

## ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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**Abstract :**Higher education comprises all post-secondary education, training and research guidance at educational institutions such as universities that are authorised as institutions of higher education by state authorities. India has one of the largest education systems in the world. The objective of the higher education system should be to make it an instrument both of development and pursuit of the civilisational goals of society. It should be designed for imparting technical and other skills so that the youth is able to participate both in the process of social as well as economic development of the society. Higher educational system is to impart state of art skills so that a progressive society can continue to play its role in the process of developed nation towards a more prosperous and capable society in an environment of competition between nations for the markets and resources.

**Key words:**post-secondary education, training , educational institutions.

### I.INTRODUCTION

Universities are the premier institutions of the higher education system and functions as the centers of education, training and research for the youth as well as an infrastructure for learning for the population growing in number and in age profile. There can be an all round development and progress towards a more prosperous capable and knowledge based society.

Education is the best thing that can happen in one's life. Education has a great role in contributing to our nation's future in terms of growth, prosperity, social equity and the true realization of our talent pool. Higher education shapes the individual lives , the economy and the society. Universities and higher educational organisations are the centre of fearless pursuit of new knowledge. Education and its process are intimately related to individual development and social progress. Higher educational institutions preparing students for the real world.

### KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Higher educational institutions are fundamentally knowledge enterprises with contextual and historical difference in their mission and chosen obligation to knowledge. Higher educational institutions take centre stage and knowledge creation is part of their traditional functions and because of market failures related to the public good nature of knowledge that leads to the under investment in private research and development. Higher educational institutions accelerates knowledge creation and the development of human capital, social capital learning systems and networks in order to enhance India's capacity to innovate. A knowledge based society; social economic and information globalisation increased demand for higher education and changes in the political and social environment of developing countries are all deeply connected and are having a significant influence on higher education.

Higher educational institutions and Universities shapes the individual lives, the economy and the society. It should be based on some features such as rich investment in research and development, growth of knowledge intensive business and skill improvement.

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Knowledge environment and its processes is important because this leads to the improvement in environmental quality and integrity.

In 2005, the National Knowledge Commission was constituted to prepare a blue print for the reform of India's knowledge related institutions and infrastructure because timely response to the global challenges were more inevitable than ever before. Universities make continuous and sustained efforts in teaching, research and extension work. Apart from economic impact previous research identifies different outputs of modern research universities creation of knowledge, human capital creation, transferring existing knowledge, innovation of new technologies, capital investment, regional leadership and knowledge infrastructure production. Community based research and community university engagement as the most viable strategies for universities to salvage their much coveted position as agents of social change in society.

### ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The ability to produce economically useful knowledge becomes an important condition for regional growth universities and higher educational institutions become key regional actors. They are multifaceted establishments that must maintain the balance.

Traditional universities engage in regional development through the provision of education and training, contributing to the sustainable development of a Healthy – civil society and cultivating social cohesion and regional developing. For Higher educational institutions adult education can provide a portable market for individuals participation in Higher education will increase employment levels and reduce welfare spending and thus increase the income.

### LEADERSHIP AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Higher education provides leadership by supplying a well developed human resource which ultimately takes the responsibility of operating the systematic developments in India. Higher education is an important form of investment in improving human resource development.

Development of Human Resources is necessary for social and economic development. Universities have believed to be the way of providing the needed leadership. It plays a dynamic role to deal with emergency problems which characterize the process of change in a developing society.

### GROWTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

The following table shows the Growth in Higher Education of Men and Women student.

**Table 1 :**  
**Men and Women students Growth in Higher Education (1950-51 to 2012-13)**

Year	Men ('000)	Women('000)	Total Enrolment	Women as percent of all student
1950-51	157	17	174	10.00
1955-56	252	43	295	14.60
1960-61	468	89	557	16.00
1965-66	849	218	1067	20.40
1970-71	1563	391	1954	20.00
1975-76	2131	595	2426	24.50
1980-81	2003	749	2752	27.60
1985-86	2512	1059	3571	29.60
1990-91	2986	1439	4425	32.50
1995-96	4235	2191	6426	34.10
2000-01	4988	3012	8001	37.60
2005-06	6562	4466	11028	40.50
2012-2013*	13468	10687	24180	44.20

Source : Enrolment of women in higher education (selected education statistics 2005-06; University grants Commission Annual Report, various years) \*Statistical Report- registrar. uoregon.edu./statistics/reports & Archana-Renju (2014)

## **CONCLUSION**

Higher education in India is looked after by the government to meet the increasing demand private sectors have been allowed to share the responsibility. Higher educational institutions managed by private sector emphasize more on commercial aspect than creation of knowledge. Analysis of any higher education presents a variety of institutions of higher learning. They can be non-profit or for profit; they may be formal or non-formal or informal; they may be only teaching or research-cum-teaching etc. The Indian education system needs improvement at many levels from primary level to higher education and research institutions.

Dr. Radhakrishnan Commission (1948-49) has very clearly elaborated the essential goals for development of higher education. The reports said "The most and urgent reform needed in education is to transform it to Endeavour to relate it to the life needs and aspirations of the people and thereby make it the powerful instrument of social economic and cultural transformation necessary for the realization of the national goals. For this purpose, education should be developed so as to increase productivity achieve social and natural integration, accelerate the process of modernization and cultivate social moral and spiritual values". Higher educational institutions must learn to keep up the new innovations and technologies. The future of the students and economy of the national lies on their hands in preparing for a globally competitive world. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India delivered the Convocation Address at the First Convocation of Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, Kerala on 18th July, 2014.

He said, "Indian universities are absent from the top two hundred ranks in the world as per reputed surveys. Though our institutions are placed in higher brackets amongst Asian or BRICS nations, or in some specific disciplines, we are yet to convert these micro developments into macro successes. With greater impetus being provided to the rating process now, I am confident of finding a few Indian institutions amongst the front-ranking universities in one or two years' time." Excerpts.

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