"Understanding the Imperatives of emerging Education"

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ABSTRACT

The twenty first century has brought a great number of new ideas on direction of higher education. The world economy is experiencing an unprecedented change. There have been fast paced developments in science and technology, competition and internationalization. These are revolutionizing the education sector. We are witnessing paradigm shift in higher education. National standards have given way to global standards of education. Societies have to increase productivity to sustain growth that will achieve desirable goals, such as reducing poverty. Education is increasingly seen by governments as a major contributor to national wealth and economic development. In addition, the increasingly competitive environment needs continuous improvement of countries' quality standards and meets international norms of their education systems. State control in education is making way to an `open market economy' . It is no longer thought that `one time education for a few' should be the goal. The idea is to encourage life long education for all. The system is changing from being teachers-centred' to learner-centred education.

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The twenty first century has brought a great number of new ideas on direction of higher education. The world economy is experiencing an unprecedented change. There have been fast paced developments in science and technology, competition and internationalization. These are revolutionizing the education sector. We are witnessing paradigm shift in higher education.

We are in the midst of a digital revolution. This revolution will be driven by unparalleled growth in two areas. The first is the electronic networks among people and things, and secondly the availability of massive amounts of data. These two facts will transform the way people meet challenges and increase value.

The digital technologies underlying these competitive are becoming mature technologies but they are being used to innovative effect. Digitization often lowers costs, causing long-established differences between classrooms and net enabled teaching to drop steeply. At the same time, the readymade nature of digital machines causes changes in normal tools, e.g. books. This creates chances for swift competitors like MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses). Digital capabilities increasingly will determine which educational institutes will flourish. Technology advancement will continue to drive economic growth and release disruptive change.

A society needs to increase productivity to sustain growth that will achieve necessary goals, such as reducing poverty. Education is the key of societies to raise national wealth and economic development. The increasingly competitive environment needs continuous improvement of countries' standards of quality. In a globalized world international norms of education infrastructure must be kept in mind. However, education systems are complex and state directed systems are giving way to much greater involvement of the private sector. State control in education is making way to an `open market economy'.

It is no longer thought that `one time education for a few' should be the goal. The idea is to encourage life-long education for all. The system is changing from being teachers-centered' to learner-centered education.

<u>**Indian educational system**</u>

India's education system is fraught with quality and quantity challenges. There is a shortage of quality teachers, an enabling environment for students and infrastructure, amongst other problems. In addition, there is a surge in the number of students at all levels and an increasing demand for quality education. There is also a corresponding demand from industry for skilled human resource

The higher education sector has seen a massive expansion over the past decades. It generates significant and multiple direct and indirect economic effects in human capital, research, etc. which result in benefits pertaining to both individuals and wider economies. The higher education sector has sizeable portion of demand that is driven by students' demand and needs of the respective national priorities. To cope with this changing demand, developing countries have been forced to ensure quality of higher education at a nationally comparable standard. Globalization has created tremendous impacts on the economy and higher education. The benefits of globalization are available to the countries with highly skilled human capital.

The role of higher education is expected to go beyond economic development of nations and providing opportunities for individuals. It includes the promotion of cultural diversity, political democracy and trade. Emphasis is rightly placed on how higher education can better serve society.

It is known that there are a large number of people who are joining the workforce every year. It requires innovations to retrain the 30-crore-plus adult workers to higher productivity. Estimates indicates that we need to train 7 crore youth every year for the next 5 years to make our existing youth as well those who are getting added to the workforce every year to make them job-ready.

In addition, there is the issue of drop outs. Of the 265 lakh kids who take the class 10th exam, 160 lakh pass; of the 160 lakh who take the class 12th exam, 80 lakh pass; and of these 80 lakh, only 50 lakh go to college. There few avenues for the drop outs to make themselves skilled to obtain jobs. College degrees have lost their ability to give jobs. It is estimate that 15% of security guards have a college degree. Finally, India has only 2.5 lakh apprentices; and China has 20 million (2 crore). India's current capacity itself is 4 lakh per annum.

The online courses

The education sector in India is no longer bound to just classrooms. Thanks to new institutions and higher internet and smartphone penetration, the online learning effort in India is growing manifold. The e-learning market in India is estimated to be around $3 billion. The central government's is making efforts to make digital learning available to students in every corner of the country. Currently, online training in India focuses equally on school and college-based courses as well as mid-level professional courses.

Another reason why online training will gain momentum is because of the need for re-skilling, For instance, about a decade ago, all that a software professional was required to know were programming languages. Now these professionals need to update themselves on other aspects like big data analytics and cloud computing. Better salary hikes and promotions are also the reasons why people undertake new courses.

Most Web-based courses rely primarily on the fact that instructors and students do not interact simultaneously. Regardless of the exact method of interaction, asynchronous communication is slow and limits the type and amount of communication and removes any feeling between student and instructor. Most courses would benefit from the addition of synchronous communication. This form of communication usually occurs in an online chat room where the students and instructor gather at a specific time to communicate directly with one another

However, MOOCs online courses and distance education are yet to attain the legitimacy they deserve, for us to find a scalable model for skilling India. Skills are yet to win the respect of the average person over book knowledge when it comes to the social signaling value. This tendency is getting magnified with pronounced disrespect of skills within the country. While learning by doing improves one's employability prospects, a degree in India still improves one's social acceptance prospects.

Another issue of Indian education system is the delay to update syllabus. Hence, in future, it is expected that rather than obtaining a three-year degree course from a tier-1 or tier-2 city in India, there will be more takers for a professional course that is updated with the current industry demands.

Academic linkages for apprenticeship.

Permitting legitimate academic linkage equivalent to degrees shall make apprenticeship more attractive and can transform the skill landscape. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) are seized of this radical shift and its implementation. In this context, necessary directives to the skills ministry have been sent to strengthen the ITI capacity by adding and operationalizing over 7,000 ITIs.

There are regulatory hurdles for national universities to offer MOOC courses. Yet, international offerings such as Udacity, edX and Coursera operate freely in India. We need a revamp of our distance education framework that allows all Indian universities to operate online courses freely. The government is set to bring 'graded regulatory mechanism' in UGC. (Prakash Javadekar). The world of online learning is attractive because software programmers can "seamlessly integrate social media, making it possible to create online communities that are course specific".

The HRD minister also announced that 'SWAYAM', an open web based platform from which 2000 courses will be run for students across the country. It is expected to be launched next month. As per the Right to Education Act, learning outcomes are being defined and will be part of the coming academic session. There is evidence that a majority of those registering for these courses have an undergraduate degree or higher and the courses are not being accessed by those who could benefit from education — women, the less educated and the poor.

Automation

Automation is an idea that has inspired science fiction writers and futurologists for more than a century. Activities most susceptible to automation involve physical activities in highly structured and predictable environments, as well as the collection and processing of data. Educational services may be broken down into a range of activities which are routine in nature and hence amenable for automation. A study by the Mckinsey Global Institute considered that about 60% of occupations have at least 30% of their activities that are automatable. They believe that it is possible to automate 27 percent of educational services. Given the nature of educational services it is an occupation where the automation percentage is low. Since automation is expected to improve productivity, some effort will be useful

Conclusion:

In India's a large number of people are joining the workforce every year and requires innovations to educate and retrain the 30-crore-plus adult workers to higher productivity. The costs of education have to be sustainable. The future of education in India will depend on online courses. Some of the functions of education can be investigated for automation. It is imperative for the country to give a fillip to online education to tackle the poverty problem which may threaten the social foundation.

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