



Quality of education in Indian universities

A project report

Submitted by

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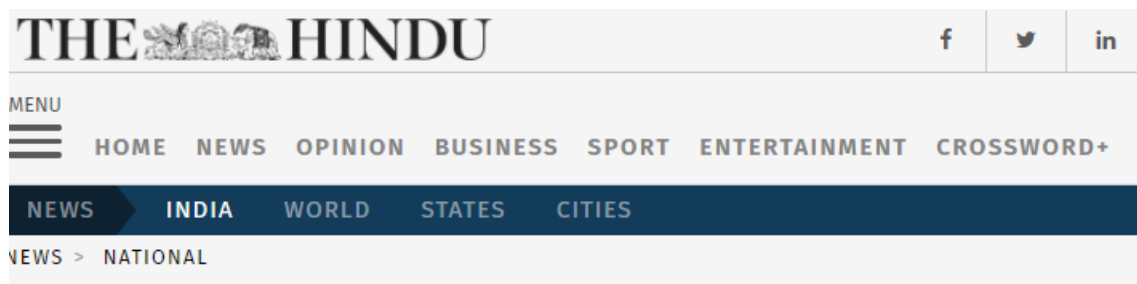
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Introduction

With around 8.15% of Indians (98.615 million) being graduates (<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Only-8.15-of-Indians-are-graduates-Census-data-show/article60334841.ece>) it is pretty clear that most of the Indians are deprived of higher education. While the accessibility is just one aspect, the other side of the coin is the quality of higher education received by these graduates. This report is focused on assessing the quality of higher education in India specifically targeting the universities.



As of 2020, there were more than 1000 universities in India in which 54 of them are central universities, 125 deemed universities, around 360 private universities, 416 state government universities and a whopping 159 ‘institutes of national importance’

(https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/statistics/AISHE2015-16.pdf).

The central government of India also constituted what is called ‘The institutes of eminence’ in 2017 which contains a list of top 10 private and top 10 government universities.

Now if we consider the quality of education in these universities, a few universities could make it to the international rankings like QS ranking, usnews.com and Times Higher Education, many of the Indian universities were not able to achieve it. Hence, I believe that there is huge inequality among the Indian universities regarding the quality of education



Data Collection

Since it is not viable to assess the quality of education delivered in all the universities, this reports considers a sample of 25 universities from 5 south Indian states considering five universities from each state.

The parameters that were considered in this report to assess the quality of education include :-

Student to faculty ratio :- Regardless of how qualitative the course content in the universities is, faculty is the backbone for delivering the course. Hence this parameters checks if there are enough faculty in the universities for given number of students.

Global rankings :- Since the global ranking websites like qs ranking, usnews.com and times higher education consider various parameters of a university while giving them a rank, it is a safe bet to say that if a university is recognised by these ranking websites, it might be good enough to meet the international standards. However it is worth taking a note that the 25 universities considered in this report are popular enough in their respective states hence they have higher chance of breaking into the global rankings than a typical Indian university.

Percentage of PhD faculty :- As mentioned earlier, faculty is the backbone of delivering course content to the students hence their education background matters. Assessing the proportion of professors in a university holding PhD I believe is one of the best ways to do so.

Depth of curriculum :- Since usually a lot of courses are taught in a university, this report considers the curriculum of social scienc ecourses for the sake of simplicity while assessing curriculum / syllabus taught in a university. And the depth of curriculum parameter checks if a university is going beyond the mainstream courses like micro economics, macro economics to teach content like financial economics, econometrics which are needed by the job market or atleast teaching skill development courses.

Flexibility in curriculum :- This parameter of elective count checks if the number of electives offered in a university is greater than half the number of core courses offered. For example if the core courses offered in a curriculum is 10, this parameter checks if atleast 5 electives are offered to verify how much flexibility students have in choosing their courses.

Placements :- I believe that placements play a crucial role in determining how much useful is the course content offered for the job market. This parameter usually means the average package or the highest package that a student from a university gets or the placement rate, that is what percent of the students of a university got placed.

Sources :- The official university websites are used to collect data regarding all the aspects of a university in this report. For the information regarding global ranking, official websites of qs rankings, times higher education and usnews.com were used. The links to all the sources will be mentioned after the data table.

Data

State :- Telangana

<u>Univer</u> <u>sity</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Stude</u> <u>nt to</u> <u>facult</u> <u>y ratio</u>	<u>Global</u> <u>rankings</u>	<u>% Of PhD</u> <u>faculty</u>	<u>Depth of</u> <u>curriculu</u> <u>m</u>	<u>Flexibilit</u> <u>y in</u> <u>curriculu</u> <u>m</u>	<u>Placeme</u> <u>nts</u>
Osmania University	Government	24	THE (times higher education), QS ranking	100% (4 faculty listed in the university website)	Yes	No	N/A
Kakatiya	Government	10	QS	87.5% (8 faculty)	Yes	No	N/A
JNTU Hyderabad	Government	N/A	THE	50% (10 faculty)	Doesn't teach social sciences	Doesn't teach social sciences	94.65% placement rate (btech), 9.5 lpa avg ctc
KLU	Private	15	QS, THE	68% (103 faculty)	Doesn't teach social sciences	Doesn't teach social sciences	100%. 23 lpa ctc – highest
Malla reddy	Private	N/A	Not recognised	50% (32 faculty from the school of engineering)	Doesn't teach social sciences	Doesn't teach social sciences	N/A

State :- Tamil Nadu

<u>Univer</u> <u>sity</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Stude</u> <u>nt to</u> <u>facult</u> <u>y ratio</u>	<u>Global</u> <u>rankings</u>	<u>% Of PhD</u> <u>faculty</u>	<u>Depth of</u> <u>curriculum</u>	<u>Flexibility</u> <u>in</u> <u>curriculum</u>	<u>Placeme</u> <u>nts</u>
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		<u>faculty ratio</u>				<u>curriculum</u>	
Bangalore university	Govt	12	QS, THE		No	Yes	
Mysore University	Govt	17	QS, THE	90%(cs, mat)	Yes	No	
Visveswara ya technological university	Govt	20	QS, THE, usnews.com	33%(masters)			
Christ university	Private	16	QS, THE	86.2%(econ)	Yes	Yes	53%(b.com hons)
Manipal university	Private	9	QS, THE, usnews.com	51.6%(cs)			75%(btech)

State :- Andhra Pradesh

<u>University</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Student to faculty ratio</u>	<u>Global rankings</u>	<u>% Of PhD faculty</u>	<u>Depth of curriculum</u>	<u>Flexibility in curriculum</u>	<u>Placements</u>
Acharya Nagarjuna university	Govt	25	THE, QS	100%(5-eco)	No	No	1.87 lpa – average
Andhra university	Govt	13	THE, QS	100%(6-eco)	Yes	No	

Sri Venkateshwarra University	Govt	N/A	THE, QS				19 lpa – highest
Vignan university	Private	13	THE	67.4%(95 - Science and humanities)			7 lpa – highest
SRM AP	Private	10	Not recognised	90%	Yes	Yes	29.5 lpa – highest.

State :- Kerala

<u>University</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Student to faculty ratio</u>	<u>Global rankings</u>	<u>% Of PhD faculty</u>	<u>Depth of curriculum</u>	<u>Flexibility in curriculum</u>	<u>Placements</u>
University of Kerala	Govt	16	THE, QS	100%(10 - social sciences)	No	No	
Cochin university of science and tech	Govt	22	THE, QS	91%(22- social science)			4.94 lpa – average; 18 lpa – highest
University of Calicut	Govt	18	THE, QS		No	No	

Amrita Vishwa Vidhya Peetam	Private	11	usnews.com, THE, QS	35%(20-school of business)			
MES college of engineering	Private		QS				

Interpretation

Looking at the data we find that the average student to faculty ratio is 15.7 the highest being 25 at Acharya Nagarjuna University (government) and the lowest being 9 at Manipal University in Karnataka (private) meaning that we can roughly expect a faculty for every 15.7 students in these universities. We can also observe that while the average student to faculty ratio of the government universities in the list is 17.43, the ratio is just 13.05 in private universities meaning that the count of students per each faculty is higher in government universities than in the private universities.

If we look into the global rankings, 22 out of the 25 universities are recognised by at least anyone of the world university ranking sites, QS, THE, usnews.com. Whereas 14 out of the 15 government universities on the one hand and 8 out of 10 private universities on the other hand are recognised. But this shouldn't be a big surprise given that the 25 universities selected for this report are popular enough in their respective states.

While on average 73.16% of the faculty have PhD in these universities with the highest being 100% at 4 government universities and on the other hand 3 universities have less than 50% of faculty with a PhD.

Out of 25 universities, the social science curriculum information could only be found for 13 universities in which 8 of them have an in depth curriculum meaning those 8 universities go beyond the mainstream courses include the subjects that are needed by the job market or they teach the skill development courses while on the other hand, the other 5 universities don't.

Coming to the flexibility in terms of letting the students choose the electives that the universities offer (a system that is predominant in the US), while only 4 universities have flexible social science curriculum, 9 universities don't which curtails the options of students who may not be able to design the course according to their needs and interests.

I believe that the placements of a university helps us in determining how related to the industry and how qualitative is the course delivered to the students at universities. Though the placement information is not disclosed by most of the universities, 82.14% is the average placement rate and the average package offered is 5.83 lakhs per annum the highest package being 44 lakhs per annum at VIT Tamil Nadu.