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Topic: **An Analytical Study Of The Impact Of Privatization In Higher Education In India**

Objectives of the study-

The study attempts to examine the impact of privatization on Education from the lens of Education Policy, Quality of Education and Graduate Employability. To order to attain these objectives, the study explored and examined the lives experiences of three important sets of stakeholders of Education from the 4 private universities under study, namely; Students, Faculty and Administration Staff.

Rational of the study-

The concern of quality in higher education has been constant subject of enumeration in National Policy of Education documents from 1968, NPE 1986, to the most recent Draft NPE of 2016, & 2019. The data collected through AISHE report suggests that from 642 universities and 34852 colleges in 2010, our higher education system is today 993 universities and 39931 colleges strong, even without looking at the affiliated and standalone institutions. Private Higher Education is growing at a very high pace in India. In 2010 there were 195 Private universities (AISHE 2010-2011). With in a span of 8 years the number increased to 385 Private Universities. (AISHE 2018-19). An important outcome of higher education is employability. The first India Labour and Employment Report came out in 2014 published by Institute of Human Development (established in 1998) highlighted problem of educated unemployment becoming a major concern and reported that graduates constituted about 30 % of the total unemployed youth in 2011-12, which was an increase from 21% graduate unemployment in 2004-05. Therefore the concern of quality in higher education or enhancing graduate employability cannot be responded to adequately unless we consider how private higher education institutions are responding to these concerns. There is need to examine how are private universities impacting the higher education system.

Delimitations

The present study is confined to State Private Universities in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The study considered only four state private universities which emerged between 2005 to 2014 (in the last 2 decades). The study focussed on flagship courses and humanities & social sciences courses offered by the four universities under study.

Research Methodology-

The study adopted a blended constructivist grounded theory methodology combining Straussian and Charmaz's GT. The current study has been guided by Strauss and Corbin's and inspired by Charmaz's interpretation of grounded theory.

Major findings:

1. Gradual shift to Pro-privatization policy: gradual change in the socialist lens on education; Increasing provision for privatization in HE in policy document. Accommodation of private voices in drafting of NPE 2020
2. Increasing Lobbying by corporates for privatization post liberalization. Emergence of expensive private philanthropic & endowment models of education. Private universities move from defensive to offensive mode; Increasingly participation in the discourse on quality of education.
3. Performance in rankings begins to be associated with quality of education and institution. Private universities promote participation in rankings and government audits to support the emerging idea of quality in education and the idea of world class institution. Instituting NIRF and Institution of Eminence programme to facilitate Indian universities performance in rankings.
4. Connecting education of both professional and non-professional nature to skill development. Offering courses not comparable to public education institution-avoiding comparison.
5. Positive impact on quality with-respect to infrastructure, curriculum, pedagogy, research, faculty quality, salary- though not uniform across all universities under study.
6. Though placement opportunities are projected, Impact on employability does not seem to be significant in all of the universities under study, though increasing discourse of skills in humanities.

Conclusion:

- The study concludes that private universities have made efforts to uplift the quality in education and promote research. They are focused on making a mark in rankings- connect it with quality.
- They are increasingly participating and influencing the discourse around quality and positioning themselves as facilitators for gaining employment, made visible in the way the stakeholders in Pvt. Univ. understand quality and expects univ. to provide both.
- They are conscious of promoting graduate employability and are taking active measures, but are not meeting expectations of majority of students.
- The study moots that there is a need to move past public- private binary, promote inter-university collaborations, share best practices in promoting quality & graduate employability.
- Government has to facilitate a policy environment where HEIs can work together in promoting Quality and Graduate employability without compromising on equity.