



## India Wait Multi National Universities for the Development of Qualitative Higher Education

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### *Abstract*

*Quality is an important issue in Higher Education. Despite a vast network, the institutions that are in focus on the world or nation ranking are very few. There is an apprehension that Indian HEIs cannot produce 'world class' institution to compete in present day context. While many universities in India provide general as well as professional education, there are some universities which exclusively provide professional education, and some exclusively general. No plan for the future development of the country can be deemed to be complete which does not provide for quality education. So Government of India decides to introduce Foreign Education Instructional Bill for the development of qualitative Higher Education. The proposed Bill mentioned that FEIs are going to enjoy complete freedom to set curriculum, charge fee whatever they feel appropriate and the Reservation Quota law will not be applicable to Foreign Universities setting up campus. Many educationalist and political parties criticize this bill to provide complete freedom to the foreign universities. But If we go by the history of globalization in India we see that a section of people and political parties were against the entrance of Multi National Companies in India. Some people also had the view that the MNC's will take over Indian companies and will rule Indian markets. When we see the results today it is altogether different.*

**Keywords:** *Multinational Universities, Qualitative, Higher Education.*

### **Introduction**

The globalization gave way for huge employment opportunities for the Indian youth. The standard of living improved drastically and the salaries shot up vertically. The Indians companies grew and made their mark in the world market. The standard of Indian companies

and quality of their products also improved to match the International Standards. Similarly I think with the advent of the Foreign Universities the standard of education will improve further. The Indian Universities in order to survive will pull up their level to match the International Standards. Government allowing the Foreign Universities doesn't mean any university will come and open his University. There will be set norms and standards that these universities need to meet before they are given license to enter India. The proposed law prescribed eight month time bound format for granting approval They will go through different levels of registration process during this period and will be finally registered with UGC or any other regulatory body in place.

The knowledge is a key driving force ability of any country to emerge as globally competitive player sustainable depends on its knowledge resources. It endeavours to build capacity and create quality and enables a country to empower its human capital. The growth rate of Indian economy even during adverse times even as the other countries of the world are witnessing nil or even negative growth. One of the primary reasons is due to the increasing growth in the services and knowledge sector and the projections indicate that this trend will definitely continue. However India faces the challenge of generating an appropriate supply response to retain its existing advantage in this sector. While India has been potential to emerge as a global hub for higher education and technical education. The Main real challenge is to expand capacities in higher education to keep ahead of the curve of rising domestic and global demand. It has provided to well established constraints on public funding of education at this juncture become essential to throw open the doors for foreign educators willing to invest in India to expand capacities at an accelerated pace.

Many educationalists acknowledge the need for change in Indian institutions focus on life-long learning which will result in even larger number of students beyond the usual 19-22 year old cohort-seeking admission to higher education educational institution. We see the theme of the need for rapid expansion of quality higher education sector stated in recent Government of India report. The most important issue facing higher education identify as access and Quality; Relevance; quality and excellences; governces and management and Funding. In the era of globalization, India has witnessed phenomenon growth of private higher education institution that is granted the designation of "Deemed University" by the UGC. From around 15 in 1999, the number of deemed universities has growth to more than 250 in 2011.

But many deemed universities fail to achieve access, equality quality education. These universities are progressive in outlook, more Flexible infrastructure and eager to try new educational methods and approaches. Many universities have been blacklist by UGC on the basis of Poor infrastructure, educational faculty etc. The HRD faces the problem regarding the gap between demand and supply of Higher Education sector and thousands of students leave the Indian shore for perusing higher education, thereby yearly \$4 billion being drained out of the country. The Ministry of HRD appointed highly power committee headed by C. N. R. Rao in January 2005 to look into all issue surrounding the entry of foreign educational institution into India and frame recommendation. The committee recommendation based on which government is finalized draft bill on Foreign Education Institution. The bill was hanging fire for over last many years owing to opposition from various quarters, including the Left parties, over certain provisions. Last year, it was referred

to a Committee of Secretaries which brought modifications to certain provisions earlier existed.

In March 2010, Foreign Education Instructional (Regulation of Entry and Operation) Bill 2010 was cleared by union of cabinet presided by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The foreign University bill seeks "to regulate entry and operation of foreign educational institutions imparting or intending to impart higher education (including technical education and award of degree, diploma and equivalent qualifications by such institutions)." According to HRD Minister Mr. Kapil Sibal, "there is milestone which will enhance choices, increase competition and benchmark quality. After approval of this bill, many foreign universities will come for set up institution and provide quality higher education. After passed the FEIs Bill by Parliament, within a few years they feel attraction to their homeland. The main reason for the brain drain is the kind of education, job opportunities available abroad and earning dollars. Once the Universities come in India, they will come offering jobs not only in India but also abroad. It will result in huge savings as cost of living in India is very less. When a student goes abroad, he spends nearly Rs.15 to 20 lakh (An airline ticket alone costs a bomb! Then there are the tuition fees, the books, the accommodation (even for on-campus room you need to pay), food, travel money for moving around in the foreign city, etc. Out of this only 30% is the tuition fees. Most of the Universities have tuition fees of only Rs. 3 to 7 lakh per annum. Now, if he/she is getting the same education and same job opportunities from India itself, why will he go abroad? It will not only prevent a lot of brain drain but will also be a milestone of providing quality education in India.

### **Foreign Universities in China and India**

China and India are often perplexing to analysts over higher education. China and India are typical cases of being 'so near, yet so far' from the vantage point of western education service providers. Both China and India wish to expand their higher education sector and realized that government efforts alone are insufficient to match the growing demand for higher education. Private initiatives are needed to supplement existing state-led efforts to improve higher education facilities. In this context, both have been trying hard to create an enabling environment for private education service providers, particularly foreign ones. China, in September 2003, invited foreign universities to set up campuses, India introduced a similar Bill in March 2010. Both countries are used to seeing the public sector as the sole provider of education services. Their higher education architecture has evolved consistently with such a monopoly but Shaking off this legacy and shifting to a market-based system is not easy. China is, relatively speaking, better placed to manage this transition, since it begun reforming its education sector before India did. But while the size of the domestic market is the key determinant of their interest, there are many additional operational challenges for foreign providers. China and India have become leading exporters of students to higher education institutions in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and Europe. But as foreign providers have shifted to more ambitious models of service provision, including setting up campuses in host countries, problems have begun surfacing.

### **Good factors which may be seen upon entrance of foreign universities into India**

**a) Raising the standards of Indian Education System:** We have IITs/IIMs here, which are landmarks of quality education, but for large population of India, the number of good institutions in India is still very less. It is very much possible that the foreign universities will provide better education in India.

**b) Reduce the stress and pressure:** Now a days most of the Indian students are trying very hard to get into IIT or IIM, as these are the only best institutes in India providing very high quality education. Some students commit suicides when they fail to get into these institutes, which is very sad. Universities like YALE is planning to setup their colleges in India, opportunities will be more and it will help students a lot to get good education.

**c) Development of country:** Foreign universities providing high end education will help producing good leaders and efficient employees. So it will help in setting up more industries in India and will help to reduce unemployment rate which is a very prominent problem, India is facing now a days.

**d) Fulfilling the greed:** Every year many aspirants leave their motherland India just in order to approach some foreign colleges affiliated to foreign universities for higher education like engineering, medical etc. According to the perceptions which many Indian students possess, the foreign institutes are better than those in India. So just for studying higher courses, a big unpredictable sum of money goes out of India. Perhaps, this amount may be saved a bit if those foreign universities set up their branches in India itself.

**e) Economic Development:** If the bill for allowing foreign universities passes, the foreign universities will surely try to settle their businesses in India, and for this, they will have to buy the land, and pay some taxes etc. which may be a cause of good income of Indian govt. especially state govt. of various states.

**f) Bettered condition in International relationship:** Perhaps the entrance of the foreign people in India might also better up the international relationships between India and other country adding something to what we all call international peace. Let us see how much this works. However, if those foreigners, especially those from the white-skinner countries, have changed their mentality a bit, then surely it will add to international peace.

**g) Criticism of FEIs:** The recent approval granted to Foreign Universities Bill by Union cabinet led to a division of opinion. On one sided there are the pro-Bill people riding wave of optimism. On the other there are those who believe that bill will open floodgates for poor-quality institution, which will take unfair advantage of helpless Indian students seeking a foreign tag.

**j) Disrespect to Indian institutions / universities:** Some may call this opinion of mine as a foul opinion. One may give examples of clothes and traditions that if we call enjoy wearing jeans instead of dhotis then why can't we have foreign universities in India, what is the mere problem? But I'd say that everything is on one side but the name *guru* is something else. It may be disrespect to those Indian teachers who teach in government schools as government

teachers but really work hard and one cannot generalize things just like that, I believe.

**i) Sectionalism:** It is very much possible that upon the entrance the sectionalism of high and low, the rich and poor may amplify and just go on increasing. One student studying in IIT, one in a foreign university, who is better, questions of such category, may begin arising.

**j) No bridging of gaps:** There is a saying in Hindi - *door ke dhol suhawane*, which means that whatever we don't experience seems to be really beautiful, or whatever we see from far away seems more beautiful than it actually is. Perhaps there will be no bridging of gaps of the foreign universities and the Indian students and the things remain the same.

**k) Big loss:** In India, especially when it comes to colleges, incomes are really high. The Indian institutes will begin facing losses while the teachers will lose respect. The Indian gross income may face a comparatively high loss due to many students paying the fees to the foreign universities.

**l) No big bang:** I am sure that big universities and colleges like the Cambridge, the Oxford, the Stanford, all these big hat cats will not show their presence in India, I believe, for they appear to think that if they come in India and open up their stalls, perhaps no high income will be generated and perhaps the Indian students will lose craze to go abroad and pay the foreign institutions a very high fees and perhaps the foreign governments shall also face a strive.

### **Recommendations**

- India should prepare good infrastructure to attract world's top ranking universities
- We should develop clearly indicted comprehensive set of quality measures for institutions in higher education. It will be useful to also make it mandatory for the foreign education providers to be independently accredited by the proposed National Accreditation Regulatory Authority. This will then enable comparison of all higher education institutions, inclusive of the foreign education providers.
- Every process regarding foreign universities Bill should be made public to encourage the transparency
- The Bill should clear degree or diploma or explicitly state if the degree awarded by the Foreign education provider will be considered a degree / diploma awarded by the foreign university or by the Indian institution set up under the proposed Act.
- We should have highly an independent commission equipped with adequate resources both physical and intellectual be constituted under this Act for explicitly regulating the entry and operation of such institutions.
- The provision to be made for expediting the process for such institutions that are willing to deposit the corpus amount in advance before the application is approved and notified.
- The Bill should clear that the degree or diploma provide by FEIs will be valid in India as well as abroad.

## **Conclusion**

India needs the high quality teaching and research provided by research institutions but also the 'massification' that could be catalyzed by the next tier of institutions. Undoubtedly, the foreign universities bill is a positive development as it will improve quality and practice in higher education. However, it has to be enacted in the context of the needs of India and the landscape of global higher education for delivering best results. But we should not ignore our mother land institution. Our institutions can compete honourably with foreign counterparts provided they too are accorded the same autonomy in true sense of word. Our establishments can't just be condemned without giving them any chance to prove their mettle. Give them funds, encourage public equity, make them accountable and see the difference. It is indeed no less than wishful thinking that by merely inviting a few foreign educational institutions to set up their shop here, will change the state of education in India. Indian education system, no doubt, is in mess. But we ourselves will have to clean up the mess. No point in looking outwards for help!

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