
RUSA: Step-Up towards Higher Achievement and Excellence in Higher Education

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Abstract

We are living in the uncertain and double minded society where transformation at higher education level is seen everywhere and education is the key program of a nation. Because progress of a country is possible only when its citizens are dynamic enterprising and responsible. So, the most important role of a nation is to build a dynamic society which could contribute a lot for the development of a country. For this purpose the higher education institutions can play a very important role in the development of human capital through research and providing knowledge. I tried my level best to understand this phenomenon so that the policy of higher education RUSA could be focused on the critical issues viz. access, expansion, equity and inclusion of quality and excellence. This small effort will make the concept clear by emphasizing on the higher education system prevailing in the country.

Keywords: RUSA, Higher Education, Crisis, Excellence, Rectify, Funding, Components, Growth, Enrolment

Introduction

Education is the pillar of a strong and developed nation. In the knowledge society, intellectual capacity is dominating the whole structure of education. Therefore, education becomes a thrust area, aimed at 100 percent literacy. This is necessary for the developed nation. Women's education is particularly important to bring societal transformation, including small family, higher education and better health care for children (Kalam, 1998). The 21st century had been widely acclaimed as the knowledge society. Today, every nation is adopting innovative parameters in educational field which is based on information technology and research. India has the second largest highest system in the world in terms of the number of institutions- comprising of 728 universities, over 35,500 colleges, about 21,18,00,000 million students and over 9, 34,000 teachers at tertiary level. It stands second largest in terms of the number of students (University World News, 2014). It is now well understood that, on average, countries with higher levels of growth have labour forces with higher levels of formal schooling. With the shift to an



information economy, globalization and flexible organizations of production, these arguments are further reinforced. Moreover, arguments that link high levels of education are linked not only to scientifically trained manpower but to higher levels of general education (Carnoy 2006).

The Union Cabinet Committee on 4th October, 2012 approved the 12th Five Year Plan to renew Indian economy and use the funds of Government in improving the facilities in education. Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for reforming the state higher education system. It much emphasized on accessibility, equity, excellence and global competitiveness. Salient goals of RUSA are:

- To achieve 32% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by the end of the XIII plan.
- Improve the overall quality of state higher education.
- Promoting autonomy in state universities and improving governance in institutions.
- The promotion of research and innovation.
- To ensure that the reforms and resource requirement of affiliated colleges are adequately met.
- Ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions.
- Establish new institutions.
- Correct regional imbalances in access to higher education by facilitating access to higher quality institutions.
- Improve equity in higher education.

The RUSA is structured on certain guiding principles while formulating state higher education plans and developing their strategies. These are:

- Performance based outlays and outcome base reimbursements.
- Incentivizing desirable actions of state & institutions and dis-incentivizing undesirable actions.
- A political decision making on the basis of the performance of states on the predefined parameters.
- Disclosure based governance, where the institutions are responsible for their quality.
- Autonomy of institutions and states in terms of decision-making.

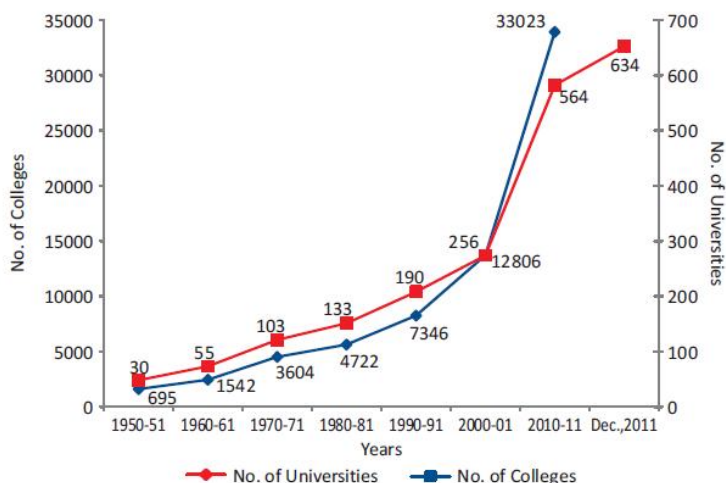
The Government has allocated Rs. 664.15 crores in 2013-14 out of Rs. 1135.23 crores of actual requirements of the Universities for the purpose of payment of salaries and pension of the teaching and non-teaching staff.



**Revised Budget Allocation of Higher Education
(2013-2014)**

a) Revised Estimates to Higher Education	
Non-Plan	Rs.2620 Crores
Plan	Rs. 198 Crores
Total	Rs.2818 Crores
b) State Budget Expenditure	
Non-Plan	Rs.92505 Crores
Plan	Rs.34243Crores
Total	Rs. 126749

Growth of Higher Education Institutions



Source : MHRD / UGC

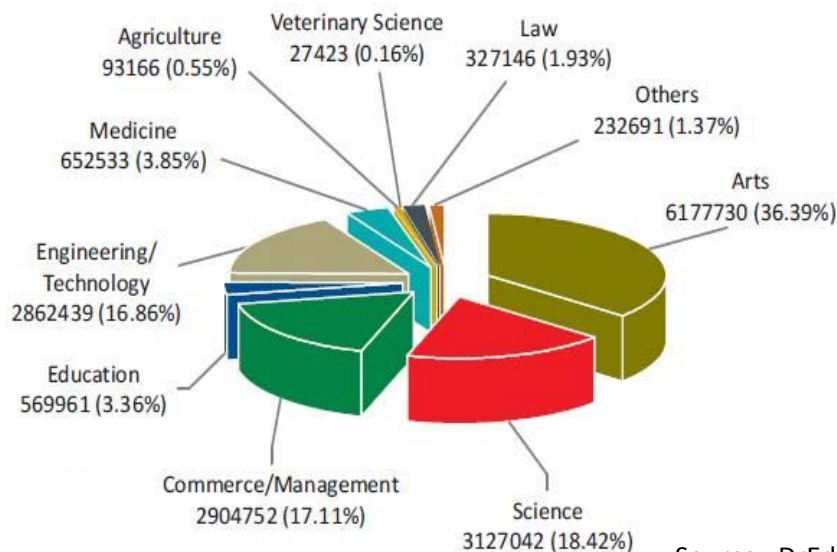
Components of RUSA

New Universities	Equity Initiative
Upgradation of autonomous colleges into University	Faculty Recruitment Support
Conservation of colleges to cluster universities	Faculty Improvement
Infrastructure Grant to Universities	Research Universities
New Model college	Vocationalisation of Higher Education
Upgradating of existing colleges to model colleges	Leadership Development of Academic Administrators
New Colleges (Professional)	Institutional Restructuring and Reforms
Infrastructure Grant to Colleges	Capacity Building, Preparation, Data collection and Planning
Research, Innovation and Quality improvement	Management information System

(Chakrawal, 2014)



Faculty-wise Students Enrolment in Higher Education 2010-11*



Source: DrEducation Blog, 2012

But practically to achieve target 2020 there are various factors of quality crisis which are deteriorating the quality of higher education.

Quality Crisis in Higher Education

- There is stagnation to adopt new higher standards in the area of education.
- Over-crowded classes and substandard infrastructure are the features of the present affiliated colleges and universities.
- The figure of women, SC, and ST education is alarming and numbers of women colleges are not according to the requirement.
- In the name of quality education, the college and universities are using media for their popularity. But society is keen to get quality based higher education through real practices.
- Higher education has become costly so that only privileged class can get higher education.
- Many universities have opened in the name of Regional universities which are deteriorating the quality for their name and fame.
- We are having stereotyped curriculum, instructional design and old evaluation techniques in many institutions.
- For academic improvement & professional growth of the faculty there is less provision of seminars, symposia, workshops and conferences.

- We are emphasizing enrolment only rather than qualitative and quantitative improvement.
- Implementation of policies and plans are not channelizing properly.
- Due to over-emphasizing of globalization and privatization, the quality aspect of teacher education is neglected.

Key Action Steps to Achieve Success in Higher Education

We must follow following key action steps to unlock the deteriorated quality of higher education to achieve qualitative and quantitative excellence in higher education. There is need to rectify plan of action in rectify manner.

- R** - Research and Innovation
- E** - Evaluation
- C** - Curriculum Planning
- T** - Teacher Education
- I** - Instructional Design
- F** - Facilitative Infrastructure
- Y** - Yapp-up Basic Amenities

Research & Innovation	Evaluation	Curriculum planning	Teacher Education	Instructional Design	Facilitative Infrastructure	Yapp-Up Basic Amenities
Higher Quality	Tri-semester system	Multi-disciplinary approach	Qualified faculty	Experiential learning	Need based	Incentives
Career focused	Multiple Test	Career focused	High-student teacher ratio	Blended learning	Functional campus	No Tuition fee for disadvantaged
Adopt Mentor Model	Comprehensive & continuous evaluation	Self directed	Test based admission	Skill-based Flipped classrooms	Widen access High quality	Funds Scholarship



Collaboration with International institutions	Situational Test	Immediate use	Quality curriculum	Peer-to-Peer	Target capacity enhancement for socially & Geographically deficient segments	Distance Mode of learning
community focused	Daily Performance	Surrounding based	Proper evaluation	Online instructions		Women institutions
Novelty	Summative and Formative assessment	Learner centered	Accreditation	Multi-method approach		Free books
Covers various educational standards	Graded system	Up-to-Date	Better facilities			Multi-lingual translation
		Quality based	Infrastructure			
		Flexible				

Conclusion:-

On the basis of the above discussion on higher education concept it can be concluded that higher education should be emphasized by providing better infrastructure, finance and adopting new educational and innovative techniques. At higher education level research should be emphasized and knowledge management in higher education depends on the execution of measurement, culture in which time and money spent on the knowledge system needs to be specialized. Because the non-availability of sufficient funds cannot develop the higher education up to the level of excellence and the desirable results cannot be achieved. Although at present six percent of the gross domestic product has been allocated for higher education. Keeping in view the above facts new strategies at concept formation level, infrastructure, evaluation and even teaching level should be used to make the higher education a great success.

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