

Emerging Current Innovative Trends of Higher Education in India

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Abstract: *The Indian higher education system is very extensive. Higher education is increasingly acknowledged as a powerful tool for personal, social and economic growth. Higher education has gained global attention and investment, leading to a rise in student enrollment. Higher education will continue to be in great demand among a significant section of the population in the future. The paper examines key developments in higher education. Higher education and globalization have made education a national concern in emerging countries. This includes upskilling job seekers and preparing them for shifting work patterns. According to Mishra (2006) educational institutions are responsible to educate persons with advanced knowledge and skills for levels with responsibility in the private and public sectors, including business and other occupations. Singh (2015) describes that developing countries face challenges in growing and enhancing higher education systems with limited budgets. This article explores current trends in education, including innovations in teaching and learning, as well as best practices for assessment and evaluation. There are so many current trends and practices for exploration of education in India such as Computer-Assisted Instructional Program, Utilize Reversal Learning Technique and Mind Maps, encourage innovative thinking through brainstorming, Gaming as a creative teaching tool, Blogs: An interactive platform/Channel, Collaborative learning: Learning in a Group, Constructivist learning environment: focus on the learner, Introduction of technology-based tools all are involved now adays. This article examines current trends in higher education.*

Keywords: Higher Education, Globalization, Technology, Innovative Learning

1. Introduction

Education is the cornerstone for economic prosperity and national development. Policy reforms, technology developments and shifting pedagogical approaches have all contributed to the significant alteration of India's diversified and developing educational system. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a big step forward, intending to modernize the system by promoting holistic and skill-based education, interdisciplinary learning and digital integration. Technology has played an important role in altering education delivery, making it more accessible and flexible. Skill-based training is increasingly important in preparing students for global competitiveness and employability. However, issues such as insufficient infrastructure, the digital divide, and teacher preparedness continue to impede seamless deployment. This paper examines the current trends in Indian education, focusing on the impact of these reforms on students, educators and policymakers. The study's goal is to provide insights into the ongoing transformation of India's education landscape as well as its potential for future growth by assessing the opportunities and challenges. With the introduction of COVID-19 and the work-from-home model, skilled employees have indicated a desire to learn new things on an online platform. Growing technological understanding is gradually making online education, such as online training courses, exams and assignments. Programs and organizations are increasingly emphasizing the benefits of leveraging the virtual environment to improve learning. We are considering mixed technology and instruction to build a high-quality and tailored curriculum for kindergarten.

From March 2020 to March 2021, online learning was the most popular educational trending platform. The pandemic has accelerated the situation; schools have been made mandatory to trial more with online learning skills and technology. Not only is it flexible and cost-effective, but it is

also accessible to a wider range of learners because it eliminates the concept of 'location'. As a result, online education breaks down the barriers in education and opens new doors to a wider access to a variety of courses in the world. The Indian higher education system is currently confronting a significant challenge: rejuvenating the entire higher education system, i.e. stimulating the academic atmosphere to promote quality in teaching, learning, and research in higher education institutions. Barnett (1992) viewed that higher education is transitioning to more student-centered pedagogy that encourages active, collaborative, and problem-based learning.

2. Need for the Study

The Indian education system is at an essential point, with significant technological improvements changing its structure and procedures. Understanding these changes is critical for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to make informed decisions that meet future needs. Farrukh and Singh (2014) pointed out that increased reliance on digital platforms, the incorporation of skill-based training and the shift toward research-oriented learning need a more in-depth examination of their long-term implications. In addition, resolving gaps in access to quality education, ensuring equitable resource allocation, and improving teacher preparedness are critical for long-term growth. This study attempts to overcome knowledge gaps by identifying key trends, issues and potential solutions that can drive meaningful educational changes and contribute to India's worldwide competitive education system. This study examines regulatory changes, technological integration, curricular adjustments, and developing pedagogical tendencies in India's educational system. The study examines basic, secondary, and higher education levels as well as vocational and online learning initiatives. Additionally, the study takes into account

government policies, private sector contribution and global influences shaping the Indian educational landscape.

3. Review of Literature

Several research papers have looked into India's changing educational scene. According to research, digital learning systems like SWAYAM, NPTEL, and DIKSHA have increased student accessibility dramatically. NEP 2020's role in reorganizing the education system has been widely explored, with a focus on holistic development, interdisciplinary studies, and skill-based learning. Research also emphasizes the difficulties in implementing these reforms, such as the digital divide, infrastructure limits, and teacher preparation deficits. Additional scholarship emphasizes the significance of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and adaptive learning strategies in revolutionizing teaching.

The incorporation of these technology developments is reinventing the teaching-learning process, making it more interesting and efficient. However, questions about affordability, rural accessibility and equal resource distribution remain key considerations. Additionally, research has looked on the growing significance of EdTech companies in altering education in India. Companies like BYJU'S, Unacademy, and Vedantu have changed the online learning landscape by providing interactive and individualized courses. According to studies, the expansion of EdTech platforms has boosted access to excellent education, particularly in metropolitan and semi-urban areas; nonetheless, price remains a challenge for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Another important research area is teacher education and professional development. According to studies, while the NEP 2020 emphasizes competency-based education, many instructors lack the essential skills to effectively integrate innovative pedagogical practices. According to reports, educators require ongoing professional development programs to provide them with digital literacy and new teaching methods. Furthermore, research conducted by foreign organizations such as UNESCO and the World Bank highlights the nation's attempts to bring in its education system with global norms. Research indicated that India has achieved tremendous progress in digital learning and vocational education, but still faces issues in fairness, inclusivity, and research output.

Higher Education in 21st Century

Information technology has proven to be a valuable tool for researchers; yet, its full potential has yet to be realized. The 'Virtual University', established by the company, has raised concerns about the future of traditional university structures. The 'virtual university' offers several advantages over traditional universities, including collaboration, access to high-quality libraries, and cost-cutting. The internet provides a low-cost way to link people who live in various regions.

This expands the research community beyond one's local area, allowing for collaboration among others with similar interests throughout the globe. Cardinal Newman would have been pleased with these fascinating possibilities.

- Some prestigious colleges' curricula promote early specialization for students. A scientific student studies

nature but not humans, whereas a humanities student focuses solely on humans and neglects nature. Some policymakers are humanities students who are uninterested in the history of technology. Similarly, some scientists lack appreciation for art, music, and poetry. A researcher's work will be more appreciated if they have a thorough understanding of their target audience.

- As we move into the future to relate to the multicultural diversity, we must make fullest use of distance education, continuing education, interdisciplinary education, using powerful new tools being provided by science and technology, and not necessarily keeping to the institutional frameworks we have created and nurtured so far.
- Another significant population in terms of growth in higher education is that of international students and students for whom English is their second language. Academic assistance is frequently offered to them through formal coursework or more informal "conversation" groups in order to improve communication skills as well as to promote a better understanding of the cultural differences they experience in the classroom. These courses along with Ethnic Studies and others new to the traditional college curriculum continued to grow exponentially throughout the sixties and into the seventies. Students demanded relevant coursework, and universities accommodated them by new ones. Requirements were relaxed, and students were frequently allowed to construct their own academic programs.

Innovative Current Trends in Higher Education

Technological innovations are affecting all aspects of life, and these techniques are making people more engaged and interactive. It is notable that such technology is being used to better the teaching-learning process. Classes are becoming smarter, and these smart classes appear to be crucial for an effective and participatory teaching and learning process. Teachers and students are now interacting outside of the classroom and school borders. Ahmad (2020) viewed that smart courses are the ambition of everyone who is involved in the teaching and learning process, whether directly or indirectly. When each class has its own computer with multimedia, a wireless mouse with blue-tooth technology that can be operated from any part of the classroom, and an interactive whiteboard, it's like a dream come true. It is commendable when a teacher uses 2-D and 3-D animated movies and content CDs generated in Flash, or any other computer language that allows for computer-based or computer-assisted training. Aside from these, here are some other unique ideas that are transforming the dynamics of the classroom.

1) Computer-Assisted Instructional Program

A computer-based pedagogical program integrates several electronic media types, such as text, graphics, audio, and video, into an integrated multi-sensory interactive application or presentation to deliver information to an audience. This package may include one or more of the following: 1. Original Illustrations and Graphics 2. Text on Screen Animation 3. Try Animation 4. Motion Graphics and Editing.

2) Utilize Reversal Learning Technique and Mind Maps

This is also known as the Z to A strategy, in which the teacher first explains the application component of the topic before

moving on to its theoretical underpinning. It is an approach in which the teacher illustrates the consequences and explains why they occur. Teachers can use mind maps to explain facts and concepts in novel ways. Visuals used to create maps make them much easier to remember. The main idea underlying mind mapping is that we learn and remember better when we use all of our visual and sensory resources. We learn through pictures, music, color, and even touch and smell.

3) Encourage innovative thinking through brainstorming

Teachers aid students in reflecting, and in order to do so, they must brainstorm by assigning them an issue of shared interest. When numerous brains focus on a single thought, we are guaranteed to acquire different perspectives on the same subject by involving all pupils in reflection. Some concepts are best learned through discussions and activities, and brainstorming provides a platform for reflection and reaction, even for those who do not typically participate in ordinary class interactions.

4) Gaming as a creative teaching tool

Use creative tools such as gaming to inspire original thinking and useful product development. Include amusing games or visual activities that will pique the interest of young people. This is a tried-and-true way of identifying young students' creative potential and encouraging creative contributions. Simulation and academic gaming are essentially techniques or devices for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of learning and teaching. The gaming technique immerses students in a setting that stimulates the problem under attack and challenges them to find the best appropriate solution; it incorporates imagination, logic, argument, collision of ideas, and rivalry.

5) Blogs: An interactive platform/ Channel

Jorn Barger coined the term blog in 1999 and defined it as "A blog is a webpage where a blogger, 'logs' all the other webpage's he finds interesting. The format is normally to add the newest entry at the top of the page, so that repeat visitors can catch up by simply reading down the page. The application of blogs in teaching learning process has raised a big question that how a tool which is not designed initially for educational purpose explore its potential for higher education. As a collaborative learning tool, it lets student interact with other students or with teachers, so it offers many possibilities. Blogs generally classified in instructor blog and students' blogs in accordance with the role of teacher and students.

- a) Instructor blog: These blogs written by instructors or educators are often used as an additional way to communicate with students. Teacher blogs typically covers lessons, course administration details and general observations on all students' progress.
- b) Student blog: These blogs usually have something educational or project-related. A learning blog can be described as "a educational blog generated simultaneously with the experience of learning and reporting regarding both the material being studied and the procedure itself.

6) Collaborative learning: Learning in a Group

Collaborative learning encompasses the transition from a normal lecture-centered classroom to an active, interactive and cooperative class in which learners'

conversations and contributions integrate with conventional lecturing, observing and questioning. Teachers who employ working together in the classroom function more as intellectual simulators than competent information transmitters. Learning jointly requires responsibility, perseverance, and responsiveness, and all are welcome to engage and grow. Collaborative learning activities range from short classroom discussions and brief lectures to long-term research studies. The goal of collaborative learning also varies, as small group work around specified sequential phases or organized activities

Teachers in a collaborative learning environment engage students by engaging them in activities. The advancement of technology has also simulated collaboration beyond a synchronous group into a collaborative group of faraway learners, which is known as computer-supported collaborative learning. Sharing information via email, creating Google groups, content-related chatting on Facebook and WhatsApp groups, and, more recently, learning via Moodle, MOOCs, and Interactive web, as well as sharing on SlideShare and YouTube, are the primary sources of computer-supported collaboration. Computer-supported collaborative education (CSCL) is an educational strategy in which learning occurs through social interaction with a computer or using the Internet.

The Constructivist learning environment: focus on the learner

The constructivist approach assumes that knowledge is subjective, contextual, and inherently imperfect. It is important to understand how the child's prior information is linked to his current understanding, and hence how he learns a certain topic. The educator is expected to act as an intermediary or guide that enhances the pupil's critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis talents throughout the learning process.

Introduction of technology-based tools (AI)

The Indian higher education system has not seen significant change in the recent 2-3 decades. As a result, in higher education, HRDCs, universities, and institutions are attempting to re-establish the current educational system in order to address the difficulties and expanding prospects of the present as well as future breakthroughs in Artificial Intelligence. Increased the use of technology-driven tools to improve students' online experiences. With live face-to-face or recorded sessions, students may access the virtual classroom from anywhere. Even teachers benefit from the ability to use a variety of teaching tools and strategies, as well as more efficient monitoring of student performance and progress. Digital technology (AI) has also evolved as a more dependable and resilient technique of meeting contemporary demands.

4. Discussion

Traditionally, university education has been a place to absorb theoretical knowledge without context, but globalization has resulted in changes at all levels of education. Most higher education institutions have enormous lecture rooms, where discipline specialists continue to communicate theoretical knowledge in large chunks for passive learners to receive and

consume. Many university professors' present attitudes are just the outcome of their training.

Textbooks and lecture notes are the key study resources, and the practice of information retention and transfer is assumed but rarely examined. Based on the preceding discussion, it is clear that the education system in general, and higher education in particular, can be more efficient and successful if we implement and incorporate creative strategies and new trends into our teaching and learning processes.

5. Conclusion

Emerging technology and new educational strategies will shape the future of learning. Artificial intelligence has the potential to significantly increase the scalability of educational systems. In the future years, all vital data will be housed in the clouds. The wealth of data is already transforming teachers' roles from knowledge producers to knowledge facilitators, a trend that will continue in the coming years. Students will benefit from these new educational technology trends in terms of social and emotional development. Students can use the tools to learn outside of the classroom, regardless of location or timing. Furthermore, huge and critical data analysis will help universities identify areas where students succeed and where they fall short. That will enable teachers to provide better support for improved learning outcomes.

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