

***Improving the Quality of Higher  
Education in India by Refocusing  
from Knowledge to Wisdom***

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# Presentation Overview

- Importance of Education
- Difference among Knowledge, Wisdom and Insight
- Challenges in Higher Education in India
- Concern in Current Educational Model
- Education of Ancient India-key to incorporate wisdom based education
- Fundamental of Ancient Indian Education
- Salient Features of Ancient Indian Education
- Relevance of Ancient Indian Education in Modern India
- What India should do?
- Conclusions

# Importance of Education

- Education is a Nation's Strength.
- Economic success of the country is directly determined by their education systems.
- Education reduces poverty, boosts economic growth and increases income.
- It increases a person's chances of having a healthy life, reduces maternal deaths, and combats diseases such as HIV and AIDS..
- Education is one of the most important investments a developing countries can make to improve their economy and social structure.

# Knowledge vs. Wisdom vs. Insight

## Knowledge

- Knowledge is the accumulation of facts and data that you have learned about or experienced.
- It's being aware of something, and having information.
- Knowledge is really about facts and ideas that we acquire through study, research, investigation, observation, or experience

## Wisdom

- Wisdom is the ability to discern and judge which aspects of that knowledge are true, right, lasting, and applicable to your life.
- It's the ability to apply that knowledge to the greater scheme of life
- It's also deeper; knowing the meaning or reason; about knowing why something is, and what it means to your life

## Insight

- Insight is the deepest level of *knowing* and the most meaningful to your life
- Insight is a deeper and clearer perception of life, of knowledge, of wisdom
- It's grasping the underlying nature of knowledge, and the essence of wisdom. Insight is a truer understanding of your life and the bigger picture of how things intertwine

If knowledge is information, wisdom is the understanding and application of that knowledge and insight is the awareness of the underlying essence of a truth. ***Sadly we can gain a lifetime of knowledge, yet never see the wisdom in it. We can be wise, but still miss the deeper meaning***

# Challenges in Higher Education in India

- **Faculty:** Faculty shortages and the inability of the state educational system to attract and retain well qualified teachers have been posing challenges to quality education for many years.
- Large numbers of NET / PhD candidates are unemployed even there are lot of vacancies in higher education, these deserving candidates are then applying in other departments which is a biggest blow to the higher education system.
- **Accreditation:** Only 25% of the total higher education institutions in the country are accredited. Among those accredited, only 30% of the universities and 45% of the colleges were found to be of quality to be ranked at 'A' level”.

# Challenges in Higher Education in India (continue)

- **Research and Innovation:** There are very few scholars in our country whose writing is cited by famous western authors. There is inadequate focus on research in higher education institutes.
- **Structure of higher education:** Management of the Indian education faces challenges of over centralization, bureaucratic structures and lack of accountability, transparency, and professionalism. As a result of increase in number of affiliated colleges and students, the burden of administrative functions of universities has significantly increased and the core focus on academics and research is diluted.
- **Enrolment:** The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of India in higher education is only 15% which is quite low as compared to the developed as well as, other developing countries.

# Challenges in Higher Education in India (continue)

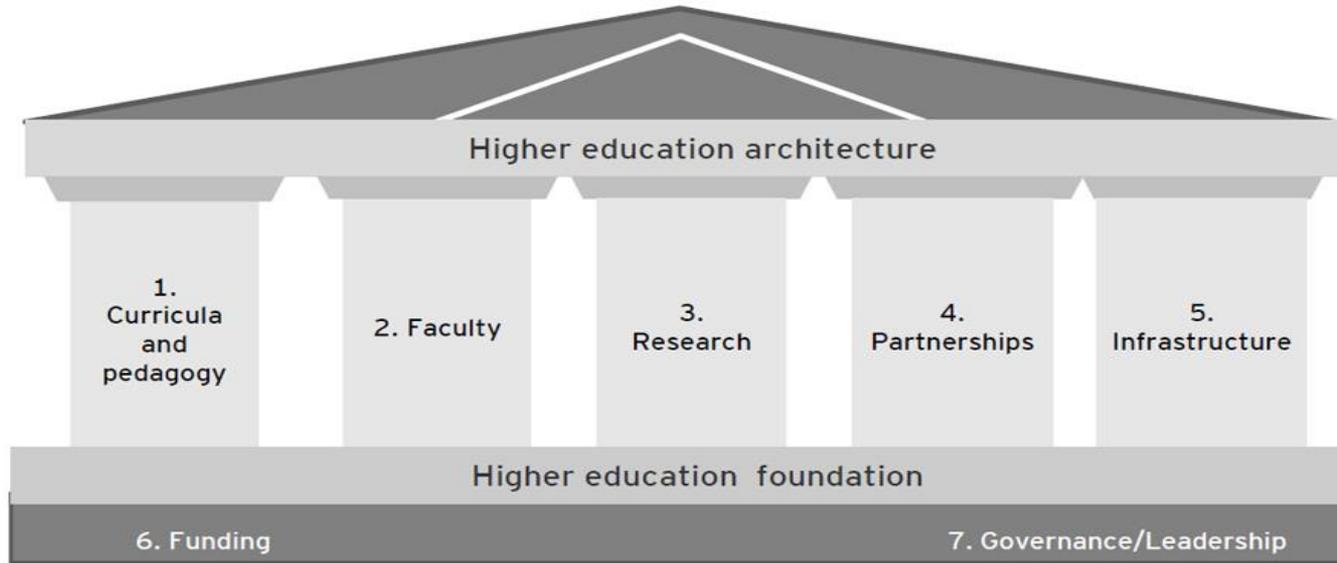
- **Equity:** There is no equity in GER among different sects of the society.
  - male vs. female
  - some states have high GER while as some is quite behind the national GER
- **Quality:** Large number of colleges and universities in India are unable to meet the minimum requirements laid down by the University grand commission (UGC) and our universities are not in a position to mark its place among the top universities of the world.
- **Infrastructure:** Poor infrastructure, particularly the institutes run by the public sector

# A Road to Progress: 2013-2030

- India is currently working to transform their high education landscape.
- They are working on expanding a student-centric learning-driven model of education.
- The use of technology is helping to reduce the tension between excellence and equity.
- They have undertaken a massive structural and systemic change that is beginning to yield some results with a vision to complete their goals by 2030.

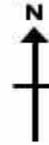
Source: <https://www.ey.com/in/en/industries/india-sectors/education/ey-higher-education-in-india-vision-2030>

# Vision of 2030



Source: <https://www.ey.com/in/en/industries/india-sectors/education/ey-higher-education-in-india-vision-2030>

# UNIVERSITIES OF INDIA



Map of the Universities of India

# Concern in Current Educational Model

- Knowledge based learning is one of the methods of learning that teachers and education departments employ in order to provide their students with the best learning environment possible. Understanding knowledge based learning is important when it comes to education.
- Moral values that have lasting impact on the society are not a part of the regular curriculum.
- The education is now largely driven by immediate requirements.

# Concern in Current Educational Model (continue)

- The advantage of inculcation of education on moral values remains to be realized by the people responsible for deciding the curriculum.
- It is time that we realize the importance of including value based education in the curriculum for general well-being of the members of society.
- The old values, which held society together are disappearing and as there is no effective program to replace them by a new sense of responsibility

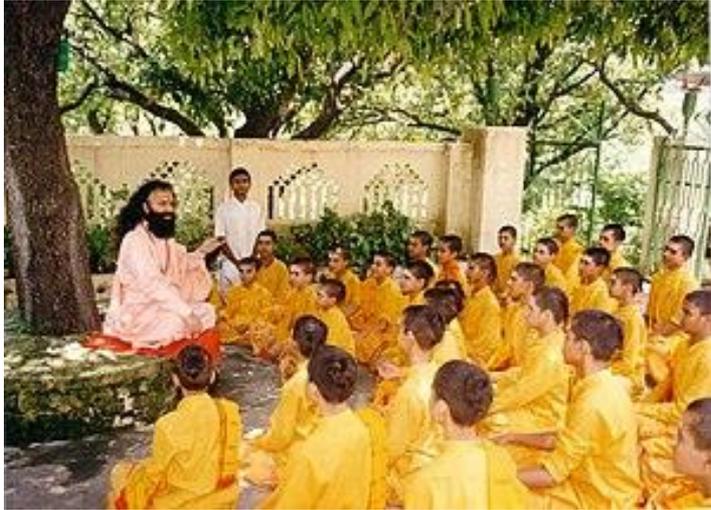
# India-key to incorporate wisdom based education

- The history of education in ancient India is fascinating and is recorded and can be tracked to the ancient era.
- Education in ancient India began around the 3rd century B.C with elements of religious training and impart of traditional knowledge.
- Sages and scholars imparted education orally. Palm leaves and barks of trees were used for writing.



Nalanda is the Oldest University in the World and was located in India.

# Ancient Indian Education System



- India has been known as the land of Gurus and Gurukulas
- Gurukulas were great centres of learning in the ancient India
- In the Gurukula System of Education, students lived in the kula (family) of their Guru (teacher) and studied the Vedas (Sacred Scriptures) and other subjects.

# Fundamental of Ancient Indian Education

- Developing the wholesome personality
  - Primary aim was development of personality and character
  - Moral strength and moral excellence were developed to the fullest extent
- Making formal and Informal Educations Responsible
  - Devote himself whole heartedly to the cause of learning while he remained with his teacher
  - Not every boy was required to enter studentship it was still a custom to receive education at the hands of his father
- Starting Academic sessions solemnly
  - In most cases the boy went to a teacher for studentship
  - The period of schooling was long, at least 12 years for one Veda
  - The academic sessions started with a special ceremony –upkarman‘ on the Guru Purnima

# Fundamental of Ancient Indian Education (continue)

- **Adjusting School Hours**
  - The school in the Ancient Education System, lasted for 7 to 8 hours a day.
  - In fair weather classes were held in the open under shady groves.
- **Close Contact:**
  - Never in the history of education you will find such a close contact between the teacher and the taught. The teacher was the spiritual father, he was is to nurse, when the pupil fell sick, he was to feed, clothe and teach his student as he fed, clothed and taught his son.
  - The student also regarded the teachers as he regarded his parents, king & god
- **Emphasizing Discipline**
  - The student had to observe strict regulations. Instruction was important, but was even more significant than teaching was discipline
  - A student was required to give up lust, anger, greed, vanity, conceit and over joy

# Fundamental of Ancient Indian Education (continue)

- **Low - Teacher pupil Ratio**
  - In all schools and colleges the pupil - teacher ratio was too low.
  - Individual attention was maximum.
  - The number of students in a school was kept very small
- **Respecting Childs Personality**
  - Punishment had practically no place in the school system.
  - Puplis received very sympathetic, treatment from their teachers.
- **Providing Free Education**
  - Education was free.

# Salient Features of Ancient Indian Education

- Infusion of Spiritual & Religious Values
  - The primary aim of ancient education was instilling into the minds, of pupils a spirit of being pious and religious for glory of God and good of man.
- Character Development
  - Good character and good behavior
- Development of Civic Responsibilities and Social Values
  - The inculcation of civic virtues and social values was an equally important objective of education in India.

# Salient Features of Ancient Indian Education (continue)

- Personality Development
  - The Guru in the ancient times realized that the development of personality is the sole aim of education. Human personality was regarded as the supreme work of God
- Preserving and Diffusing National Culture
  - Vedic culture was kept intact and transmitted through word of mouth to succeeding generations

# Relevance of Ancient Indian Education in Modern India

- Education now is currently primarily for employability and not morality or building a character conscience amongst the people.
- Studying of the Vedas allows one to develop a rich character along with the development of personality. This will exactly help bring back a sense of goodness in character among the masses of today's new India.
- For Modern India to achieve its full potential not just in economic development, but also the conscience of its masses, it's important that they don't forget their rich ancient Vedic heritage.

# What India should do?

**India is badly in need of Value Based Education and Teaching System which inculcates among the young students values that they need to imbibe and embalm within them.**

- Values Education need to be taught through mutual interaction and inter-communion.
- Discipline is still a great lesson that has to be imparted
- The young should learn what is moral and what is immoral
- Value education should be included in higher education levels
- Proper training of teachers should be arranged
- Attempts should be made to eliminate language issues

# Conclusions

- India has a rich tradition of learning and education right from the antiquity
- India's current education system is lacking in teaching character building and good behavior
- India should consider incorporating wisdom based education to build civic responsibilities and social values in students
- Current education system should include Indian ancient knowledge to build good personality and conduct

**Thank you**