

Youth and Education : An Invisible Hand for Development

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ABSTRACT

Indian education has come a long way from its typical gurukul system to modern e-learning technique. With time the format, courses of studies, scope of syllabus and even the tenure of disciplines has been modified. Broadly the various faculties can be segregated into 4 groups- general or traditional education, technical education, management education and medical studies. All with their own pros and cons are still preferred by various sections of pupils.

The findings of this paper can be used effectively while framing new syllabus henceforth. The upcoming students can use the results to mark their choice for graduation and post graduation courses. A demanding syllabus can improve the efficiency and productivity in turn.

Introduction

The definition, nature and concept of the term 'education' have undergone a change with the shift in social, economic and cultural environment of the society. Education for today's generation is a means to earn their livelihood. The greater the expected future earning is the more the market demand and value of the course. When the auspicious and divine value of the education as jotted down in our scriptures is measure against it being another mode of investment, it surely is a setback for the older generation. Rather than indulging in the debate between which generation's view is appropriate or for the

matter of fact profitable, it will be easier to analyse the usefulness of this 'education' from various aspect as of today. Education attained by one generation should provide benefit to all the three generations- past, present and future.

The importance of education can be estimated from the fact that out of the 5 basic needs of life, most of which are freebie for general public, it is one of them. Definitely this education does not involve higher education. Elementary and secondary education is mostly subsidized, on the contrary higher education in the field of engineering, medical and management studies are not. The question then arises is

why are people themselves or government interested to spend for higher education. Obviously they expect something in return of it. If it's a private individual then they expect to add a few more zeros to their account. If its govt. – may it be central or state- it too expects to generate greater revenue in the near future. The next question that pops up in mind is, if everyone is concerned with the return of higher education then what exactly is the 'return' (both private and social) worth of? Is that return proportional to the investment in education? If not then is it more or less than proportional to the invested amount?

EDUCATION POLICY-2013

According to Annual Status of Education Report (Aser) 2013, published by Pratham, scenario in higher education is not rosy. In terms of research productivity, India has 7.8 scientists per 1000 population compared to 180.7 in Canada, 53.1 in South Korea and 21.2 in the US. Harvard University's endowment stands at \$32 billion whereas the total extramural grants provided to Indian universities put together is about Rs 12 billion. There should be a three-pronged plan. One evolution of Right to Education should have greater emphasis on quality at the ground level with achievable goals. Second the investment in higher education should be more than 2 per cent of GDP in five years. Important Bills such as The Protection and Utilisation of Public Funded Intellectual Property Bill and The Higher Education and Research Bill are pending

in Parliament. These Bills need to be cleared in order to provide better financial incentives for talented scientists.

Finally, there has to be a renewed commitment to greater public-private partnerships in the higher and lower education systems.

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

People usually invest where the expected future return is positive-high or low matters next. So if we assume that it is positive for private individual then the debate will turn towards the motive of govt. investment in higher education. In a democratic country like ours govt. is usually motivated towards welfare. A society can follow the trail of progress only through economic boost, which in turn depends on various factors like factor endowment, environmental factors, political stability, human capital etc. Human capital has always been a part of both theoretical and empirical analyses of development in neoclassical and endogenous growth models. Thus is the importance of human capital in classical theory.

So what exactly is the relationship between higher education and development of a nation, for which GOI is spending quite an amount towards higher education? Many researchers have already established the fact that education has a positive relation to the economic development of a nation. In the short run it may not be so evident but in the long run it's definitely going to yield a greater

impact. Since the relation has already been established and an accepted fact, the suspense that remains is to what degree or to what extent do they respond to one another? Most of the research papers have used Mincer's equation to justify their views. According to Jacob Mincer theory the amount of human capital can be calculated by using the years of schooling and experience combined in one equation. Here the basic assumption - formal education is to be included restricts the study within limited boundary. At the same time ignorance of quality of schooling and individuality of learner acts as a hindrance. Apart from the limitations it's still the favourite of research scholars in this arena.

OBJECTIVE

- To study different parameters that affects the quality of higher education.
- To analyze & interpret each parameter and the position of it among others.
- To rank these parameters according to their contribution among three faculties.
- To suggest different measures that would help in the academic development of the state.

METHODOLOGY

The paper will focus only on technical education, management education and general education. This paper shall be based on questionnaire collected from primary sample survey, consisting of students who are taking various courses

along with the immediate pass outs. The questionnaire was framed with the intent that students can put their desired value against each variable. The range of the value was 0% to 100%, based on their agreement that signified a full 100% or disagreement of 0%. After the collection of the data, each observation was noted down against their respective class interval of gap 10. Then average was calculated using arithmetic mean formula. Once the sub parameter were averaged then grand mean of the groups were calculated. Grand mean here is the mean of means of variables under one heading. Same issues were raised to the immediately passed outs. Taking into consideration that 'time is money' for them instead of % pattern they were asked to express their feelings in Yes/No style- saving time and fulfilling the purpose simultaneously.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

With India ranking 3rd largest academic system and with formulation of national policy on education the fundamental problems of higher education have come into limelight. Education in itself is not sufficient for the overall development of the society. It has to be backed by strong quality. By quality what we mean is the kind of study which will help the students to get a productive job in the world of competition. The quality should be such that its participants that are the degree holders can bank upon.

There is some extent of confusion (many left the question unanswered)

regarding the quality of education in the B.Tech course. Still students have not lost all their hope with respect to the quality aspect (Grand Mean is 60.92). Current technical education fails to help in retention of topics completed within the past two years (42.63)*. Present evaluation mechanism of university/institution is also questionable (56.12). As with the scope of the present syllabus students think it to be too diversified (52.36). There was a tie up on the issue of memorizing of the contents versus understanding of the contents (67). Higher education yet in a good way helps in reducing the stress (52.63) and also strengthens emotional intelligence (deal with emotional breakdown 65.52). There was a strong positive response to the point that with higher qualification technical people develop differences in attitude (82.89).

There is some concern among management students regarding quality of education (61.80). Management education helps in retention of information to a greater extent (57.22) compared to other two. MBA students are well satisfied with evaluation mechanism of university (71.66). Many of them do find the scope of the present syllabus is too diversified though (57.22). Numbers indicate that, management education do not reduce stress for most of them (48.33). but management course does strengthen emotional intelligence (69.44). Management syllabus too focuses on the memorizing (51.66) and simultaneously understanding (62.77) of the contents.

Management people also like technical people develop differences in attitude with more qualifications (76.11).

The situation is better among general education students. They have more faith in their own syllabus (Grand Mean is 65.72). General education do helps in retention of topics completed within the past two years (55.52). Students are also quite ok with evaluation mechanism of university (68.68). But there seems to be some problem with the scope of the syllabus. Students find it too diversified (69.21). Though syllabus mainly focuses on the memorizing (65) of the contents, yet understanding of the contents scores more points (67.11). Like engineering general education also reduces the stress among the pupils (66.58), strengthens emotional intelligence (69.21). General line students agree with their counterpart in technical line but vary in degree to the issue of differences in attitude. They are less aggressive (65.62).

USEFULNESS OF EDUCATION

Education is a kind of service which not only benefits the individual purchasing it but also the entire surrounding. The spill over effect of education is too strong and mostly positive in nature. Higher education benefits the individuals pursuing it monetarily through higher productivity and net earnings, better job opportunities, higher savings and personal and professional mobility; and nonmonetary through educational enrichment, better labour conditions, higher personal status, better job satisfaction, better health and life

expectancies, more hobbies and leisure activities and personal development. At the same time education being a 'quasi- good' can spread from one generation to another generation without much of a cost.

Engineering students perceive their education to be most useful in their future life (Grand Mean 72). Their syllabus completed during academic years shall be able to help them in their practical working life (62.36), in building a strong team (82.36) and completing various projects placed under their team. The course content shall also increase skill and efficiency in the technical market (62.10). They have faith that higher education shall help in gaining self motivation and increment in salary (72.63).

There is 46% concern among general students regarding usefulness of education. Usefulness of general education in practical working life raises a few eyebrows (62.89) . General graduates seem to be less confident while answering to be able to work in group (62.89) than technical students. But they are much confident that their course content shall increase skill and efficiency in the job market (64.47). According to the educates education helps in gaining self motivation (66.31) and increment in salary is governed by higher qualification (70.26).

Management education appears to be useful to the individual (Grand Mean 68.33) . Management candidates think their syllabus shall help in day to day life (66.11) by motivating them (73.88),

building team (69.44), increasing skill and efficiency (71.66) and ultimately higher salary (60.55).

SOCIETY AND EDUCATION

Man is a social animal. Deduct 'social' and we are left with man is an animal. So no matter how much criticism we have to face we still have to live with the society. Actually not live 'with' the society but live 'in' the society. So it won't hurt much if we are able to beautify this society of ours a bit little by little with time. A society runs through its faith, belief and customs. All these are not permanent. They are subject to change. It's more or less a mind-set that pulls the string. So changing the mind or its thinking process can be a great help. With this belief

There is highest (Grand Mean 69.04) concern among these engineering students regarding society and education than general (Grand Mean 65.06) and management (Grand Mean 65.69). At the same line they accept that westernization of education is a setback to traditional belief and culture (61.31). but it's the management youths who care most for belief in traditions and its loss (65) then comes general(60.26). Technical youth are most materialistic than spiritual in thought (83.42), general boys and girls are the lowest in this aspect (57.10), management is in middle (69.44). Technical students believe greater education reduces crime rate in a region (67.10). They support the thinking that higher education can provide safety to women (66.05) and education

as a necessary condition for woman empowerment (87.10). but it's the general students who placed more faith (70.26) on their education in safeguarding the society against crime, unlike management students (56.11).

Green banking is the slogan of the time in the banking sector. Saving every piece of paper is the most we can do to save our planet from being barren. So the paper tried to find how much aware were our present generation to this fact. Technologically upgraded engineering students should and does find using plastic money easier than withdrawal or deposit forms (87.10) compared to general (63.42) or management students (79.44) thus saving paper. Looking from transportation along with fuel prices and its impact on the environmental pollution it's the same engineering students (73.94) who mostly preferred public transport than personal vehicle. Whereas management (71.66) and general students (66.57) showed less interest in public vehicles. Cutting down trees to widen the roads is essential. But strangely management students topped in protecting the trees (71.63) by not agreeing to chop down trees for better infrastructure followed by general (67.66). Engineering students showed least bothered about the falling trees (26.31) may be because their minds are working differently.

IN SERVICE

There is multifaceted concern among in-service students regarding quality of

education which includes education helps in retention of topics completed within the past two years(8%), Present evaluation mechanism of university/ institution is satisfactory(8%), Scope of the present syllabus is too diversified, Higher education helps in reducing the stress(6%), Education strengthens emotional intelligence (deal with emotional breakdown-7%), Syllabus mainly focuses on the memorizing of the contents(0%), Syllabus mainly focuses on the understanding of the contents(7%), With higher qualification people develop differences in attitude(7%).

There is diversified concern among these students regarding usefulness of education which includes The syllabus completed during academic education helps in practical working life, The education attained helps in building team work, The course content increases skill and efficiency in the job market, Higher education helps in gaining intrinsic motivation or self motivation (8%), Increment in salary is governed by higher qualification (5%).

There is various concern among these students regarding society and education which includes Higher education provides safety to women(7%), Westernization of education is a setback to Traditional belief and culture(7%), Educated youth are more materialistic than spiritual in thought(3%), Education a necessary condition for woman empowerment,

Education reduces crime rate in a region, Using ATM is easier than withdrawal or deposit forms (5%), Public transport (Bus or Auto) is preferable than personal vehicle, Cutting down trees to widen the roads is essential(5%).

CONCLUSION

We can conclude that management students have balance preferences for quality of education, usefulness of education and concern towards society as they have to manage these resources. General students are inclined towards both quality of education and usefulness of education as they have to select their career looking into the both. Engineering students are more inclined to usefulness of education as they are from technical field. Service holders have different views regarding quality of education, usefulness of education and concern towards society as they are coming from different sources. This paper does not look into the affordability of the technical or management courses because the samples have already a part of the programs. Affordability is a major debatable topic when it comes to the high profile courses. Equitable distribution of a product like education with strong sense of spill over effect cannot be neglected for long.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

- Setting up of Central Universities, with high quality of infrastructure for teaching and research

- Setting up IIT and IIM, which are leaders in Technical and Management Education in the country and have earned very high reputation for their graduates internationally
- Opening up the Professional Education Sector to large scale private investment and permitting the investors cost recovery from student fees
- Establishing Indian Institutes of Information Technology both in the Public and Private sectors, and crating a new phase of public/private partnership in the IT area with the Institutions given Deemed University Status and ensuring active Industry involvement in Governance.
- Implementing the plan for producing the required human resource for the rapidly growing Information Technology Industry permitting private sector to establish a world class institution
- Permitting private sector to establish a world class institution in Management (ISB at Hyderabad) with linkages with world class institutions
- Permitting some deemed Universities to open campuses both in other states and abroad
- To narrow the scope of syllabus and make them more practical oriented

(*) number in the bracket shows the mean value.

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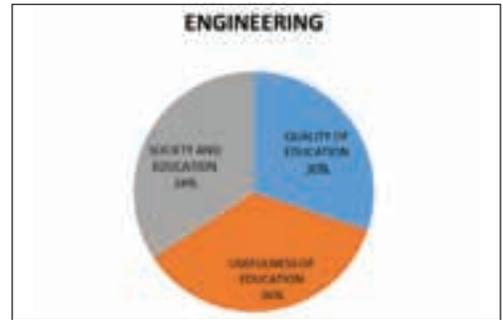
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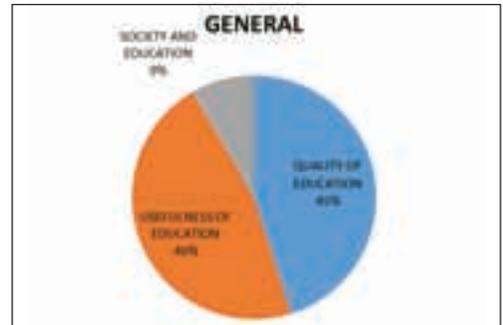
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ANNEXTURE

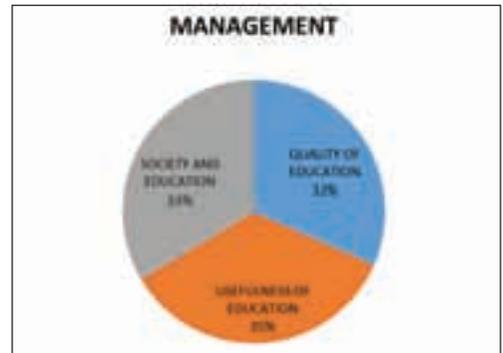
Graph 1- Response of engineering students towards usefulness of education to society and its quality



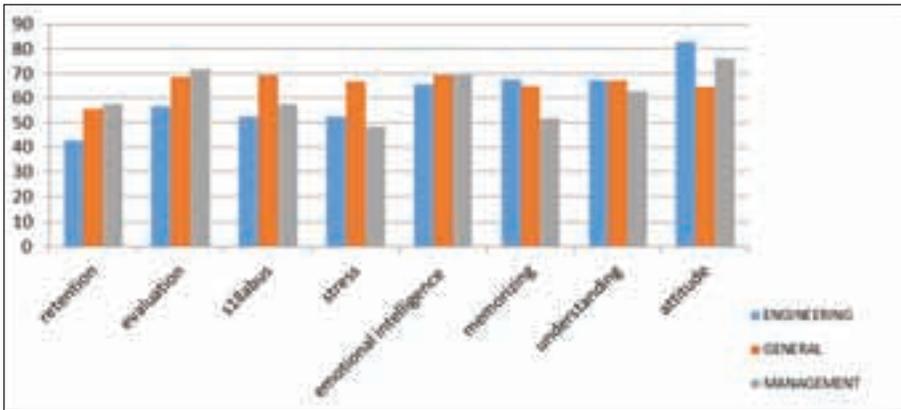
Graph 2- Response of general students towards usefulness of education to society and its quality



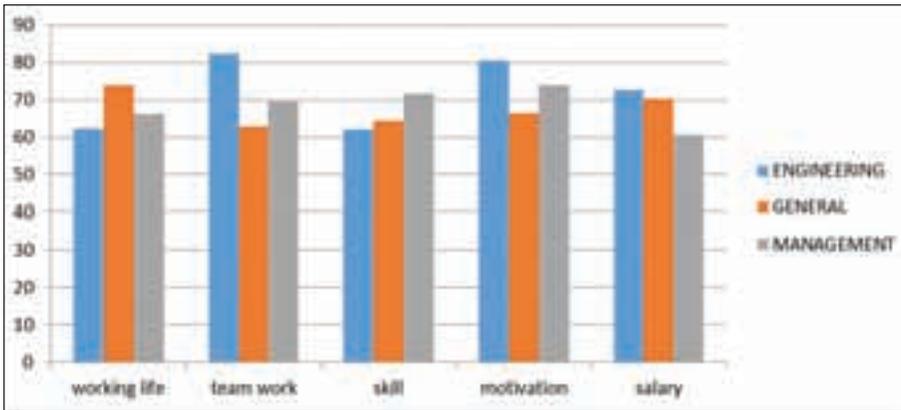
Graph 3- Response of management students towards usefulness of education to society and its quality



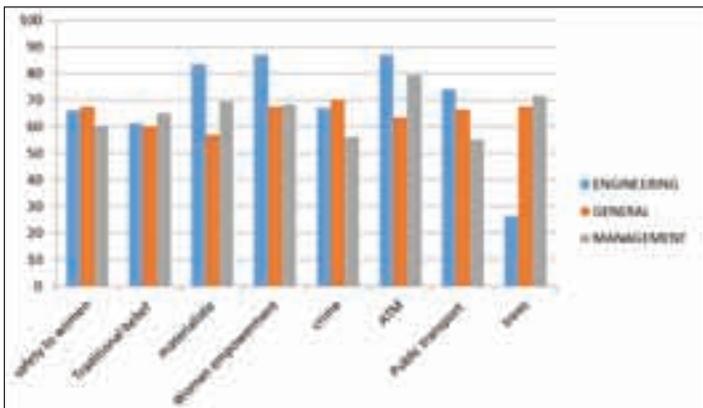
Graph 4- Showing response towards parameters of quality of education.



Graph 5- Showing response towards parameters of usefulness of education.



Graph 6- Showing response towards parameters of education and society.



Graph 7- Response of recent pass outs in job towards usefulness of education to society and its quality

