



HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA AND A CASE STUDY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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ABSTRACT

The standard of Higher Education indicates the amount of general and specific knowledge, achievement and learning level, power of oral and written expression and impact of acquired knowledge on the life of Students. In order to meet the challenges of changing demands for advanced knowledge and technologies both quantity and quality of Higher Education should be enhanced. To generate good quality Educational output our state should raise sufficient public and private Resources and allocate them sufficient. Also to recruit and retain qualified professors and researchers, providing sufficient incentives is necessary and should be considered a priority. Education in College and Post-Graduate level beyond Primary and Secondary level is important because it needs to meet the challenges of changing demands for advanced knowledge and technologies. However, expanding higher education is quite expensive, but State Government has made several efforts to take it to every nook and corner of the State. This paper analyses the growth and development of higher education in J&K. It aims to suggest certain more steps for improving quality of higher education in J&K.

KEYWORDS: Development, Quality, Educational requirements.

INTRODUCTION

Origin and development of higher education in India a brief Retrospect: The institutional arrangement in India for passing accumulated knowledge was individual teacher oriented called as *Gurukul* and for fine arts called as *Gharana* and for crafts and architecture as Master Craftsmen. Where group of students had their learning at the Ashram or the work place of their teachers. At the higher the institutional arrangements was in the form of three well known universities namely Nalanda, Takshila and Vikramsila. This was the arrangement where scholar from various parts of world gathered at one place and had the opportunity of learning and interaction with experts in various fields of specialization. These universities were among the couple of universities in the

world during that time. However by the time the modern institutional arrangements both at school and higher education level came to be established in India during the colonial period, the older arrangement remained a point of historical reference. The old system as well as the system created during the Muslim rule had little bearing when first three universities were established in 1857 at Bombay Madras and Calcutta respectively.

The Dispatch of Sir Charles wood to the Court of Directors of 1854 enunciated the aim of education as the diffusion of arts, science, philosophy and literature of Europe. It laid down that the study of Indian languages was to be encouraged and that the English language should be taught where ever there was a demand for it and that both the English and Indian language were to be regarded as the media for the diffusion of European knowledge. The Court of Directors stated that time has arrived for establishment of universities in India which might encourage a regular and liberal course of education by conferring academic degrees as evidence of attainment in the different branches of arts and science. They agreed with the proposal to establish universities and which were to consist of a chancellor or vice chancellor and a senate.

But for the change in scope functions the system of management first three universities established respectively at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay in 1857 were conceived as examining universities with instructions to be given in the affiliated colleges. Other two universities which established in 1882 respectively at Lahore and Allahabad was to meet the aspirations of people of north India. The other landmark in the development were university education commission of 1902 and the act of 1904 based on these recommendations which universities were allowed to take teaching functions. Theanother landmark was government resolution on educational policy in 1913. It indicated that in India it would not be possible to dispense with the affiliating system. The areas of jurisdiction of universities should be clearly defined. Government should create new teaching and residential universities within each of the provinces. The other major landmark was Calcutta university commission of 1917 under the leadership of Sir Aushutosh Mukherjee which decided to concentrate on post graduate teaching directly in the university and appointed a number of lecturers and professors.

Higher education occupies a significant position in educational system of a nation because it is the apex of entire educational structure and influenceall levels of education. Higher educationalso influences every national activity. Through innovative ideas or innovations, it also influences the future of a country. It plays a crucial role in generating new knowledge and skills in Higher education. Is a process of empowerment and enlightenment leading to harmonious development of the individual and sustainable development of the nation. The higher education is supposed to be guide of the society and it creates experts for different fields of the society. It is the responsibility of the universities to prepare the future generation to participate effectively and sincerely in different developmental programmes of the emerging society.

In fact higher education is a weapon to enhance the quality, efficiency and productivity of man power. It helps in reducing income inequalities and thus promotes economic development at a faster rate. It also enriches the social and cultural standards of life.Economic growth social welfare and prosperity of a nation depend on its natural

resources and the physical as well as mental capabilities of its citizens.

Development and present position of higher education in jammu and Kashmir state:

The state of Jammu and Kashmir came into being as a single unit (as political and geographical entity) following the treaty of Amritsar between the British Govt. and Maharaja Gulab Singh on 16th March of 1846 A.D. Thus the state with three distinct and different geographical regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh was formed with Maharaja Gulab Singh at the helm of affairs of the state.

Improvements in schooling facilities and a higher pass percentage automatically to a greater extent demand for more institutions. Jammu and Kashmir is no exception to this rule. The demand for degree colleges and universities has been increasing in state. Despite the fact that many more colleges and universities has been opened but they are still not able to cope with the ever increasing demand for more institutions. Thus the development of new higher institutions has been one of the foremost policies of the govt. table 1 shows the enrolment in govt. colleges and teachers available in these institutions. The enrolments in these have almost doubled during the period 2000 - 2001 to 2004 - 2005.

Teachers and Students on Roll at Higher Education (Govt. College Level)

Year	No of Students			No. of teachers		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Male	Female	Total
2000-01	23189	19050	42239	733	383	1116
2001-02	23847	20860	44707	824	457	1281
2002-03	20320	15100	35420	NA	NA	NA
2003-04	40948	38827	79775	NA	NA	NA
2004-05	39482	33190	72672	786	440	1226

Source: 1. Digest of statistics (2005-06) J&K Govt.

Many more colleges have now been provided including in far flung areas during last few years. Though all subjects are not available in those new institutions but have given a relief to students in having higher education at the door step. The position of teachers in these institutions including the existing ones is not adequate. To counter this problem contractual appointments are made highest the available vacancies.

Apart from these Govt. institutions, the private initiative in setting up colleges in the state is arecent origin. A sizable number of B.Ed. colleges have been opened up in the state in the private sector in view of increasing demand for B.Ed. degrees. Thus the number of B.Ed. colleges has increased to 67to 75 in Kashmir and Jammu provinces respectively. There are present 81and 89Govt/ affiliated degree colleges in Kashmir and jammu provinces respectively. Other than these colleges the state also has Industrial Training institutes (ITI) and Polytechnic both private as well as govt. for vocational education. There are around 52 courses available for students to pursue their trainings from these institutions. There is a tremendous increase of students in professional

educational institutions. It is obvious from the (Table 2) that the enrolment of students has increased from 1650 in 2001-02 to 36874 in 2004 to 2005. The no. of girls in these institutions is more than the boys showing more concentration among girls towards professional education. (Table 2)

Enrolment of students in Professional Education

Year	Enrolment		
	Boys	Girls	Total
2001-02	990	650	1650
2002-03	6199	7772	13971
2003-04	10814	13573	24387
2004-05	15778	21096	36874

Source: 1. Digest of statistics (2005-06) J&K Govt.

Various higher educations in the state which provide education to the variety of people are discussed in the following paragraphs:

1. University of Kashmir: The University arose out of humble origins immediately after independence when in 1948 the state govt. established an institute for conduct of examinations with it's headquarter at Srinagar. Since 1956 this academic institution has come a long way and has developed into a multi-faculty university imparting instructions in various subjects in the faculty of Arts, Languages, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Education, Commerce And Management, Law, Medicine, Dental Surgery, Engineering and Fine Arts. The university has been accredited as grade A by National Assessment And Accreditation Council Of India.

2. University of jammu: University of Jammu holds examinations, grants, degrees generates knowledge and confers diverse academic distinctions on persons who pursue approved courses of study in the university or in constituent colleges/ institutions approved for honorary degrees or other distinctions on the persons of exceptional caliber. The university also admits, maintains, recognizes and affiliates colleges and other institutions. It is primarily research, teaching, affiliating and examining body involved in promotion of arts, science and other branches of learning. The university is open to all classes and creeds with the sole objective to carry people from darkness to light.

3. Sheri-Kashmir university of Agricultural Science And Technology: Agriculture sector in Jammu and Kashmir state comprising agriculture, horticulture, forests, sericulture, fisheries, animal husbandry and allied fields is pivotal in the development of its economy. The sector constitutes the main source of livelihood for nearly 80 percent of the population and contributes more than 50 per cent to net domestic product. The agro-eco- environment of the state is entirely different from rest of the country.

4. Islamic University Of Science And Technology: The University is located in the medieval town of Awantipora in south Kashmir. Spread across 250 acres just south of the famed saffron fields of pampore. The picturesque campus has the Himalayan mountain range to one side of it and Jehlumriver to other. The beautiful geography of the area is also part of a cultural crucible that has cradled three major religions- Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism. The university recognizes that this legacy can make it an ideal place to nurture a spirit of dialogue the guiding philosophy of the university.

The university has been set up as a center for higher learning for the people of Jammu And Kashmir State and its neighboring region. The strong science and technology curriculum is complemented by a school of humanities and social sciences. For while paying held to a job oriented curriculum the university firmly believes that a significant awareness of the humanities will help future generations in understanding social trends and human aspirations as they enter the work force. And it will equip them to contribute towards improving the conditions of their communities and understanding the value of plurality in society. The UGC recognized Islamic university of science and technology within nine months of promulgation and all India council of technical education approved its specified courses within four months of their commencement.

5. BabaGhlum Shah Badshah University: Baba Ghlum Shah Badshah University came into existence in Rajouri by an Act of the jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly called the jammu and Kashmir Baba Ghlum Shah Badshah university Act No. XVI of 2002. The objective identified for the university in the act is to impart quality education and undertake research in basic and job oriented fields. Accordingly the university has launched post graduate teaching programmes in Business Management, Financial Management, Computer Sciences, Information Technology, Arabic, Applied Mathamatics and B.tech in Electronics and Communication. The university was established in 2004. Its purpose as laid down is to research the unreached and help them to achieve social and economic upliftment.

6. Mata VaishnoDavi University: Established under the Act of the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir and functioning since August 2004, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University is recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC) under section 2(f). Engineering and Architecture programs are the main programs offered by university. It is a highly technical and fully residential University on the pattern of the Indian Institutes of Technology. The University is fully funded by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

7. Sheri Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences: The institution has been established in Srinagar in 1982 as a premier institution for taking care of medical and health problems in the state. The institution is well equipped with latest technologies in medical care. It not only takes health-care but also provide medical education leading to award of MBBS, MD, MS etc. The institution has a status of a deemed university. The institution has also its own medical college and a nursing college where a good number of students enroll for medical education.

Objectives of the paper:-

1. To analyse growth of higher education system in J & K.
2. To view quantity of degree colleges and their impact on quality education.
3. To measure the achievement of Education system towards the objectives of higher Education in the State
4. To make suggestions for improving higher education system in J & K.

CONCLUSION

Higher Education is an important stage of education. It is the education which helps the students to develop self-confidence, self-respect and self-dependent. There is Higher Education in various fields like Engineering, Medical, Law, Commerce, etc. Government has made several plans and schemes for its growth and development. According to the newspaper (Greater Kashmir, Dt. 28/09/2012), the Governor of J & K, N. N. Vohra informed the President about the growth of Higher Education in the state in recent years, and also informed about the establishment of many new Universities and Colleges across the state and highlighted the problems being presently faced. The Government has also decided to open Model College in every district of the state during 12th five year plan, which started on April 2012. The Model College will have modern facilities and infrastructure that can be shared by other institutions nearby for collective growth. No doubt, Higher Education is reaching at every door-step. It is good to see the rural areas being covered. Hope the new Colleges would be equipped with requisite physical infrastructure and staff (both teaching and non-teaching). A College cannot be operated from a rented building where the temporary service of the teachers may be hired on contractual basis and where students just enroll them for examination purposes. Before opening more new colleges the need is to improve the condition of existing ones first.

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