



UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
കേരള സർവ്വകലാശാല
Thiruvananthapuram Kerala India
www.keralauniversity.ac.in

International Seminar

By

Inter University Centre for Alternative Economics (IUCAE)

Department of Economics, University of Kerala

On

Higher Education in a Developing Economy:

Problems, Policies and Perspectives

24th-26th October 2016

On IUCAE

At present the neo classical economic ideas, which are taught as universally acceptable principles and policies, are prescribed as one size fit for all. This homogenization is derived from the individual rationality and utility maximization principle. Amartya Sen in his essay "Rational Fools" had given a critique to the behavioral foundation of such a single fit of the conceptual and theoretical underpinning of theory and practice. Given the kind of socio economic reality of the present world economy, he kept arguing that the persuasion of standardized norm is not helpful for all, at least to achieve development and its assessment. It invokes us to think alternative trajectories to evaluate and pursue the question of development. At an alternative level, humanism is increasingly foregrounded in resolving present problems and the whole socio economic and even the political framework is incrementally getting revolutionized on the principles of rights rather than individual rationality. Development thus envisages new economic ideas and policy regimes, which need to be studied and evaluated with utmost care and quality. This begs us to have studies beyond the mainstream and dominant views and approaches that are very much embedded in the curriculum, which slowly dismisses the heterodoxy of economic approaches. In this context Inter

University Centre for Alternative Economics (IUCAE) is designed and committed to make discussions across the schools and approaches.

On Seminar

Development of human resources is crucial for economic development of a country. Human resources can be developed by imparting skills and education. In fact the relationship between education and economic development is mutually reinforcing. Higher education contributes to national development through dissemination of specialized knowledge and skills. India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world. However Indian higher education sector faces several quantitative as well as qualitative challenges. Ensuring equitable access to quality higher education for students coming from various socio economic groups remains as a major challenge. There exists a huge demand -supply gap in the higher education sector. Given the high demand, the expansion of higher education system appears to be slow. The privatisation of higher education sector is expected to fill the gap by bringing foreign universities and starting new institutions of higher learning. The quality of higher education which can be assessed in terms of performance of students and employability of graduates , is lower in India than the developed and the emerging economies in the world. Gradual government withdrawal and the consequent under-investment in institution facilities makes it strenuous to provide quality instruction or engage in cutting -edge research. Majority of graduates coming out of universities are not employable due to the lack of necessary skills. But even the existing private universities and colleges are not better in quality.

Lack of adequate financial support from government has made it difficult for many institutions to attract qualified and talented teachers and have to run courses with sub-qualified teachers on ad hoc basis, which is serious threat to quality of education. Most of the premier institutes in India face a faculty crunch with keeping

nearly one third of the posts vacant. The poor connectivity of higher education institutions with research centres and the poor education industry linkage are other issues. The expenditure on higher education as a percentage of GDP and the expenditure on higher education in proportion to total education expenditure are very low and declining over the years, compared to the developed countries and the emerging economies.

The recent trend in higher education consists of the increasing role of private sector and gradual withdrawal of public sector. The implicit policy pursued by central and state governments in general since the mid 1990s to promote elementary education at the cost of higher education affected the expansion of higher education institutions in the public sector. This trend reduces the relative size of public sector. Eleventh and twelfth five year plans promote public private partnership in higher education along with emphasizing the role of private sector expansion. This policy has led to the proliferation of self financing education, which has serious implications for access, social equity and quality. Growth of for-profit institutions in higher education with a tradeoff between cost efficiency and quality raises serious menace to quality. Besides, there is a lack of effective regulatory framework to control private institutions. Uncontrolled private institutions already contribute towards vulgar forms of commercialization. In public private partnership, very often profits are shared among private partners while costs and risks are for the public, raising questions against its effectiveness. The proposed seminar would discuss these issues and offer alternatives.

Seminar Sub Themes

General

- 1, Higher education as Consumption and Investment
- 2, Higher Education and Development
- 3, Higher education in Developing and Developed economies- a Comparative Perspective
4. , Globalisation and Indian Higher education - Opportunities and Threats

Higher education Policies in India

1. Higher Education Policies since Independence
- 2, Lack of Vision and Policy Crisis in Higher Education
- 3, Commoditization of Higher Education and 'Foreign Educational Institutions Bill
4. Corporatization of Higher education in India: Bane or Boon?

Problems of Higher education in India

1. Access and Equity in higher education.
2. Inclusiveness of Higher education in India- A myth or reality
3. Class, Caste and Gender Dimensions in higher education: India's Experience since 1991
- 4,. Privatisation of Professional and Technical Education - Public Demand or Corporate Need
5. Role of FDI in higher education
6. Financing higher education in India in comparison with others
7. Quality concerns in higher education - determinants and deterrents
8. Quality of higher education: Capturing the present for Future
- 9, Efficiency of Higher Education (pass outs, drop outs, attainment levels, employability, etc.)

Higher Education in Kerala's Development

1. Problems, Policies and Perspectives of higher education in Kerala
2. Government Withdrawal and Privatization of higher education in Kerala
3. Unequal Access to Quality Education in Kerala
4. Poor Quality of higher education in Kerala: facts and factors
5. Educated Unemployment in Kerala: facts and factors
6. Higher Education for Potential Migrants
7. Gender Disparities in Higher Education of Kerala
8. Restructuring of higher education courses - need of the hour

Expected Resource Persons and Invited Speakers

1. **Prof. J B J Tilak, Vice-Chancellor, National University of Educational Planning and Administration**

2. Prof. Akeel Bilgrami, Columbia University
3. Prof. Ved Prakash , Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi
4. Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman, ICSSR, New Delhi
5. Prof. Prabhat Patnaik, Emeritus Professor, JNU, New Delhi
6. Prof. N V Varghese, Director, Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education (CPRHE), New Delhi
7. Prof B Iqbal, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala
8. Prof. A. Sukumaran Nair, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala
9. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal Former Vice-Chancellor, M G University

Paper presentation

Researchers and academicians are invited to present papers in the focus areas proposed. The detailed abstract (750-1000 words) should be in word format consisting the name of the Author, designation, affiliation, email and contact number. The abstract should include the theme title with a statement of Problem, Methodology, arguments and major findings .Acceptance of the paper will be intimated by e-mail. Paper presentation will be allowed only after the participant's registration and submission of the full paper. No abstract will be considered for pre-seminar publication without registration fee. **Seminar proceedings will be published in book form.** A complimentary copy of the publication will be given to all the contributors.

Important Dates.

Sending the paper title with address /06 /2016	:	on or before 30
Submission of detailed abstract /2016	:	on or before 12 / 08
Decision on acceptance of papers 08 /2016	:	on or before 18 /
Submission of full paper /2016	:	on or before 28 / 09
Conference	:	24 th -26 th October 2016

Registration

The delegates and participants are directed to register their names with a registration fee (Rs. 500 to teachers/researchers and Rs. 300 to post graduate and

M.Phil students) through the Demand draft /CASH in favour of Honorary Director ,IUCAE. A soft copy of the registration may be sent to the mail (iucae2016@gmail.com) .

Account Name : **Honorary Director, IUCAE** Branch: SBT Karyavattom, TVM, Kerala

Account Number :67328586530

IFSC Code: SBTR0000043

The Registration fee includes Delegate Kit, Lunch and Tea. The Registration form can be downloaded from the Centre's website www.iucae.in .

All communications may be sent to the mail : iucae2016@gmail.com

Phone : 9446476187

**Honorary Director & General Convener,
IUCAE, University of Kerala**