

Higher Education in the age of Globalization-

The Gloomy Indian Context

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Higher Education in India

- Objectives

- **Equity:** Fairness, Equality of Opportunities and Inclusion of individuals who are at the margins
- **Access:** To cross the social barriers and discriminatory practices in order to grow to the optimal level
- **Excellence:** To match the world standards in terms of educational outcomes
- **Relevance:** To relate education with the mundane problems of social life

Globalization and India

Globalization refers to processes that increase connectivity among societies & their people, institutions, organizations. Globalization intertwines **cultural**, **political**, and **economic** interdependencies that challenge traditional arrangements.



“The growing *extensity*, *intensity*, and *velocity* of global interactions can be associated with their deepening *impact* such that the effects of distant events can be highly significant elsewhere and specific local developments can come to have considerable global consequences.” (Held et al. 1999)

- ❖ Communication & transportation technologies compress and decouple time, geographic spaces, social distances (“**global village**”)
- ❖ National & regional boundaries grow increasingly permeable
- ❖ Cultural / identity groups become detached from their traditional territorial bases (the diffusion of **supraterritoriality**)

Globalization

The Elusive Goals of *Equity & Access*

- Benefits of globalization to the different
- sections of the society – it is believed to be “far uneven”. (**Shock Therapy backfires**)
- Its role in creating greater social stratification and inequality – widening the gaps between the “haves” and “have not’s” (**Economic Pyramid**)
- Its role in destabilizing and distorting the indigenous culture, tradition and values.

equity & access.....

- Its role in alienating the youth from their own places by uprooting and at the same time not sure of providing a landing space. *(Green Card uncertainty)*
- More than these, its role in facilitating the rich countries to grow richer by drawing the resources from the poor. *(Global South as consumer of clean and sophisticated technology)*

equity & access.....

- Globalization redistributes exclusion across countries and within a country.
- In this view, “society splits into two types of people: those ‘at the social core’ and those at the ‘social periphery’ – even in the world’s richest economies.
- A recent estimate suggests that **no more than 20 percent of students currently in higher education will be at the core of the rising Knowledge Economy. The remainder will be a ‘subordinate social layer’. This doesn’t auger well for social cohesion.”**

WE TEACH THEM ABOUT EQUALITY.
HOW WILL WE EXPLAIN THIS? BY 2016...

**THE TOP 1%
WILL BE
RICHER
THAN THE REST OF
THE WORLD
COMBINED.**



OXFAM
America



State of Higher Education in India - The Grim Scenario.....continues

- **Comodification of Education:** Higher education is becoming a marketing commodity.
- It is a multi-billion dollar business. This shift from education as a social good to marketable commodity is against the **equitable education**, and sufferers in these changes will be poor and disadvantaged people.

The Grim Scenario.....continues

Consumerism & Commodity Fetishism

- Hr. Education geared to produce efficient workers for corporate life.
- Technocracy is knowledge;
- Money is wisdom;
- Happiness is purchasing power
- Educational outcome is determined by Salary Package

Happy Consciousness!



The Grim Scenario.....continues

Marginalization of Weaker sections

- High disparities in educational standards and quality of education offered by Indian universities and colleges is driven towards meeting the 'global standards'.
- Local needs and interests of marginalized are ignored.
- The cream of the youths are attracted by fat packages by MNCs. Curriculum is designed to meet **corporate needs**.
- Let the Tribals and Adivasi die.....I have to take care of Google & Microsoft !!!

Who Shall Bother About Poverty
Alleviation and Sanitation Issues in
Poor Countries?

Let the Tribal Women and Adivasi
Children die.....

I have to take care of Google &
Microsoft !!!

Higher Education & Individual Growth

- It leads to a an individualist and ‘consumerist sociology of knowledge’.
- Materialism and self-centeredness converts students into ‘possessive individuals’ who owe nothing to society. *(Plato’s dilemma comes true)*
- ‘Sustainability’ as a life style becomes nightmare. Greed is the engine, guys.
- ‘Self- Actualization’- a distant reality.

Global Capitalist Culture & False Needs

“Most of the prevailing needs to relax, to have fun, to behave and consume in accordance with the advertisements, to love and hate what others love and hate, belong to this category of false needs. Such needs have a societal content and function which are determined by external powers over which the individual has no control”—Herbert Marcuse

....back to Equity and Access Debate

- The ashes of Nehruvian socialism are buried under structure of LPG Model.
- Competition, business climate and efficiency are the buzzwords.
- Education is directed towards strengthening a singular power centre.
-Ironically, the old relics of democratic socialism – viz., *Equity and Access* remain. Embalmed and mummified, although.

Thanks & Good Luck