

Topic: Social Responsibility in Higher Education in India

Outline of the Study

The 12th Plan has recommended furtherance of social responsibility in higher education. It has recommended to the Ministry of HRD strategies to deepen community engagement by Higher Education Institutions in India.

Yet, there is no data base about the current practices in community engagement in the country. Existing good practices for knowledge sharing need to be studied and documented so that the knowledge base of this innovative aspect of higher education policy can be analysed and disseminated.

Purpose of the Study

- To conduct survey of existing community engagement practices amongst universities and colleges in India
- To classify and analyse the status of such practices in India
- To identify institutional and policy support that can broaden and deepen community engagement in the country
- To launch a portal with this data base for ongoing knowledge sharing and exchange
- To convene a national conference where findings of the study are presented and plans for implementation of the 12th Plan furthered
- To publish a report based on the findings and deliberations of the conference

Scope & Extent of the Study

The study is first of its kind in India. It will be national in scope. A survey is required to cover all the HEIs in the country. Field studies for documenting best practices in community engagement would be essential. A national data-bank can be so created and disseminated through a portal. Findings should be debated in a national conference of VCs, academics and civil society. Published report would act as a guide for deepening community engagement and social responsibility in higher education in the country.

Usefulness of the Study

The innovative aspect of 12th Plan for strengthening social responsibility in higher education needs adequate knowledge base to be implemented. The study can analyse the present situation and make recommendations for deepening community engagement and social responsibility in higher education.

2:
Topic: Management Education in India: Status, trends and reforms

1. Outline of the Study

Business and management programmes in the country is one of the areas of highest growth rates in the education space over the past 50 years. Given the relationship between management education and the business world, market forces such as globalization, technological change, and new workplace requirements, may affect business education more than any other branch of academia.

There are 3556 MBA institutes and 288 PGDM colleges in country. The total number of seats for management courses has increased from 11480 in 2007-08 to 313920 in 2011-12. In recent years, however, many B-schools have struggled to fill their seats. Some B-school have even requested to reduce their current intake. Around 58 per cent of young Indians suffer from some degree of skill-deprivation.

2. Purpose of the Study

- To describe the current status of management education in India.
- To explore the emerging trends of management education in India.
- To describe the challenges and constraints faced by management institutions, and propose the reform needed in management education in the country.
- To convene a workshop in which findings of the secondary data analysis shall be shared and discussed with the experts.

3. The Scope and Extent of the Study

The focus of business management education in any country ought to be towards preparing business leaders of future. Thus, it becomes increasingly important to study whether the current pattern of management education is actually working towards building leaders of tomorrow or not. This can be explored by studying the current status, changing trends and the need for reforms in the management education.

4. Usefulness of the Study

The study is required to understand the impact of quality of management courses on employability of an individual. Findings of the study would be useful for policy makers in formulating the regulatory framework, monitoring the quality of management education and also in increasing the skills and employability of management graduates.

3
Topic: **Status of Women in Science among Select Institutions in India:
Policy Implications**

1. Outline of the Study

International data during the past decade suggest that the number of women in most areas of science and engineering has continued to grow, in leaps and bounds. Quantitative surveys indicate the persistence of the gender gap-in terms of opportunities, salaries, and career advancement-remains a challenge that needs to be addressed.

In India, despite the increasing number of women in higher education in Science, women's participation at higher levels of Science in tenured research positions has shown little increase¹ Women constitute over one-third of the total Science graduate and post-graduate degree holders but comprise only between 15-20 percent of the tenured faculty across research institutions and universities in India.

2. Purpose of the Study

- to conduct a pilot study to critically examine the best practices of promoting and retaining women in science among the different types of higher education institutions in the country.

3. The Scope and Extent of the Study

This may be a pilot project to cover the sample of institutions of different kinds like the IITs, IISERs, CSIR, ICAR, institutes of National importance- IISc., CFTRI etc. Based on the insights of this phase of the study, a national project covering sample higher education institutions throughout the country could be launched.

4. Usefulness of the study

Advance in Science careers begins at the earliest stage soon after PhD, it is important for women to establish themselves during their early 30s, a period that coincides for most Indian women with marriage and family commitments. Breaks or temporary research positions of 3-5 years during this period do not offer the advantage of moving up the ladder at a later stage when family commitments take less time. Thus, as a compromise, a large number of qualified women scientists opt for under-graduate or school level teaching, while others completely drop out of Science. The finding of the study will help evolving favorable policies for the willingness and need for women to stay active in research despite their other responsibilities.