

TEACHERS' COMPETENCY : A KEY AREA TO QUALITY LEARNING

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Abstract

'Education is pre-eminently a matter of quality, not amount.' - Henry Ford

The growth of higher education in India over a little more than half a century has been even more staggering. Indian higher education is in need of radical reform with a focus on enforcing quality education. Improvement in quality of education places a major responsibility on teachers and their professional competencies. Competencies are the skills and knowledge that enable a teacher to be successful. Teachers' competencies can be commonly categorized into four groups viz. Teaching / Academic competencies, Behavioural competencies, Managerial competencies and Research competencies. As the saying goes 'Destiny of a nation is determined in the classroom', it is time to realize that the destiny of the classroom is determined by the teacher. Thus, imperative is the teacher competency.

Keywords: Assessment, Competency, Education, Learning, Teacher, Quality.

India's Higher Education system - An outline

India's higher education system is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China. Higher education system is one that is student- or customer-centred rather than institution-centred. It comprises certified and caring institutions that have the resources required and the core mission of ensuring that students/customers acquire the knowledge/skills/abilities and dispositions that they need to achieve their individual goals and to maximise their contribution to society.

The growth of higher education in India over a little more than half a century has been even more staggering. The quantitative explosion in higher education institutions has not been matched by the quality of the education they provide. In fact, the gap between quantity and quality is so large.

"India is entering the global employment marketplace with a self-imposed handicap of which we are just beginning to become conscious – an acute shortage of Quality institutions of higher education. For far too long, we have been complacent about the fact that we had produced, since the 1960s, the world's second largest pool of trained scientists and engineers."

Shashi Tharoor

Author and Former UN Diplomat

Hence, Indian higher education is in need of radical reform with a focus on enforcing quality education.