

GROWTH AND PERFORMANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Swati*

*Research Scholar, Department of Economics,
Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana, India*

Email ID: chikkaraswati@gmail.com

Accepted: 09.11.2022

Published: 01.12.2022

Keywords: Education, GDP, Expenditure, Gross enrolment ratio, Pupil teacher ratio.

Abstract

An accessible and equitable distribution of education helps the economy to reach great heights. The paper gives the overview of the development of higher education in India since Independence and its scenario in 2019-20. It highlights the growth of institutions in nation. Number of universities has increased from mere 20 to 1043 in the nation. Approximately 3.8 crore students are enrolled in higher education in different type of institutions. An attempt has been made to highlight the financing of education by the centre and state with proportion of GDP spent on education since independence.

Paper Identification



*Corresponding Author

Scope of the study

The study will be helpful in analysing the development process of higher education in India. The study highlights the educational institutions' contribution in providing education to Indian as well as foreign students. Further studies can be conducted to analyse the contribution of the sector in overall development of

the nation. Policies can be formulated so that more students enrol in higher education.

Introduction

Human capital is the strength of any economic system. To promote economic system of any country, there is need of intellects in the nation. Higher education promotes economic and social development by enhancing capabilities of the people. India's higher education is largest in terms of institutions and third largest in terms of enrollment after U.S. and China. To increase the growth of education system, 1964 Kothari commission recommended 6 per cent of GDP to be spent on education but less than recommended is being spent on education by the state.

In ancient India, Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramsila Universities were of high importance not only in India but in other countries too. After British rule, education became the cup of elite class providing education according to their need. After independence, many institutions came up, thus making the education from elite group to democratized education hub. Enrolment in institutions increased over time by making it accessible to all sections of the society. An attempt has been made to analyse the growth of higher education in India since independence.

Literature Review:

Prakash V. (2007) highlights the trends in the growth and financing of higher education from 1950-51 to 2004-05. It shows that expenditure on higher education has decreased to 0.34 per cent in 2004-05 from 0.46 in 1990-91. Enrolment in education has also increased at 8.04 growth rate. The study suggests well developed, equitable and qualitative institutions for further growth in education.

Carnoy, M. and Dossani R. (2013) explored the governance of Indian higher education. The study found that both centre and state expanded higher education directly and with this enrolment rate grew significantly.

Gupta, D. and Gupta N. (2012) explored the development of education till 2011. 12.4 per cent of the population enrol for higher education in India. The study elicited that growth in 2004-05 was good but declined in 2005-07 and later revived.

Dukkipati, U. (2010) identified the challenges in higher education sector and proposed solutions also. The study revealed that public spending on education has not kept pace as in 1950 only 0.19 per cent of GNP was spent and it rose to 1 per cent in 1980s but later declined to 0.4 per cent in 1990. Positive growth in no. of engineers and patents filed is remarkable and needs to sustain positive trend.

Research Methodology:

The study on higher education is based on secondary data from 1947-48 to 2019-20. Data has been collected through various government publications from Annual Report of UGC, All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHA) by Ministry of Education, Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure on Education by MHRD. For easy comprehension data has been presented in graphs, figures and tables.

Objectives:

To analyze the growth of Higher education institutions since Independence.

To study the enrolment of students and teachers in higher education institutions.

To analyze the gross enrolment ratio in higher education in 18-23 age group.

To evaluate the gender parity index in states.

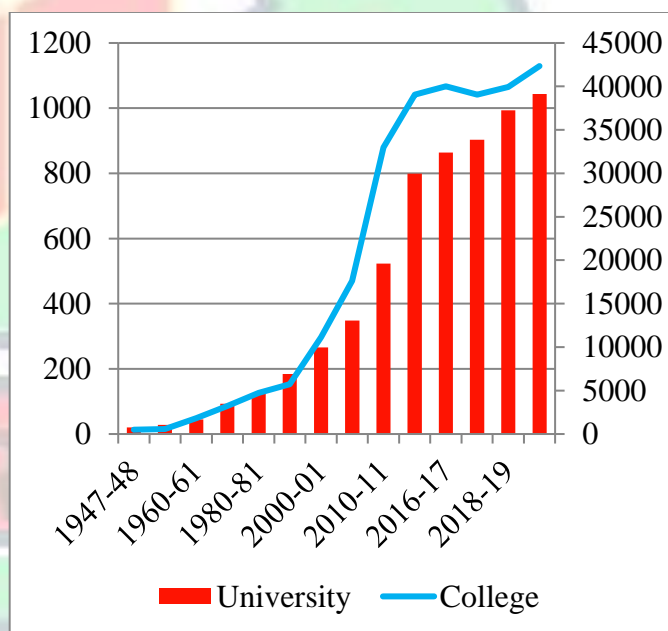
To see the composition of expenditure on education as proportion of GDP.

To analyze the enrollment of foreign students in the nation.

Findings:

Higher education in India has increased extensively after independence. Many public and private institutes have emerged as education hub in the nation increasing their number manifold. From mere provider to elite class now the institutions have become education provider to masses including female and lower section of the society.

Figure 1: Universities and colleges since independence



Higher education institutions have increased at a high level since independence. From 1947-48 to 2019-20, higher institutions has increased from mere 516 to 43386 respectively. While number of universities were only 20 in number in 1947 which has come a long way to increase its share to 1043 in 2019-20. Total 496 colleges were there all-over India in independence era which has increased to 42343 indicating a fare increase in number of colleges (figure 1).

Decadal growth in education institutions has fared well in both university and colleges. During the decade 1950-60, there was 60.71 per cent and 214.7 per cent increase in university and colleges respectively. In 1960-70 decade, Increase in university was 106.6 per cent. This indicates the increase in demand for higher education in 1950s and 1960s. Till 1990s, growth was relatively low and stable but picked up later in 1990s with increase in universities of 99 per cent in 2010-2019 and

195 per cent increase in colleges in 2000-10 (figure 2).

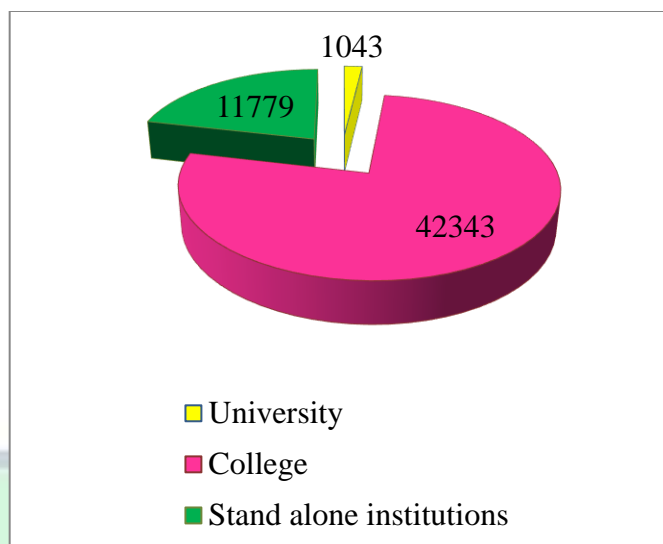
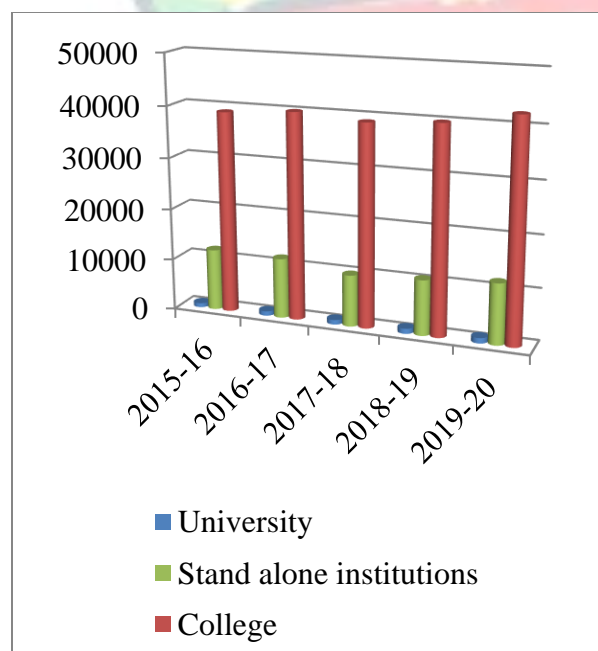
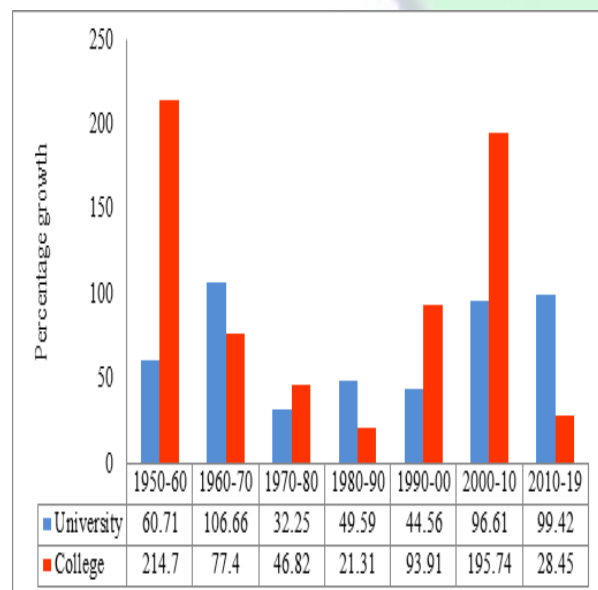
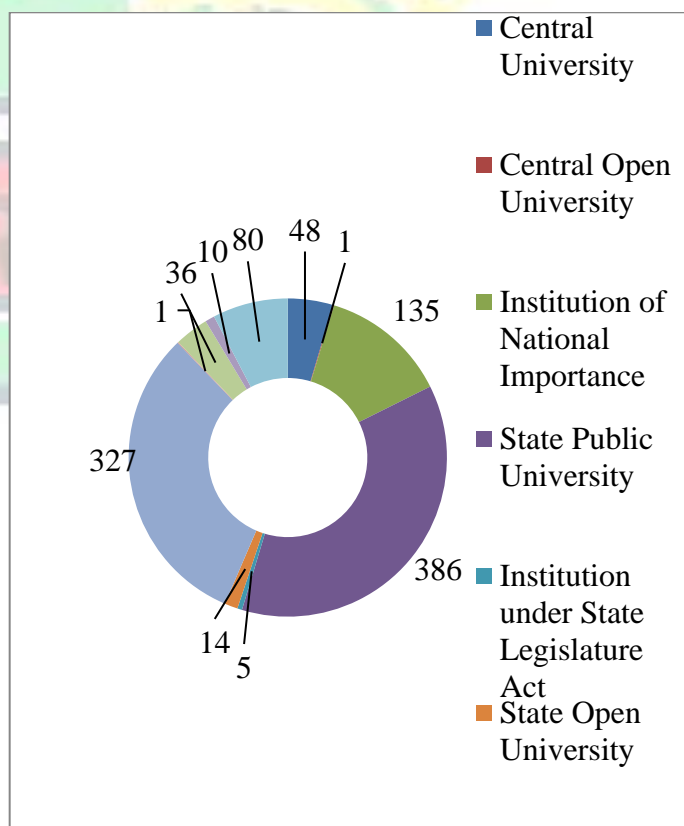


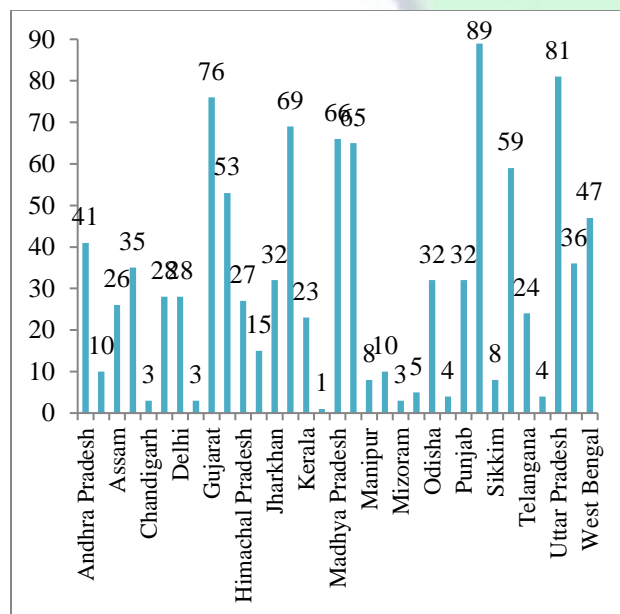
Figure 2 and 3 highlight the growth of higher education institutions since 2015 in the country. There were in total 51793 institutions including universities, colleges and standalone institutions in the country in 2015-16. Till 2019-20, it picked up growth and reached a level of total 55165.

Figure 5: Classification of universities in India in 2019-20



Public and private both institutions have contributed to achieve the motto of accessible to all education. Many types of universities have come up over the period of time. Universities in the country have been classified under different heads. As in 2019-20, the nation had total of 1043 universities, out of which highest in number were state public universities (386) followed by 327 state private universities. There are in total 126 deemed universities with one central open university and one state private university.

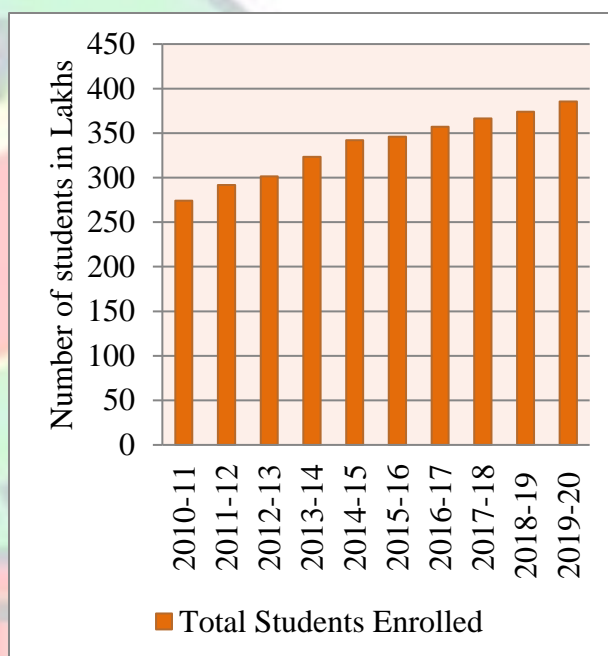
Figure 6: Distribution of Universities among states



Educational institutions are spread all over the region. Although the number of institutions may vary from region to region, depending upon the area, population, requirement etc. The country also possesses different number of institutions in states. Andaman and Nicobar, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep are some regions which possess no universities in their vicinity. Highest number of universities is in Rajasthan with 81 universities and lowest in Ladakh only 1 university.

Table 1: Total students enrolled in higher education

| Year | Total Students Enrolment | Increase over previous period | Percentage increase |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2010-11 | 27433749 | | |
| 2011-12 | 29184331 | 1750582 | 6.38 |
| 2012-13 | 30152417 | 968086 | 3.31 |
| 2013-14 | 32336234 | 2183817 | 7.24 |
| 2014-15 | 34211637 | 1875403 | 5.79 |
| 2015-16 | 34584781 | 373144 | 1.09 |
| 2016-17 | 35705905 | 1121124 | 3.24 |
| 2017-18 | 36642378 | 936473 | 2.62 |
| 2018-19 | 37399388 | 757010 | 2.06 |
| 2019-20 | 38536359 | 1136971 | 3.04 |



With increase in number of higher institutions, students' enrolment has also increased in the country. With more availability in different regions students all over have started taking admission in the institutes. Since 2010-11, students' enrolment has increased in higher education from 274 lakhs to 385 lakhs. The study shows that in first half of the decade enrolment was higher with 6, 7 and 5 per cent in 2010-11, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively but later it declined to 1 per cent in 2015-16 and revived to 3.04 per cent in 2019-20.

Gross enrolment ratio has fared well from just 24.5 per cent in 2015-16 to 27.1 per cent in 2019-20. This is a positive sign of interest in higher education by the students as the ratio has increased in recent years.

Figure 8: Gross Enrolment Ratio for 18-23 age group

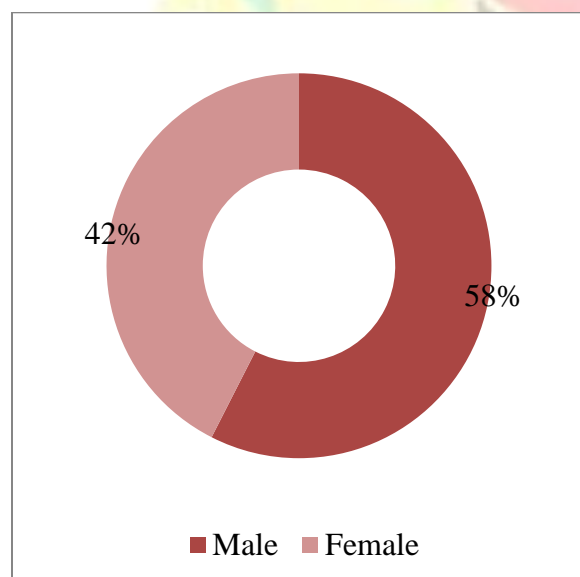
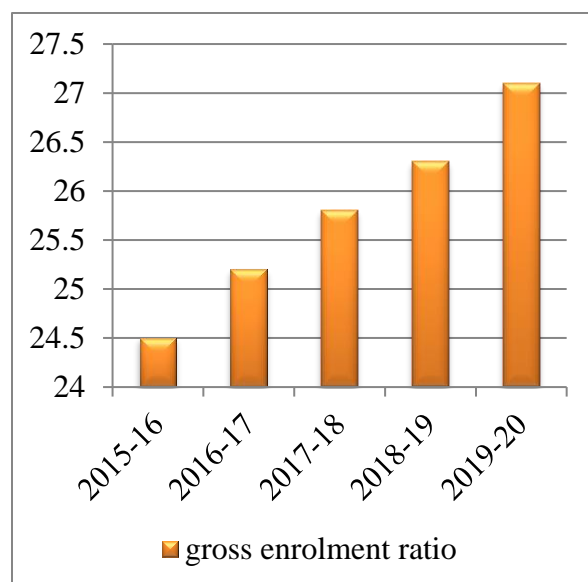
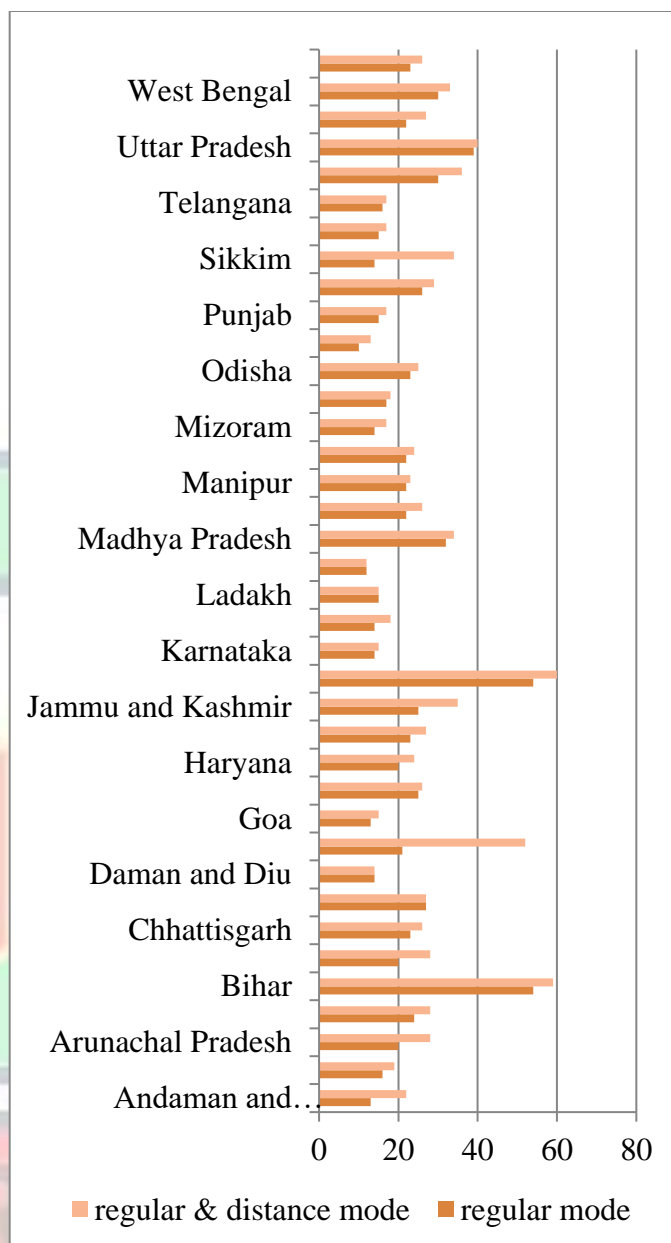
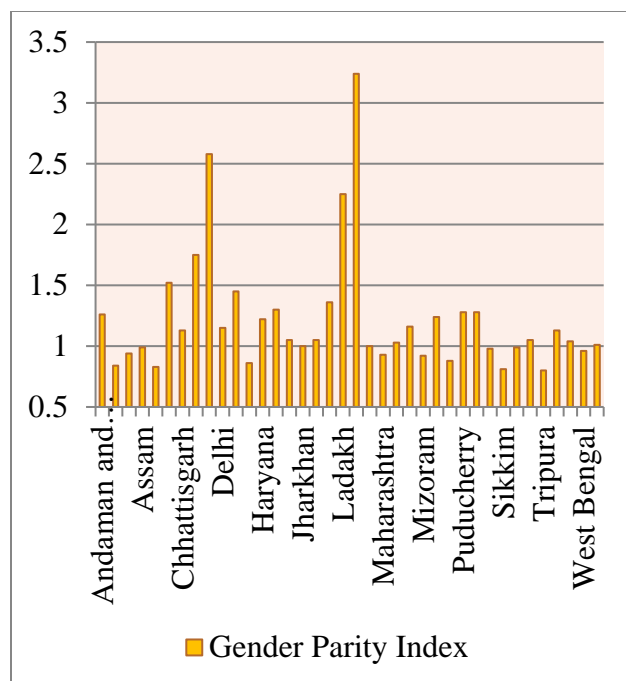


Figure 10: Pupil Teacher Ratio in States of India



Total teachers enrolled in higher education were 15 lakh with 58 per cent as male and 42 per cent as female teachers in 2019-20 (figure 9). Pupil teacher ratio is average number of pupils per teacher at a specific level of education in a given school year. In India, pupil teacher ratio in regular mode is 23 and in regular and distance mode is 26. Pupil teacher ratio in Bihar and Jharkhand is 59 and 60 respectively with Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu with PTR around 18 considered as significant ratio among pupil.

Figure 11: Gender Parity Index in 2019-20 in states



Gender parity Index in country is 1.01. Lakshadweep and Daman and Diu have high gender parity index of 3.24 and 2.58 respectively with 24 states and UT above 1 index and only 13 below one but these are very close to 1 with lowest as 0.8 of Tripura state.

India is not only education hub to its residents but also provide facilities to foreign students also. In ancient times also, India was destination to many scholars in Nalanda, Takshila and Vikramsila. Now-a-days also many students come to India for higher education from different continents. A total of 49348 students were enrolled in higher education from all over world (figure 12). 70 per cent of total students were from Asia continent and 22 per cent from Africa. 2341 students come from North America to study in India. Majority of the foreign students are from Asia indicating the nation as facilitator to neighboring countries (figure 13). In year 2015-16, 45 thousand students were from other nations and the number has increased to 49 thousand in 2019-20 indicating around 8.9 per cent increase in enrolment in the nation. Out of total 33 per cent enrolment was of female indicating the destination attractive to female students as well (Table 2). The data shows that despite the pandemic

situation, country has been able to attract foreign students to study in India.

Figure 12: Foreign students studying in India

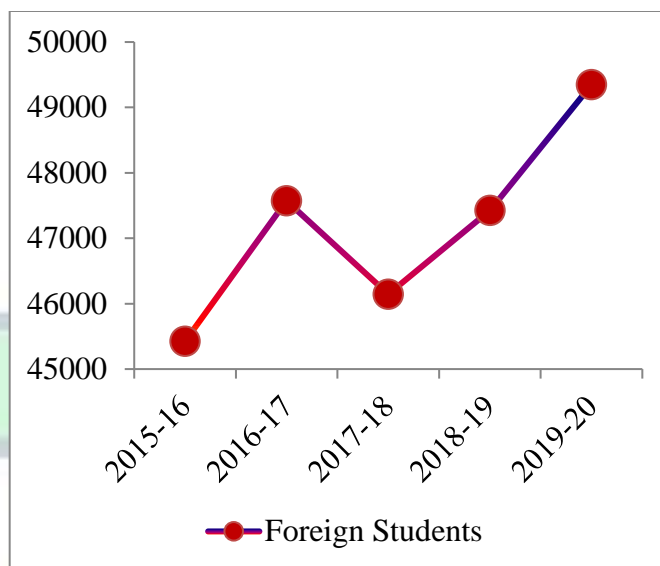
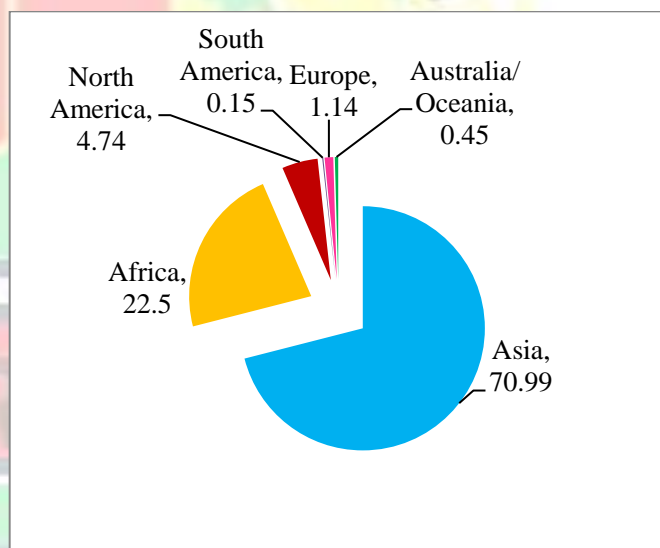
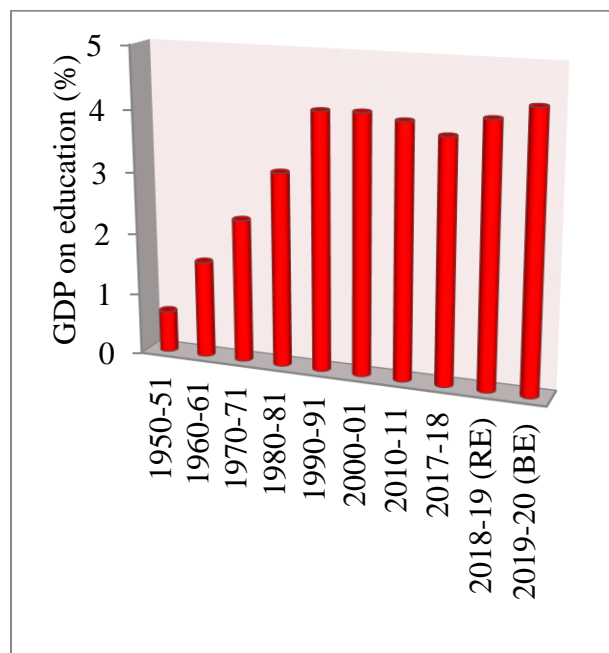


Figure 13: Continent share in foreign students in India



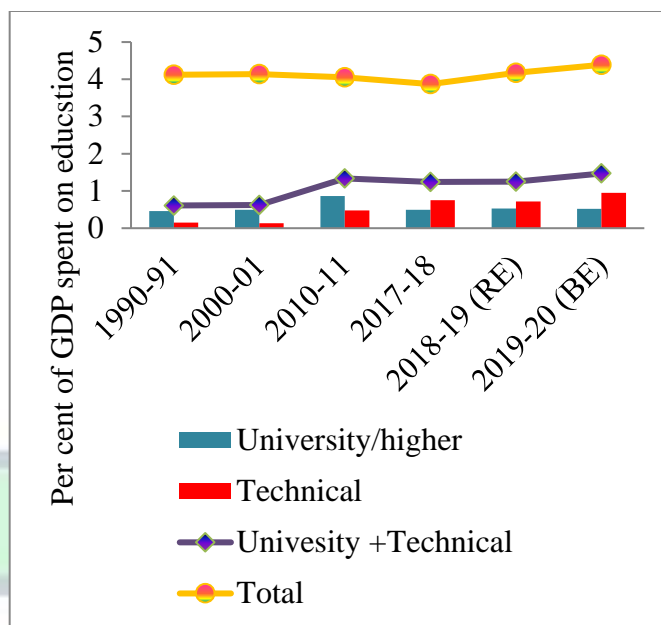
| Continent | Foreign Students | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total |
| Asia | 23824 | 11213 | 35037 |
| Africa | 7661 | 3446 | 11107 |
| North America | 961 | 1380 | 2341 |
| South America | 27 | 49 | 76 |
| Europe | 253 | 310 | 563 |
| Australia/Oceania | 110 | 114 | 224 |
| Total | 32836 | 16512 | 49348 |

Figure 14: Expenditure on education (per cent of GDP)



Financing of education is shared by both central and state governments. About 77 percent of financing is done by state government and 22 per cent by the centre in the country indicating increase in the share of state government. Expenditure on education was only 0.67 per cent of GDP in 1950-51. During 1990s, proportion of GDP spent on education increased to 4.12 per cent indicating focus on the education hub in the country. But in 2017-18 GDP spent on education decreased to 3.87 per cent but later revived to 4.17 per cent as revised estimate in 2018-19 and 4.39 of budget estimate of 2019-20.

Figure 15: Public expenditure on Higher education as per cent of GDP.



Intra-sectoral allocation of public expenditure as proportion of GDP is spent on various heads under education like primary, secondary, higher etc. The allocation of resources to higher education has been on increase since 1990-91. Although there are some variations in university allocation but it has increased from 0.46 to 0.52 per cent in 2019-20 (BE). In the modern technical age, allocation to technical education is mandatory for overall growth. Amount spent on technical education has increased from mere 0.15 per cent to 0.95 per cent of GDP.

Conclusion:

Higher education is a source of growth in recent times of knowledge driven intellectual growth. India is an education hub that provide education opportunities not only to Indian but foreign students also. From provider to elite section of the society, it has emerged as provider to all strata of the society including women and other sections. Increasing number of institutions from 516 to 43386 helps in increasing enrolment of the students in the higher education since independence. Share of institutions in the country is largest in the world. There is need to focus to enhance quality, equality and enrolment so that more and more could benefit from education. Foreign students' enrolment

has increased in the nation making it a destination hub of education. Expenditure on education as percentage of GDP has remained less than recommended but has increased making its way toward achieving its target. Now-a-days, the era of skill and quality has come up so it is imperative for the nation to formulate policies to encourage higher education to improve growth of nation.

References:

1. Prakash V. (2007). Trends in Growth and Financing of Higher Education in India. *Economic and Political Weekly*. 42 (31). 3249-58.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4419875>
2. Carnoy, M. and Dossani R. (2013). Goals and governance of higher education in India. *High Education*. 65. 595–612.
3. Gupta, D. and Gupta N. (2012). Higher Education in India: Structure, Statistics and Challenges. *Journal of Education and Practice*. 3 (2). www.iiste.org
4. Dukkupati, U. (2010). Higher Education in India: Sustaining Long-Term Growth? *Center for Strategic and International Studies*.
5. Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure on Education, MHRD.
6. Annual Report, UGC.
7. AISHE Report, Ministry of Education.