

# INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF QUALITY ASSURANCE



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# FOUR MAJOR THEMES

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- THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF INDIA
- REFLECTIONS ON THE CHALLENGES : ISSUES OF DIVERSITY ,THE PITFALLS,INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL INFLUENCES ON EDUCATION
- MULTIPLICITY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCIES AND THEIR IMPACT
- VISION AND TASK AHEAD :A NEW SYNTHESIS



# INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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- 283 University level institutions
- 16,000 colleges
- 1000 teacher education institutions
- 1800 technical education institutions
- 1000 management education institutions
- 2000 medical education institutions



# REFLECTIONS ON THE CHALLENGES

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- 10+2+3 Pattern
- Affiliated college system
- Universities are apex institutions for Higher Education
- Student population vary widely
- Standards of colleges are varied
- Wide variety of Governance both in the universities and the colleges



# ISSUES OF EQUITY AND ACCESS

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- Less than 7% of the relevant age group(17-23) undergoing higher/professional education
- Higher Education as “non-merit good” deserving no subsidies
- 70% of Indian H.E.I.’s are private initiatives
- Bringing every school leaver to college – drastic downfall of quality at the cost of access
- Quality higher education at the expense of equalization of educational opportunities



# ADDRESSING SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC NEEDS

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- Preference to Professional Programs
- 50% annual growth in enrolment
- 20% opting for foreign Universities
- Do not take candidates' **experiences** and concerns as central.
- "Expansion of social opportunities are positively correlated with the relevance of the education system" - Amartya Sen
- Need to create **collaborative** environments between Universities and colleges



# EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL INFLUENCES

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- Structural divisions between theory and practice.
- Lack of consensus within programs on fundamental premises.
- Demands for external assessments and accountability generate more tension than quality.



# ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

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- Nurturing creativity and innovation – not merely a matter of ideology but a practical necessity
- Need for curriculum reforms to cope with the enormity of challenges
- Examination reforms as a top priority
- Issues of Autonomy and Accountability generate more tension than quality
- Interface with other sectors



# FACTORS THAT INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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- Smaller college size
- Small class size
- Higher teacher ability
- Fewer unqualified teachers



# MULTIPLICITY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCIES

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- Diverse student needs, diverse needs of the society and the diversity of Institutions
- Diverse organizations to regulate and monitor the performance of institutions - Working in isolation
- Co-ordination among various quality assurance agencies and statutory bodies – vital for quality sustenance
- The QAA's should **not** be viewed as mere “facilitators” but which provide the interface in the development process



# CONCLUSIONS

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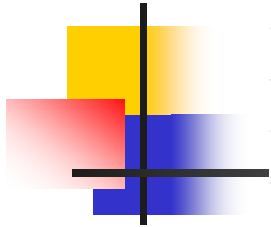
- Co-ordination among various agencies, statutory bodies and institutions is vital for quality sustenance
- Need be to lay more stress on academic quality of the programs – program accreditation
- Support and strengthen vertical linkages within the education system
- Reduce duplication of reporting for optimum utilization of human and fiscal resources



# CONCLUSIONS

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- COLLABORATION and COOPERATION between quality assurance agencies and universities and colleges are essential for successful change and Quality Sustenance
- COHERENCE across and within program elements is an essential indicator of quality.



Thank you!