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   Dr A.K. Prasad, Dept of Economics
   Dr Manju S.Nair, Dept of Economics
   Dr. Anitha, V. Dept. of Economics
   Siddik Rabiyath, Dept. of Economics
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INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
HIGHER EDUCATION IN A DEVELOPING ECONOMY:
PROBLEMS, POLICIES AND PERSPECTIVES
24th-26th October 2016
Venue
Senate Chamber
University of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram

Organized by
INTER UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR
ALTERNATIVE ECONOMICS (IUCAE)
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
(Re-Accredited with NAAC ‘A’ Grade)
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 principles and policies, are prescribed as one size fit for all. This homogenization is derived in higher education 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 begins 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 the International 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 system 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 privatization of higher education sector is expected to fill the gap by bringing foreign universities and starting new institutions of higher learning. Further 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 make 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.

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.

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 of IUCAE. A soft copy of the registration may be sent to the mail (iucae2016@gmail.com)

Programmes

Day 01 24-10-2016 (9.30 AM - 4.30 PM)

9.30 AM – 10.30 AM : Registration
10.30 AM – 1.00 PM : Inaugural Session
Chairperson : Dr. N. VeeramaniKandan
Hon'ble Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala
Welcome Speech &
Introduction of the Theme : Prof. Abdul Salim A
Honorary Director, IUCAE & Head of Dept. of Economics, University of Kerala
Inaugural Address : Prof. C. Raveendranath
Minister for Education, Government of Kerala
Keynote Address : Prof. Jhandhyala B G Tilak
Vice-Chancellor, National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi
Special Address : Prof. Dato’ Morshidi Sirat
Professor & Founding Director, Commonwealth Tertiary Education Facility (CTEF), University Sains Malaysia
Role of Government in Higher Education of Emerging Economies
Felicitations : 1. Dr. Achuth Sankar S. Nair
Director, IQAC, University of Kerala
2. Dr. Suresh Jnaneswaran
Director, School of Social Sciences, University of Kerala
Vote of Thanks : Dr. Manju S. Nair
Associate Professor, Dept. of Economics, University of Kerala

2.00PM - 3.20 PM : Technical Session 1
Higher Education in India: A Comparative Perspective
Welcome : Siddik R
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics, University of Kerala
Chairperson : Prof. Jhandhyala B G Tilak, Vice-Chancellor, National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi
Day 2 25-10-2016 (9.30 AM-4.30 PM)

3.30PM-4.40PM Technical Session II

Quality of Higher Education: Capturing the Present for Future

Welcome: Arya Devi
Chairperson: Prof. N V Varghese
Speaker: Prof. A. Sukumaran Nair
Presentation: Quality Improvement of Higher Education Through Teacher Empowerment
Responses: Vote of Thanks: Anuradha S Pai

9.30AM - 11.20 AM Technical Session-III

National Higher Education Policy of India 2016: A Review in Critical Political Economy Perspective

Welcome: Ancy John.
Chairperson: Prof. M. Kunhaman
Speaker: Prof. Rajan Gurukkal
Presentation: National Higher Education Policy of India 2016: A Review in Critical Political Economy Perspective
Responses: Vote of Thanks: Reshma Rajeevan

11.30 AM - 1.00 PM Technical Session- IV

Policy Crisis in Indian Higher Education-1

Welcome: Amitha R
Chairperson: Prof. Saumen Chattopadhyay
Speaker: Prof. N Varaprasad
Presentation: Structure and Pattern of Higher Education Courses in Singapore
Responses: Vote of Thanks: Aabid Firdausi M S

2.00PM-3.20PM Technical Session-V

Restructuring of Higher Education in India

Welcome: Amitha R
Chairperson: Prof. Saumen Chattopadhyay
Speaker: Prof. N Varaprasad
Presentation: Structure and Pattern of Higher Education Courses in Singapore
Responses: Vote of Thanks: Aabid Firdausi M S
Welcome: Anamika Dinesh
Chairperson: Prof. Dato' Morshidi Sirat
Professor, Founding Director, Commonwealth Tertiary Education Facility (CTEF), Universiti Sains Malaysia
Speaker: Prof. G. Wankhede
Former Professor, TISS, Mumbai

Inclusive Nature of Higher Education: Myth or Reality

1. Dr. N. Murukan, Associate Professor & Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Development Studies, Trivandrum
   Access and Equity: A Study on the Impact of Self-Financing Colleges in Kerala

2. Dr. Manju S. Nair, Associate Professor, Dept. of Economics, University of Kerala
   Visibly Invisible: The Case of Disabled in Kerala's Higher Education Scenario

3. Dr. S. R. Sheeja, Assistant Professor, IDE, University of Kerala
   Access and Equity in Higher Education in India

4. Dr. C. Anil Kumar, Research Officer, Kerala State Planning Board, Trivandrum
   Performance of Marginalized Groups in Engineering Education: A Case Study

Responses: Vote of Thanks: Kavya Nair P. J.