

## Mentoring youth mindset- The role of higher education in promotion of a healthy youth Society- shifting paradigms

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**Abstract:** This paper addresses the issues relating to youth through Indian higher education sector. India is a youthful country with increasing youth population. Higher education sector can play a pivotal role in mentoring youth towards building a healthy society. It is seen that youth who can be an invaluable asset to a nation, are immersed in anti social activities, or becoming prey to unhealthy habits are deviating from the national mainstream. The higher education sector can play an accommodating role in modeling the career prospects of the millions of youth. Higher education sector can become a mentor in mentoring the mindset of youth & model them to play a main role in national development. The Youth who are in the grip of deviating political ideologies are succumbing to evil thoughts & antic societal forces are grabbing these youth towards creating a generation of ailing social minds. Hence there is a need to reiterate the policies & priorities of the Higher education sector towards creation of a healthy youth society.

**Key words:** Indian youth, higher education sector, sustainable future, shifting paradigms

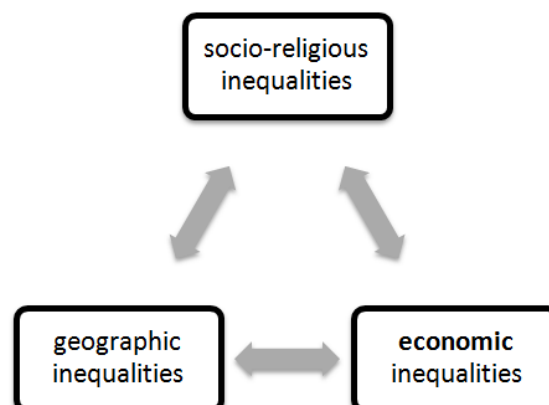
### I. Introduction:

India is youthful country with 65% of its population are in the working group. It is stated that every third person is a youth in India. India is experiencing a fast & dynamic transformation in the social sphere as the demographic dividend is causing the issues relating to career making prospects, employability & engaging youth in life needed skills, Indian higher education scenario is expanding as is evidenced with the increasing general enrollment ratio (GER).

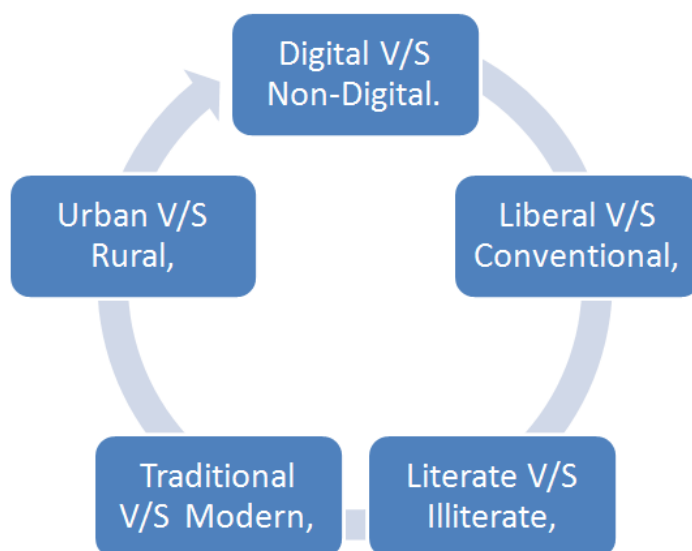
Indian higher education sector is suffering from

1.	Deprivation of minorities to equal access to higher education etc.
2.	Lack of employability creation opportunities
3.	Lack of entrepreneurial orientation through higher education
4.	Lack of funding to higher educational research & development ,
5.	Lack of infrastructure facilities ,
6.	Poor matching to global higher educational standards
7.	Rural urban divide
8.	Rural urban academic segregation

The higher education scene in India is under great pressure to streamline its educational curriculum to suit the global demands. There is a need to restructure educational progression as the Higher education needs to cater to their learning abilities & after graduation demands. As this chart reflects there are several impediments to creation of higher education for sustainable future in India



Besides there are social & spatial inequalities which are emerging with several influences in behavioral standards of the youth as evidenced in the National Crime report of 2014-2015 there is increasing tendency among youth towards involvement in misdeed & crime related activities. Today Indian youth is divided as



There are impediments to their access to higher education & these are impediments to the sustainable future. The mindset of the rural youth differs greatly from his other counterpart as the mindset of the illiterate , rural youth conflicts seriously from his other counterpart.

**Key Indicators** - Indian youth are pursuing higher education thanks to government moves to attract youth towards higher education through wide application of the theory of expansion of HEIs to semi urban & rural areas.

universities	700
colleges	48,000 +
NAAC accredited Colleges	20%
Employability in HE sector	33-53%
private sector run HEIs	64 %
central universities	42
state universities	275
deemed universities	130
private universities	90
exclusive women colleges	1800
HEIs of national importance	65

This chart shows the Indian higher educational institutions division as follows .

1	Central Universities	42
2	State Universities	275
3	Deemed Universities	130
4	Private Universities	90

**Source :- UGC website 2015**

There is an expansion of college going students since 2000-2001 .Universities & colleges have also enormously increased across India. India already has 700 universities and 48,000-plus colleges and institutes across the country .The Gross enrollment ratio ( GER) has expanded in the HEIs which is a very good sign as the same time there are increase in population seeking higher education.

Year	% increase
1983	6%
2014	19%
2016	22%
2020* (Prospective)	30%

**Youth mind set is disturbed by the**

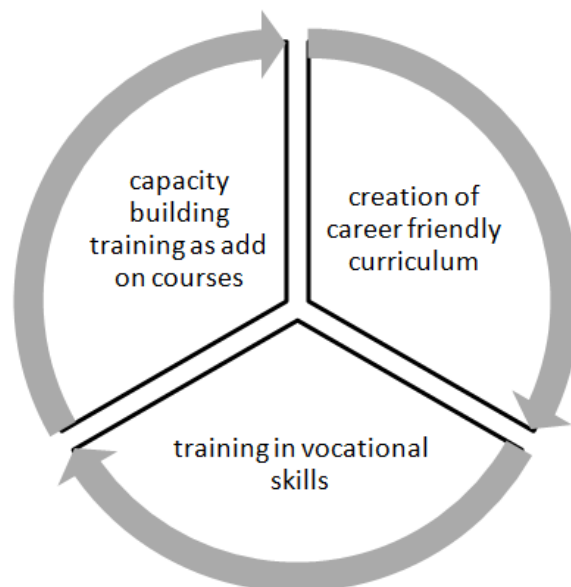
1. Corruption in scholarship distribution,
2. limited admissions or merit based admissions ,
3. heavy irregularities in appointments to academic positions ,
4. establishments of fake colleges / universities ,
5. large scale copying / cheating in examinations ,
6. using of colleges to launder illegal money,
7. Issuance of spurious certificates through fake courses

**Employability opportunities-** Youth in higher education sector have the main complaint that employability ratio if the sector is very poor & the sustainable future is bleaker. The employability rates of Indian graduates are estimated at between 33-53%. It is reported that only 48 % the educated graduate youth are partially employed or unemployed. It is reported that 19% of the urban technical graduates are under employed while 32 % the rural graduates are working in urban cities as day laborers in construction industries or textiles. During 2011-2012 , 55% of the males & 18% of the females in rural areas were in labor force while in urban areas it was 56% males & 13% females. This is leading to youth succumbing to

1.	suicidal tendencies ,
2.	deviation to wrong ideologies,
3.	drug addiction ,
4.	alcoholism ,
5.	attraction towards terrorist associations
6.	desirability towards radical thoughts
7.	desire towards damaging societal practices
8.	aggression & belligerence

It is seen that youth membership to terrorist associations is growing every year. Lakhs of Indian youth who work part time or jobless are attracted towards terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaida , ISIS , jihadist etc. They become attracted to wrong ideologies .It is estimated that 18% of the Indian youth aged between 18-22 years are enrolled in HEIs. The recent moves from government is targeting to increase this number to 30% by 2020. This is a great approach from the Central Government as HEIs are being established across India. Only 20% of the total number of Higher education institutions have obtained NAAC-accreditation. Corruption is rife in the sector with private colleges often make students to pay heavy cash donations in technical courses. Government policies are unable to solve the problem of bogus & poor quality private education because the ratio of men to women in higher education has moved from 8:1 in 1950-1 to 1:1 in 2014-5. 90% of the country's GDP and 75% of its employment will be derived from the services and manufacturing sectors. But Higher education sector has failed to create employment to all graduates coming out of universities & colleges. There is a need to augment funding facilities for creation of capacity building for students through Job oriented technical skills . A degree should prepare him to become an entrepreneur . The theoretical teaching inside the 4 walls of a class room should become more diversified with creation of exposure to students.

1. English language as one of the key parameters in this knowledge economy All Indian youth HEIs are to be made to ease out their English language usage. Nearly 85% of the rural & 65% of the urban Youth graduates find it difficult to speak or use English language.
2. The vocational guidance through Placement cell in each HEIs has to become more effective with Proper funding for Placement cells. There is a need to establish the College Placement cells on firm footing. College Placement cells can channelize in to various types of career guidance activities, placement activities. campus placements, Special placement drive through Industry MOUs.
3. The HEIs suffer from lack of making student expose to professional world during studies. Curriculum with mandatory visit to industrial processing units , visits to local factory outlets , involvement in retail marketing & management activities of industries etc. Students have to be made to learn practically through these visits
4. Indian University curriculum in HEIs need to include more practical learning than theoretical learning.
5. Research & innovation in higher education needs to be more innovative than of now.



There is a need to supplement funding facilities for creation of capacity building for students through Job oriented technical courses .It is the responsibility of the higher education sector to see that a degree should prepare him to become an entrepreneur . The theoretical teaching inside the four walls of a class room should become more diversified with creation of exposure to students.

#### **Considerations towards healthy future- :**

Thus there is a need to channelize the youth towards a healthy mind set through creation of opportunities for healthy life. There is a need to give youth jobs prospects. There is a need for a consistent & a supportive employment which is very essential for the youth to keep them busy & full of activity. Thus there is a need to provide the youth with the power of a sustainable future. Modern education sector is under heavy pressure of adapting to global changes & standards. Hence technical education is more attractive rather than social sciences. Across the globe there is a great demand for restructuring educational scenario through technological applications but there is a need to create supportive employment for social science graduates also.

The higher education scene in India is under great pressure to streamline it's educational curriculum to suit the global demands. But there is a need to make youth orient towards becoming good citizens & join hands in promotion of progressive thoughts in the society.

## **II. Conclusion**

Thus developing skills of logical reasoning, thinking power, precise judgment, decision making ability, improving comprehension, vocabulary, developing creative methods of concept building etc is needed for today's youth .. India is experiencing a fast & dynamic transformation in the social sphere as the demographic dividend is causing the issues relating to employability & engaging youth in life needed skills, besides there are social & spatial inequalities which are emerging with several influences in behavioral standards of the youth . Today there is an immediate need to bridge urban rural, traditional modern, literate illiterate, social conventional, digital & non digital lacuna. The higher education sectors across the globe is using the potentialities of the youth towards National development.

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