

Foreign University Bill: Overview and Analysis

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Abstract

This is a study of the Foreign University Bill in India that would allow the foreign universities to open their branches in India. The introduction of the bill could bring a new horizon and much awaited change to the Indian Education System. It is a detailed study of the initial date of proposal of the bill to its current status as per the government and news reports. The bill was introduced in 2010 but faced much opposition by the political parties. With the launch of Niti Ayog, a think tank formed under the governance of the Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi the bill was seen under a new light. Mr Modi asked Niti Ayog to re-establish a research and prepare a detailed review about the aim, impact and application of the Foreign University Bill. It will result as an excellent step towards globalization by allowing foreign universities to set-up their campus in India. The case study embodies data and information from the last six years 2010 to 2016. The report shares an overview and analysis of the proposed Foreign University Bill in detail.

Keywords: Foreign University Bill; International students; Globalization; Education system

Introduction

Foreign University Bill is good news for the Indian Education System. The approval of this bill would bring hope for the aspiring and deserving students of India. Foreign Universities could set-up their campus in India. This would result in a boom in the current education system of India. It would help in building a good infrastructure, better study material, exposure to the foreign education and bring in the much needed globalization [1-10]. Every year the aspiring Indian students leave their home with an aim to get better education in a foreign land. With the introduction of the Foreign University Bill, India will get a chance to bring home the benefits of the foreign education to its home ground and serve the aspiring students with the best facilities and exposure to the foreign education.

Interpretation

It would modulate the smooth processing of foreign universities aiming at opening branches in India. Will run at approval of the Central government in the regulation of foreign entities to make sure they follow the correct framework of development and conduct. A corpus fund of Rs 50 crore has to be maintained and up-to a portion of Rs 75% from the total fund should be used for the development of the institution in India. The central government holds the rights of exemption of any said institution that does not abide by the norms as per the Advisory board. Regulate the activities, operation and impacts which should justify the purpose of introducing the set-up of international education. The act highlights two types of entities the ones who want to establish themselves as a single entity without any partnerships and the others that wishes to work under collaboration [11-15]. The government wants the foreign universities to take care of three main objectives: "excellence, expansion and inclusion. With the introduction of foreign universities India would be expanded globally and it would become a destination for other foreign students across the globe.

Foreign Universities to Open Branches in India

There are many famous foreign universities like Harvard and Yale that could set-up their branches in India and provide the outlet that the Indian students have been always looking for in a foreign land. As per

the data of HRD Ministry, in 2010 there were 631 foreign education providers in India while 440 educational institutes were providing education from their homeland and the other 137 were operating under a collaborative agreement with the Indian Education Bodies. The number increased notably over a decade and the increasing number of foreign education collaboration and providers were noted to be at its peak from 2000 to 2010. A majority of the subject matter was under the stream of Business and Hospitality. It has been estimated that by the first year the foreign universities could bring a business and possible investment of \$11 million by its introduction and execution.

Prime Minister of India on Foreign University Bill

Last year 2015, The Prime Minister of India Sri Narendra Modi had called upon a meeting of ten bureaucrats to discuss the issue of Foreign University Bill, its impact and consequences on the Indian Education System. In September 2015 Mr Modi had asked Niti Ayog to do a research and study about the hindrances which were not allowing Foreign University Bill to move forward in India.

Views of Niti Ayog on Foreign Education Bill

Niti Ayog is a think tank also known as National Institution for Transforming India is a think tank that came to operation under the government of Mr Narendra Modi (Figure 1). The foundation of this institution was announced on 1 January 2015. The first official meeting took place on 8 February 2015 where the Prime Minister served as the ex-officio chairman for that purpose. Niti Ayog supports the bill and has put forward the justification to PMO for the introduction of Foreign University Bill. It supports the proposal and believes that the bill will improve the scope of education in India. It would bring new

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Received December 22, 2016; Accepted January 25, 2017; Published January 30, 2017

Citation: Singh P (2017) Foreign University Bill: Overview and Analysis. J Mass Communicat Journalism 7: 328. doi: [10.4172/2165-7912.1000328](https://doi.org/10.4172/2165-7912.1000328)

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opportunities for students, will provide a better set-up; the bill is a leaping step toward globalization and students could gain the best from both the worlds (Table 1).

Key factors for supporting the bill:

- The bill will justify and serve to the needs of students who are seeking higher education.
- It will develop a healthy competition and will bring a positive change to the education system.
- The proficiency and quality of higher education in India would be altered to bring the desired change.

Indian Literacy rate and the Effect of Discrimination

There was a survey done in the year 1978, which showed that there is an inter-connection between the poverty and literacy rate. A special firm by the name National Adult Educational Programme (NAEP) was started in 1978 that had designed special programmes for the uneducated tribal, backward and poor women of India. The programme duration was set for five years and was ready to enroll females between the age group of 15 and 35 years. Following this there have been other launches in the same field namely; National literacy scheme, Mid-day meal scheme and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are some

of the significant entities. A survey was conducted in the year 2010, which stated that the rate of literacy for females was 54.5% and 76.9% for males. There is a marked distinction in the literacy rate of men and women in India, though the girl child education is one of the foremost concerns of the Indian government in the recent years. Still there is a great milestone that is yet to be achieved. In the modern western culture and foreign education system, we do not get to see such gender discrimination with such high disparity. As per a survey conducted in 2010, India’s literacy rate was 76.9% for men and for women, though a sign of great disparity but there are more reasons to rue. In our country literacy is defined by a person’s ability to write and read with understanding in a particular language. So a class 2 drop out is on equal terms with a graduate, going by the credo; hence providing a vague statistical manifestation of literacy levels. The start itself was a delayed one and the progress is a replica of that; it was only in 1978, when the National Adult Educational Programme was launched, that it was realized - poverty and illiteracy are interlinked. The NAEP included special programmes for women, backward classes and hill tribes and aimed at attaining complete literacy within 5 years in the age group 15-35, though overly optimistic and was never achieved, still a start it was. There have been numerous efforts since then like, National literacy scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day meal scheme, etc., in making education accessible to all. However, though some of the programmes have attained partial success, all were concerned about primary education. Nobody felt the need of catering higher education at affordable rates to poor kids; albeit the fact that only higher education determines your value in the employment market and the lack of it produces large scale unemployment. A survey was conducted in the year 2010, which stated that the rate of literacy for females was 54.5% and 76.9% for males. There is a marked distinction in the literacy rate of men and women in India, though the girl child education is one of the foremost concerns of the Indian government in the recent years. Still there is a great milestone that is yet to be achieved [16-25].

Indian Students Going Abroad for Higher Studies: Reservation System

Indian students moving abroad to gain higher education flips the chart of foreign exchange - it is estimated to be around \$10 billion per



Five year plan	Total outlay (in Cr.)	Focus areas	Target growth	Achieved growth
1 st FYP(1951-56)	2,069	Primary sector	2.1	3.6
2 nd FYP(1956-61)	4,800	Public sector	4.5	4.27
3 rd FYP(1961-66)	7,500	Agriculture Primary education	5.6	2.4
4 th FYP(1969-74)	15,901.47	Green revolution Banking reforms	5.6	3.3
5 th FYP(1974-79)	38,853	Highway, Electricity generation	4.4	5.0
6 th FYP(1980-85)	97,500	Population-control, Liberalisation	5.2	5.4
7 th FYP(1985-90)	1,80,000	Agriculture, Economic Development, Employment	5.0	6.01
8 th FYP(1992-97)	4,34,100	Liberalisation, Free market, Modernisation	5.6	6.78
9 th FYP(1997-90)	8,59,200	Population control	7.1	6.8
10 th FYP(1985-2002)	16,12,300	Poverty, Gender gap, Literacy, Agriculture	8.1	7.7
11 th FYP(2002-2007)	36,44,718	Poverty, Social sector, Education, Environment	9	8
12 th FYP(2007-2012)	37,16,385	Infrastructure development, MRTS, Water supply	8	Ongoing
	Total outlay 99,29,475.47			

Table 1: Five year plans: facts and figures 9,10,11,12.

year. India bears a loss of \$2 billion each year as the computer science students study and settle abroad after finding a suitable job in foreign land and mainly in the United States of America. There have been introductions of new policies in America for the Indian students. As per the list published by Times Higher Education Supplement, we see the place of Indian institutes in the International market only a few institutes have managed to be under the ranking of top 200 institutes globally. The rankings are as follows: IIT has managed to be on the number 57, IIM on 68 and JNU has managed to be on a ranking of 183 among the top 200 universities worldwide (Figure 2).

We still remember the image of the medical science with water cannons during a protest performed against reservation system in India. Due to the reservation quotas the Indian students fail to get admission in home ground so they decide to move to foreign land in order to seek higher education which is very costly and not affordable for the middle class society of India [26-31].

The Scope of Development for Foreign Universities

The Introduction of the Foreign Education Bill is a sigh of relief for many Indian students and families who wish to give the best possible education to their children but could not always do so because of the high cost of foreign education. With the prospect of Foreign Universities opening their branches in India, it opens door to new possibilities and the best international exposure could be afforded in home land itself (Figure 3).

This is a milestone which will enhance choices, increase competition and benchmark quality, HRD Minister Kapil Sibal said after the bill was declared to gain approval in the cabinet at an interview with Times of India. The minister has said that every possible step would be taken to maintain uniformity in the admission and education system.

Conclusion

The bill could change the face of Indian Education System; it will

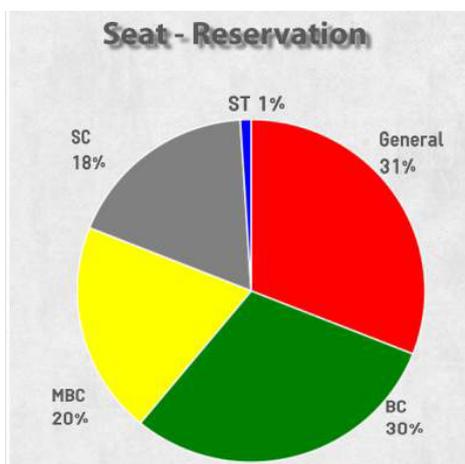
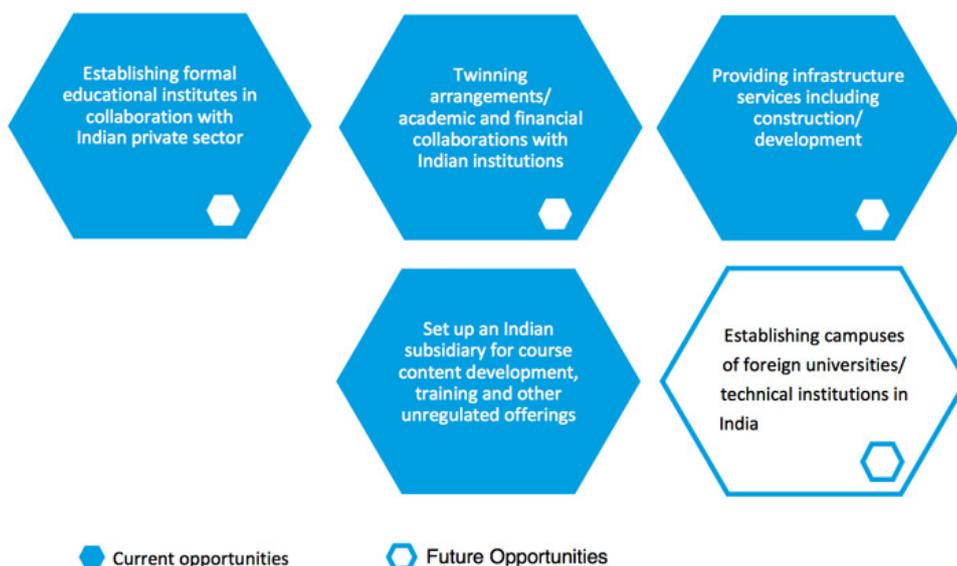


Figure 2: Reservation - medical (fencebroad.com).



Source: Deloitte India, ICEF.

Figure 3: Key opportunities in India for foreign education providers.

help in growing India at an International level. The introduction of the Foreign Education Bill can eradicate many issues like: the reservation system, low financial revenue and can upgrade the rank of Indian Education on global charts. The bill is a welcome step; but the steps should be scrutinized closely in order to bring out a positive global transformation to the education system.

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Citation: Singh P (2017) Foreign University Bill: Overview and Analysis. J Mass Communicat Journalism 7: 328. doi: 10.4172/2165-7912.1000328

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