

LECTURE 35

HIGHER LEARNING AND RESEARCH IN INDIA

BY

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Evolution of Higher Learning and Research in Post-Independence India Period

- ⦿ Post -Independence higher learning or higher education and research has evolved significantly. India had laid more stress on the access to quality education by one and all. Several committees and commissions were established to overlook the quality of education in India.

Radhakrishnan Committee (1948-1949)

- ⦿ first major commission to be formed after Independence
- ⦿ It is also called the University Education Commission.
- ⦿ It aimed at reporting on Indian University Education and suggested improvements that may be desirable to suit the present and future requirements of the country.
- ⦿ It worked on the problem of the medium of language at the university level.
- ⦿ It recommended setting up the University Grants Commission as a liaison between the central government and the universities.

Mudaliar Commission (1952)

- ⦿ It came into existence under the Government of India resolution in 1952.
- ⦿ It suggested several measures, such as reorganizing and improving secondary education along with primary and higher education.

Kothari Commission (1964)

- ⦿ It was brought into existence under the provision of a resolution of the Government of India.
- ⦿ Dr D. S. Kothari, the chairman of UGC, was also appointed the commission's chairman.
- ⦿ It is the pioneer for all the reforms and changes in the field of higher education in India.
- ⦿ It laid the basis for establishing the New Policy on Education, which was later formed in 1986.

Ramamurthy Review Committee (1986)

- ⦿ It is an important committee to review the National Policy on Education.
- ⦿ It had made several recommendations on revising the policy and actions required for implementing the necessary revised policy.

National Education Policy 2020 for Higher Education

- ⦿ The policy aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 50% by 2035.
- ⦿ Around 5 crore seats to be added in higher education.
- ⦿ The policy proposes the establishment of a National Research Foundation (NRF) to fund and promote research in all disciplines.
- ⦿ The policy recommends the establishment of a single regulator for higher education, called the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), to replace multiple regulatory bodies.

NEP 2020 Introduced HECI

- ⦿ **HECI – A Single Regulatory Body with 4 Verticals**

HECI VERTICAL	FUNCTION
National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC)	Creating and Implementing Higher Education regulation
General Education Council (GEC)	Standard setting for academia
Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC)	For funding academic and research activities
National Accreditation Council (NAC)	Accreditation to academic institutions

Structure of Institutions of Higher Learning and Research in India

Several regulatory bodies comprise the regulatory structure of higher education in India.

- ⦿ UGC
- ⦿ AICTE

University Grants Commission (UGC)

- ⦿ UGC is the primary regulatory body in terms of higher education in India.
- ⦿ It was established in 1953, under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, with its headquarters in New Delhi.
- ⦿ It has six regional offices in cities- Bengaluru, Bhopal, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Pune.

- ⦿ The main agenda of UGC is to coordinate, determine and maintain higher education standards.
- ⦿ It undertakes a range of tasks, such as providing funds to the universities, establishing education standards for the universities, and analyzing the growth of several educational institutions.
- ⦿ UGC's standard criteria must be met to enjoy degree-awarding authority in India.
- ⦿ It advises the central and state governments to take necessary measures for setting and improving the quality of university education in India.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

- ⦿ The technical body works towards coordination, planning, and development of technical education in the country.
- ⦿ AICTE was set up in November 1945
- ⦿ Its headquarters is in New Delhi.
- ⦿ Several schemes are run under AICTE for the betterment of the development of education in the country.

Approach towards Modern Learning

- ⦿ **Experiential Learning:** It is the process of learning by doing. It is said that if the learning is followed by doing practical, the retention level of the knowledge gained is better.
- ⦿ **Peer Learning:** This is a process in which students at the same level of education and who usually belong to the same field of education exchange their views, thoughts, and ideas for better learning experiences.
- ⦿ The rise of Ed-Tech means the inclusion of information and communications technology (ICT) for the teaching-learning experiences in the classrooms and at the self-learning level. The usage of AI and ML is also a recent development in education.