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GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SCENARIO- AN OVERVIEW

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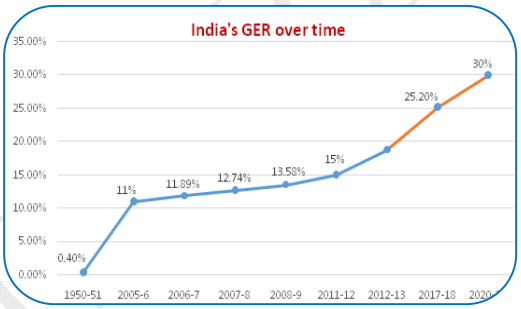
ABSTRACT :



"Education is the single most important factor in achieving rapid economic development and technological progress… in all branches of national life education becomes the focal point of planned development," (GOI, 1961). The Indian Higher Education System has established itself as the largest system in the world in terms of number of institutions and third largest in terms of student enrollment after China and USA (MHRD, 2012) However, the access to higher education is measured in term of Gross Enrolment Ratio, which is a ratio of persons enrolled in higher education institutions to total population of the persons in age group of 18 to 23 years. As per UNESCO estimate, at least 20 per cent of GER in higher education is a prerequisite for rapid socio economic development of country (Chauhan, 2010). The access in higher education has increased over the years, 10% of GER was found in the year 2000.However it is increased 24.3 % in 2015-16, followed by 25.2 percent in 2016 -17(MHRD, 2018). Indian higher education is more reliable, competent to that the coming generation can be more skillful to face the challenges in their life. It is in this context, the paper makes its attempt to highlight the GER of Indian higher education at present scenario.

KEYWORDS : *Gross Enrolment Ratio, Higher Education .*

INTRODUCTION

GER in Indian higher education system has a tremendous improvement. Former MHRD Minister Smriti Irani (2015) had expressed confidence that the target of 30 per cent GER by 2020 - as envisaged in the 12th Plan - would be achieved. During the same period, the number of institutions of higher education (Listed on the All India Survey on Higher Education portal) has also increased significantly. At present there are 860 universities, as against 795 in 2015-16, and 40026 colleges against 38,498 in the year 2016-17 (AISHE, 2018). It is evidence for increasing of higher education institutions in India.

The GER of Indian higher education also improved to 25.2 percent from 2016-17, 23.6 percent in 2015 and 22.5 percent in 2014 respectively. Overall enrolment in higher education was 35.7 million in 2016-17, compared to 34.6 million in 2015-16 and 33.3 million in the year 2014-15 (MHRD, 2018). Regarding, improvement in enrolment in higher education play a pivotal role in increasing of the institutions in India, especially for private institutions. However,Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Puducherry, Telangana, HimachalPradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhara Pradesh, Keral,a Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, and Karnataka have above the average of national GER in India. The GER in Indian higher education, the state of Tamil Nadu retains the number one position (46.9%) among the states and second

position in overall sates and UTs. The Union territory of Chandigarh (56.1%), Delhi (45.3%) and Puducherry (43.1%) has the first, third and fourth places in terms of GER at state and UTs level in the country (MHRD, 2018).The developing countries like India; it is boon for the further developments of the country around the world. However, state and central government take cognizance about the enrolled youth in terms of provide proper skills and training for developing the skilled human resources in India. All the students are turned into potential skilled forces in the country; no doubt India will be the leading country in the world.

CURRENT SCENARIO OF INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher Education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of Universities/University level Institutions and Colleges since Independence. The number of Universities has increased 43 times from 20 in 1950 to 864 in 2017 (MHRD, 2018). The higher education institutions are at present engaging in enrolling international students, becoming partners of inter-institutional schemes, and pushing forward in the drive towards globalization, students, academic staff and curricula are transferred and exchanged between the institutions of higher education for the betterment of the quality and to increasing the GER at global level.

But, India's GER of 17.9% (2012) was much below the world average of 26%, as well as the other emerging countries such as China (26%), USA (95%) and Brazil (36%) (MHRD, 2012). The GER in the year 2012-13(21.5%), 2013-14(22.5%) ,2014-2015(23.6%) and 2015-16 (24.3 %) and 2016-17 (25.2 %) respectively in Indian higher education. Former HRD Minister Kapil Sibal said "We will need 800 to one thousands new universities and 40,000 new colleges to meet the aim of 30 percent GER by 2020 (MHRD Report, 2010). Now, we aimed to reach that target appropriately. It is the evidence for the progress of the higher education in the country. However, the increase of the colleges and universities definitely improve the national GER and to realize the ultimate aims of the RUSA. The gross enrollment ratio (GER) in higher education in India is witnessing a consistent and significant rise for the IX and XII five year plan periods.

In the year 1950-51 the number of Universities was 20 which went up to 864 in the year 2016-2017. The increase in the universities during the period was 43 times. In the year 1950-51 the numbers of colleges were 695 which increased to 40026 in the year 2017. The increase in the colleges for the above-mentioned period is 64 times. From 2000 to 2017, it can clearly indicate the tremendous growth of the universities and colleges in India. The growth of Universities and Colleges was due to the massive efforts and policy decisions that were periodically taken and introducing new schemes, initiatives, special project by the central and the state government of India. The access to higher education is measured in terms of GER, which is a ratio of persons enrolled in higher education institutions to total population of the persons in the age group of 18 to 23 years. GER in higher education increased from 0.7 per cent in 1950-51 to 1.4 per cent in 1960-61 to 5 per cent in 1980, 6 per cent in 1990 to about 10 per cent in 2000.

It was further increased to 12 per cent in 2007 (Ernst & young, 2011) to about 17.9 per cent in 2011-12 (Ernst & young, 2012), 2012-13, 21.5%, 2013-14, 22.5% and 23.6 % in the year 2014-15 respectively. It indicates the phenomenal growth in access to higher education cuts across in States, religion, and gender thereby increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio from 24.3 % in 2015-16 and 25.2 percent in the year 2016-17, by comparing other developing countries, India have the tremendous improvement in GER in higher education.

Table - 1 Enrolment Status of Higher education Institutions in India (2012-13 to 2016-17)

YEAR	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-2017
No. of Universities	667	723	760	799	864
No. of Colleges	35,525	36,634	38,056	38498	40026
Enrolment in Higher Education(in million)	30.1	32.3	33.3	34.2	35.7
GER(Total)	**21.5**	**22.5**	**23.6**	**24.3**	**25.2**
Male (GER)	22.7	23.0	24.5	25.3	26.0
Female (GER)	20.1	22.0	22.7	23.2	24.2

Source: Ministry of Human Resource development (AISHE Report, 2016-17)

Table - 1 clearly indicates the growth and enrolment status of the higher education institutions in the country for the last five years. All the years the enrolments, colleges, and universities have been increased. However, during the year 2012-13, 30.1 million students took part in the higher education, but in the year 2015-16 there are 34.2 million students who are pursuing their higher education followed by 35.7 million in end of the year 2017. The estimation of GER is generally based on the data collected by AISHE/MHRD (2017) from the higher education institutions in India. Whenever the universities and colleges increased, simultaneously the GER also gradually increased, which was evidence based. It will increase the number of students being enrolled in the higher education arena, eventually it promote the progress and development of the country. However, the male and female GER are continuously increased from 2012-13 to 2016-17. It is evidence for the development of the Indian higher education to challenging the world higher education scenario.

Table-2 Above the National average of GER (25.2%) States and UTs in India and their gender wise differences (2015-16 to 2016-17)

Sl.No	STATES / UTs	**GER (%) 2015-16 (A)**	Male (%) A1	Female (%) B1	**GER (%) 2016-17 (B)**	Male (%) A2 ***(A1-A2)*** Difference	Female (%) B2 ***(B1-B2)*** Difference	***GER (%) (A-B) Difference***
1.	Chandigarh	**56.1**	48.6	63.6	**56.1**	47.3 (-1.3)	68.8 (+5.2)	***Nil***
2.	Puducherry	**46.0**	47.7	44.2	**43.1**	41.8 (-5.9)	44.6 (+0.4)	***- 2.9***
3.	Tamil Nadu	**45.2**	47.0	43.4	**46.9**	48.2 (+ 3)	45.6 (+2.2)	***+ 1.7***
4.	Delhi	**43.5**	42.0	45.4	**45.3**	42.8 (+0.8)	48.4 (+ 3)	***+ 1.8***
5.	Telangana	**36.1**	39.2	33.0	**35.8**	38.0 (- 1.2)	33.6 (+0.6)	***- 0.3***
6.	Manipur	**35.9**	37.1	34.8	**35.0**	35.3 (+1.8)	34.7 (-0.1)	***- 0.9***
7.	Uttarakhand	**33.9**	34.9	32.8	**33.4**	33.8 (+1.1)	33.0 (-0.2)	***- 0.5***
8.	Himachal Pradesh	**31.2**	29.2	33.3	**36.7**	33.0 (+3.8)	40.7 (+7.4)	***+ 5.5***
9.	Andhara Pradesh	**31.2**	35.2	27.3	**32.4**	36.5 (+1.3)	28.4 (+1.1)	***+ 1.2***
10.	Sikkim	**30.3**	28.4	32.4	**37.3**	33.9 (+5.5)	40.8 (+8.4)	***+ 7.0***
11.	Kerala	**28.7**	24.1	33.3	**34.2**	28.3 (+4.2)	40.1 (+6.8)	***+ 5.5***
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	**28.3**	28.6	27.9	**28.9**	29.3 (+0.7)	28.5 (+0.6)	***+ 0.6***
13.	Maharashtra	**27.9**	30.0	25.6	**30.2**	32.0 (+2)	28.2 (+2.6)	***+ 2.3***
14.	Goa	**27.7**	25.2	30.7	**28.1**	25.0 (-0.2)	31.9 (+1.2)	***+ 0.4***
15.	Haryana	**27.6**	27.6	27.5	**29.0**	28.5 (-0.9)	29.7 (+2.2)	***+ 1.4***
16.	Punjab	**27.1**	26.0	28.4	**28.6**	27.0 (+ 1)	30.6 (+2.2)	***+ 1.5***
17.	Karnataka	**26.4**	26.7	26.0	**26.5**	26.4 (-0.3)	26.6(+0.6)	***+ 0.1***

Source : Al India Survey of Higher Education Report, MHRD (2017)

GER in higher education 2015-16, Utter Pradesh has 25% which was above the national average of 24.3%, but the year 2016-17 it is not in the position to continue above the national average 25.2 %. Instead of UP- Jammu & Kashmir placed above the national average 25.2 % in 2016-17.but it is not placed the year 2015-16

A - Denote Percentage of National GER in higher education - 2015-16

B - Denote Percentage of National GER in higher education - 2016-17

A-B Denote the GER difference between the years 2015-16 – 2016-17

Table-2 shows the States and UTs GER that are above the average of the national GER in higher education (25.2 %). From the table - 2016-17, 17 states and UTs have placed and to increase the GER of above the national GER level. Among the States and UTs Chandigarh (56.1), Tamilnadu, (46.9%), Delhi (45.3 %) Puducherry (43.1%), has the maximum GER in the country. Further, the table interpreted that the difference between the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 in terms of total and gender wise enrolment. Sikkim **(7.0 %),** Himachal Pradesh **(5.5%),** Kerala **(5.5%),** Maharashtra **(2.3 %)** Tamil Nadu **(1.7 %)** Delhi **(1.8 %)** Haryana **(1.4 %)** and Punjab **(1.5%)** has increased their GER in higher education by comparing the previous year. However, state like Sikkim 7.0 percent, Himachal Pradesh 5.5 percent and Kerala 5.5 percent has the vast difference in enrolling the students in the higher education. Whereas, the UTs of Puducherry (2.9 %) decreased their enrollment followed by Telangana (0.3 %), Manipur(0.9 %) and Uttakhand (0.5 %) respectively by comparing the previous year.

Gender wise differences GER in higher education (2015-16 to 2016-17)

A1 - Denote Percentage of male GER in higher education – 2015-16

A2- Denote Percentage of male GER in higher education – 2016-17

A1-A2 - Denote the male GER difference between the years 2015-16 – 2016-17

B1- Denote Percentage of female GER in higher education – 2015-16

B2- Denote Percentage of female GER in higher education – 2016-17

B1-B2 - Denote the female GER difference between the years 2015-16 – 2016-17

Further, table-4 mention that the gender wise GER differences between the years 2015-16 to 2016-17. The states and UTs varied in their GER in higher education, in the year 2016-17, the male GER was increased in the states of Sikkim 5.5 %, Kerala 4.2 %, Himachal Pradesh 3.8 %, Tamil Nadu 3%, Maharashtra 2%, Manipur 1.8%, Andhra Pradesh 1.3% Uttarchand 1.1%, Punjab 1%, Delhi 08 % and Arunachal Pradesh 0.7% respectively, by comparing the year 2015-16. However, Puducherry 5.9 %, Chandigargh 1.3 %, Haryana 0.9 %,Telangana 1.2%, Karnataka 0.3% and Goa 0.2 % respectively decreased their male GER during the year 2016-17, even though they are listed in the above the national average of GER in higher education.

The Difference in the female GER in higher education showed that the states like Sikkim 8.4 %, Himachal Pradesh 7.4%, Kerala 6.8 %, Chandigarh 5.2 %, Delhi 3 %, Maharashtra 2.6 % Tamil Nadu 2.2%, Haryana 2.2%, Punjab 2.2%, Goa 1.1% Andara Pradesh 1.1%, Telangana 0.6%. Arunachal Pradesh 0.6% and Karnataka 0.6% increased their GER in higher education by comparing the year 2015-16. In the year 2016-17, states like Uttarhand 0.2% and Manipur 0.1 % has the gradual decrease in their GER in higher education.

From the table, it is inferred that the Male and female GER in higher education increased states and UTs, Sikkim stands number one position. States like Kerala and Himachal Pradesh stand second and third position in their male GER. However, the states of Kerala and Himachal Pradesh stand the second and third position in their female GER in higher education. From the table, 11 states and UTs increased the male GER and 15 states and UTs increased their female GER in the country. The female GER was increased among the states and UTs than the male in the country . However, the Indian higher education system steps ahead of the female enrolment in terms of witnessing the women access in the higher education.

Female GER increased States and UTs in Indian Higher Education

Since independence there had been a phenomenal growth in the number of women students' enrolment in higher education, around 40 percent of enrolments coming from lower socio economic strata,

and women comprising of approximately 35 percent of the total enrolments (Tilak, 2004). However, on the eve of the independence the women enrolment was less than 10 per cent of the total enrolment but in the academic year 2016-17 women enrolment increased up to 46.8 per cent (AISHE, 2017).

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (1948) says "there cannot be educated people without educated women. If general education has to be limited to men or women, the opportunity should be given to women. From them it would most surely be passed on to the next generation." However, the modern attitude visualizes education as an instrument for women's equality and their development at global level. In general students' enrolment at undergraduate level has 53 percent male and 47 percent female, post graduate level has 49 percent male and 51 percent female (MHRD,2015) .

Table - 3 Female GER increased States and UTs in Indian Higher Education – A Comparison (2015-16 to 2016-17)

Sl.No	**STATES / UTs**	**Male GER** (%)	**Female GER** (%)	**2016-17 female GER** (%)difference **(A)**	**2015-16 female GER difference (%) (B)**	***GER (%) A-B Difference***
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	21.5	24.2	**2.7**	**2.7**	**Nil**
2.	Chandigarh	47.3	68.8	**21.5**	**15.0**	**+ 6.5**
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	07.6	11.9	**1.8**	**1.8**	**Nil**
4.	Daman & Diu	04.5	08.5	**4.0**	**5.0**	**- 1.0**
5.	Delhi	42.8	48.4	**5.6**	**3.4**	**+ 2.2**
6.	Goa	25.0	31.9	**6.9**	**5.5**	**+ 1.4**
7.	Haryana	28.5	29.7	**1.2**	-	**1.2 ***
8.	Himachal Pradesh	33.0	40.7	**7.7**	**4.1**	**+ 3.6**
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	23.6	27.7	**4.1**	**1.4**	**+ 2.7**
10.	Karnataka	26.4	26.6	**0.2**	-	**0.2 ***
11.	Kerala	28.3	40.1	**11.6**	**9.2**	**+ 2.6**
12.	Lakshadweep	04.1	10.6	**6.5**	**4.2**	**+ 2.3**
13.	Meghalaya	23.1	23.8	**0.7**	**1.4**	**- 1.3**
14.	Puducherry	41.8	44.6	**2.8**	-	**2.8 ***
15	Punjab	27.0	30.6	**3.6**	**2.4**	**+ 1.2**
16.	Sikkim	33.9	40.8	**6.9**	**4.0**	**+ 2.9**
17.	Uttar Pradesh	24.6	25.3	**0.7**	**1.0**	**- 0.3**

Source: All India Survey of Higher Education Report (MHRD,2018).

*indicates the female GER increased in the year 2016-17 only. It is not in the list of 2015-16

Table -3 indicates that the female GER increased states and UTs, between 2015-16 to-2016-17. From the table we noticed that the wonderful increase of the female GER throughout the country. Last two years most of the states and UTs have the tremendous improvement. Meghalaya (- 1.3 %), UP (0.3 %) and Daman and Die (1.0 %) has the gradual decrease in their female GER in higher education. The remaining states and UTs have the vast difference in increases of female enrolment. States and UTs like Chandigargh **(+ 6.5 %),** Himachal Predesh (**+ 3.6 %)**, Delhi (**+ 2.2 %)**, Kerala (**+ 2.6)**, Sikkim (**+ 2.9),** Puducherry **(2.7 %),** Jammu & Kashmir (**+ 2.7 %)** etc, has the significant improvement in female GER in higher education. However, most of

the state and UTs improve continuously, some states and UTs lost their GER in female by comparing the last two years. The National Policy of Education (1986), broadening the vision further underscored the role of education in empowering women that would overcome inequalities and disparities (Chanana, 1993). Shanjendu Nath (2014) mentions some key influences for increasing the female GER in higher education institutions in India are as follows:

- Increasing number of higher educational institutions in the country.
- Providing scholarship facilities for women.
- Providing separate hostel facilities for girls' students.
- Expectation of employment oriented education is very high amongst women.

However, the schemes, initiatives and special project play an important role in increasing the female GER, as well as the women literacy rate in the country.

CONCLUSION

The main objective of the Indian higher education is to increase the gross enrolment ratio in higher education to 15 % by 2011-12 to 21% by 2016-17 and 30 % by the year 2020 (MHRD,2014) the current GER is 25.2 % . It will automatically increase the number of students being enrolled in the higher education arena. However, the female participation in higher education also increased tremendously. However, the objectives of RUSA should be realized in terms of access, equity and excellence in higher education, witnessing the increases of GER particularly the female GER in the country. It helps to achieve the national agenda in relation to the technological advancement and enhance the socio-economic status of the people. Hence the modest efforts taken in the paper shall be believed to ensure the access, equity and excellence in higher education so as to produced and strengthen the skilled forces in the country. If all the enrolled youth are turned into skilled forces in India, we can challenge the world in terms of skillful human resources enriched country among the nations.

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