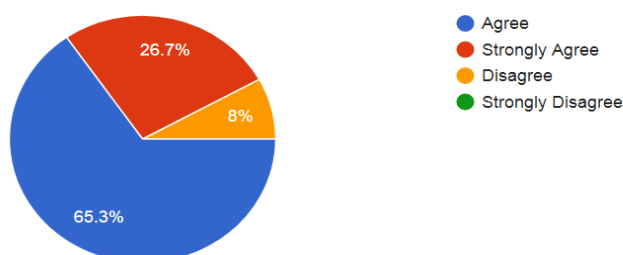


Finding: Majority of the respondents have annual family income in the range of Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh.

6. ISSUES

The higher education system in India is facing some issues.

75 responses



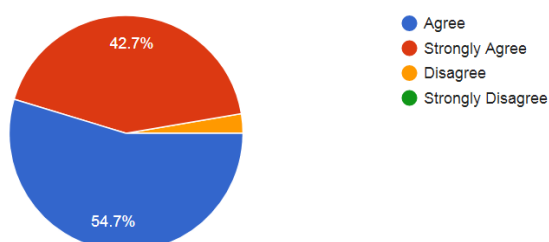
Finding: Majority of the respondent agree that the higher education system in India is facing some issues.

The respondents were asked to give their opinion on the basis of the following issues in the higher education system in India:

- Varying Quality of Teaching
- Rising Cost of Education
- Quota System
- Political Influence

Varying quality of teaching is an important issue in higher education.

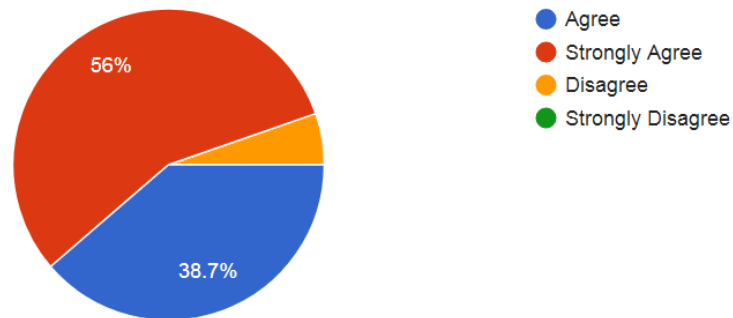
75 responses



Finding: Majority of the respondents agree that varying quality of teaching is an important issue in higher education.

Rising cost of education is an important issue in higher education.

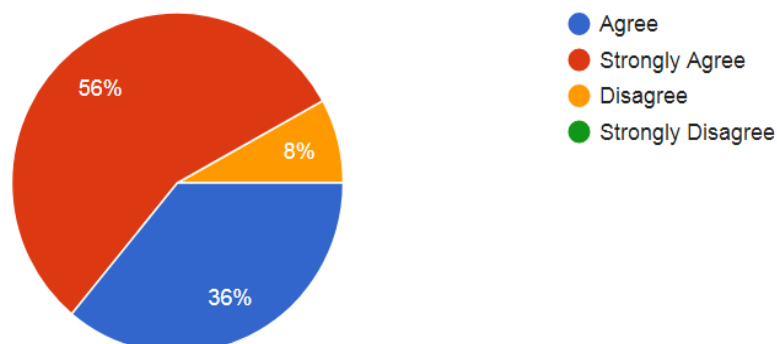
75 responses



Finding: Majority of the respondents strongly agree that rising cost of higher education is an important issue in higher education.

Quota System is an important issue in higher education.

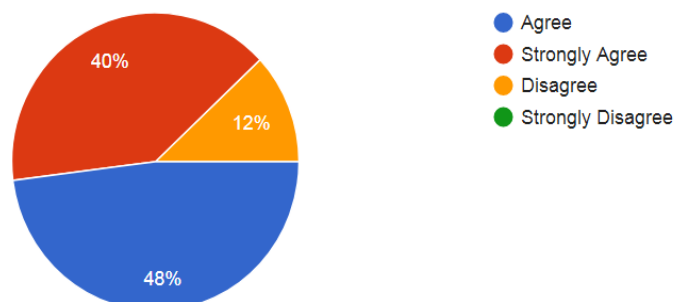
75 responses



Finding: Majority of the respondents strongly agree that quota system is an important issue in higher education.

Political influence is an important issue in higher education.

75 responses

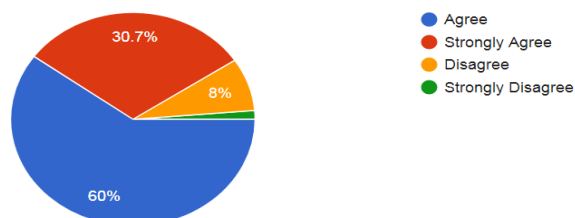


Finding: Majority of the respondents agree that political influence is an important issue in higher education.

7. OPPORTUNITIES

Higher education system in India will create several opportunities for students.

75 responses



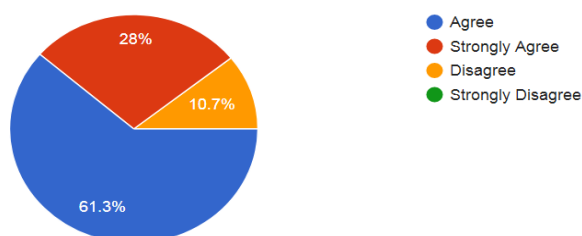
Finding: Majority of the respondents agree that higher education in India will create several opportunities for students.

The respondents were asked to give their opinion on the basis of the following opportunities of the higher education system in India:

- Scope for Research and Innovation
- Benefits due to the collaborations at national and international level
- Better job opportunities

Scope for research and innovation are important opportunities provided by the higher education system in India to the students.

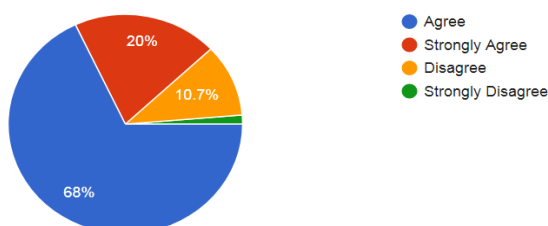
75 responses



Finding: Majority of the respondents agree that scope for research and innovation is an important opportunity provided by the higher education system in India.

Higher education in India is providing benefits to the students due to the collaborations at national and international levels.

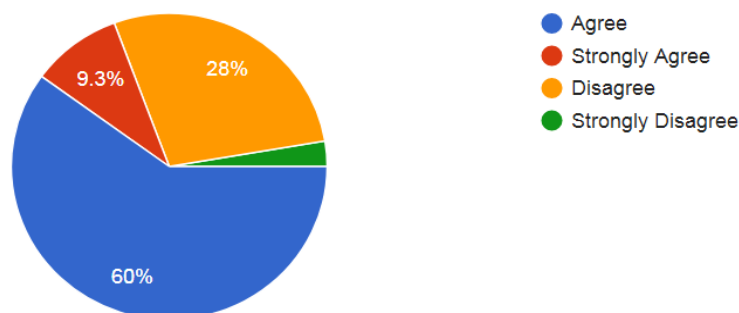
75 responses



Finding: Majority of the respondents agree that higher education system in India is providing benefits to the students due to the collaborations at national and international levels.

Higher education in India is providing better job opportunities to the students.

75 responses

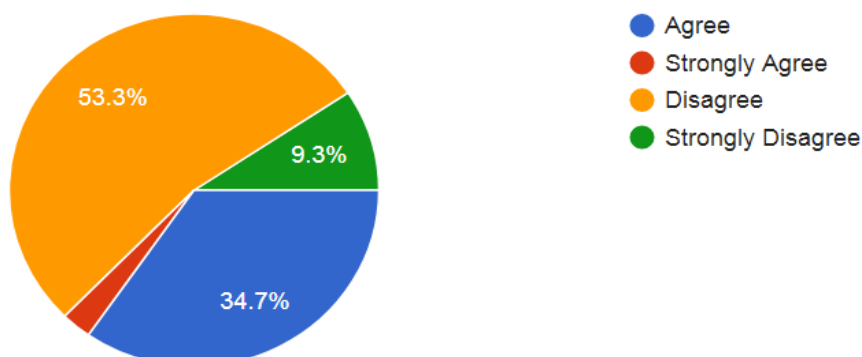


Finding: Majority of the respondents agree that higher education system in India is providing better job opportunities to the students.

8. SUGGESTIONS

The higher Education System in India is giving results as expected

75 responses



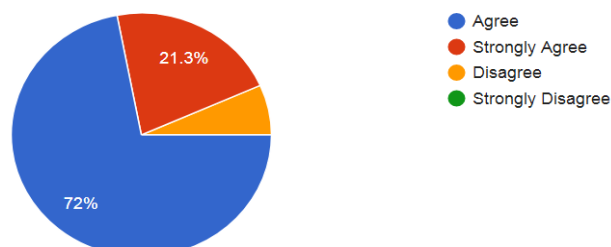
Finding: Majority of the respondents disagree that the higher education system in India is giving results as expected.

Hence there is a need for a proactive, collaborative and holistic approach in higher education system in India. The higher education system as a catalyst should proactively absorb the changes which are happening in the economy as well as in the society. For better and balanced results, there should be a collaborative approach between the academia, industry and society so that the inputs will reach the higher education domain in real time. The awareness about current economic and social scenario is important for building resilience and competency to face the competition effectively. The study of issues and opportunities should be carried out on a continuous basis to make the ranking mechanism strong. A holistic approach encompassing all the inherent factors is a need of an hour.

The respondents were asked about the need for a proactive, collaborative and approach in the higher education system in India.

With a proactive, collaborative and holistic approach in higher education, the opportunities can be tapped effectively and issues can be addressed efficiently.

75 responses



Finding: Majority of the respondent agree that with a proactive, collaborative and holistic approach in higher education, the opportunities can be tapped effectively and issues can be addressed efficiently.

9. CONCLUSION

Improvement of higher education system is required for the development and progress of any nation. The Indian higher education system is flawed due to several issues such as varying quality of teaching, rising cost of education, quota system, political influence etc. However there are emerging opportunities such as scope for research and innovation, benefits due to the collaborations at national and international level, better job opportunities etc. In order to tap the opportunities effectively and address the issues efficiently, there is a need for a proactive, collaborative and holistic approach in higher education system in India.

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