

## CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION A REVIEW

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**Abstract:** Higher education is defined as education beyond high school, specifically that provided by colleges and graduate schools, and professional schools. An effort has been made in this paper to study various challenges presented by researchers to draw some conclusions. 25 articles were reviewed and these studies highlighted on various factors like Stress which is inevitable from higher education students. They face a lot of challenges during their course and do a lot of research studies in short time duration which puts them under stress. Environmental changes such as change of place are a common challenge faced by most of the higher education students. They have to move from their home place to where the institutions are located. This becomes one of the major reasons for home sickness as they do not get the homely environment in the new place. In addition they also have to pay a lot of money for food and stay and the students also feel unsafe, poor, uncomfortable and inconvenient. Negative student-teacher relationship is another challenge faced by students doing higher education where most of the teachers lack efficiency and qualification which affects the students and teachers spend less time with the students which leads students to drop out from the course and often change of topics and poor performance in academics. Lack of student's interest does not allow the students to take their higher education seriously and therefore they do not spend the required time which is needed for their higher education. Students are not ready to take negative comments from the supervisors. Financial constraint for higher education is high in India. This paper presents the studies carried out by different researchers globally on the challenges faced by the students of higher education.

**Keywords:** challenges, higher education, students

**Introduction:** Higher education is defined as education beyond high school, specifically that provided by colleges and graduate schools, and professional schools. A college education has now taken on the importance that a high school education had in the past, and has become a necessary ingredient for a good job and comfortable lifestyle. Preparation for jobs and career is seen as the primary role for higher education. Higher education improves an individual's quality of life.

Higher education, theoretically, will also enable individuals to expand their knowledge and skills, express their thoughts clearly in speech and in writing, grasp abstract concepts and theories, and increase their understanding of the world and their community.

Higher education not only focuses on academic performance it gives an individual lots of moral values and prepares an individual mentally to move out on their own in the real world and to become independent in once life and make their future secure, higher education helps an individual to become more intellectual and push oneself to move forward in their career or personal life even when nobody is around.

As everybody knows higher education is essential for a person to lead a stress free life in all aspects, but there are many challenges which are being faced by students doing higher education. Challenges like - environmental challenges, negative student teacher behavior, lack of students interest, stress, and how

important it is in society.

The present paper will answer many queries put forward as below and will be assessing the challenges faced by students in higher education under the following headings:

- Environmental challenges faced by students
- Negative student teacher relationship
- Lack of students interest
- Stress in students
- Financial constraint for higher education in India

**Environmental Challenges:** A good environment is required for a student to perform well in academics but students face environmental challenges like food, housing, language, cultural differences etc. When students have these kind of challenges around them it becomes difficult for them to concentrate in their academics which result in poor academic performance and academic results.

Lu (2001) stated in his research about the issues faced by students in higher education and found that housing and food was the two problematic areas for students who had a shift of place during their higher education. Students face a lot of challenges in accommodation like lack of safety, poor and inconvenient as well as very expensive place to stay. Food was an other challenge which students face where they could not get appropriate food and they did not know where to find a suitable place to eat. Transportation was also an issue for the students who lived outside campus as they find it difficult to reach college on time.

Al Zubaidi & Recharads (2009) researched that common challenges among international students are cultural, language difficulties and communication problems. When students shift from home town to the institution for the higher education, they face a lot of challenges related to cultural differences such as language problems which hinders their communication with other foreign students and therefore the students are not able to adjust to the environment. In one of the studies one participant reported that "I can say my English is not bad but I couldn't communicate with staff because many of them couldn't speak English very well and couldn't pronounce the words properly so I had to ask them again and again. It could result in their anger and my disappointment".

Alavi & Shafeq, (2011) have categorized the challenges facing international students. 1) Social and Curriculum and general living adjustment, 2) sociocultural adjustment, 3) personal psychological adjustment, and 4) academic adjustment 5) Languages Difficulties. Pewewardy, (2002) stated that criteria's that impact on higher education success is cultural identity, social norming, educational support mechanisms, unique student learning styles including Native ways of knowing.

Hence the problems among students doing higher education are adapting to a new environment and different cultural groups

**Negative Student Teacher Relationship:** During the course of higher education it is very essential for a positive relationship between the student and the teacher. Higher education mainly concentrates on researches and projects. For a student to do a research successfully a supervisors help is needed where the supervisor should be efficient enough and should be ready to help their students when needed. One of the main challenges faced by students in higher education is negative student teacher behavior which results in students drop out and poor performance in academics.

Harman et al (2010) found out that challenges faced by the students regarding teaching and learning environment is the lack of qualifications of academic staff and the poor academic preparation of academic staff for their teacher's role that was considered to be the significant challenges faced in higher education.

Chests (1997) and Blunt & Li, (1998) point out that graduate students had a problem with their supervisor in lack of useful feedback, different expectations, lack of time, cultural background and gender-based discrimination.

According to Davis, (2000) post graduate students expect their supervisors to supervise their research when it is actually their responsibility to do. Weaker students always expect their supervisors to over

supervise their researches.

Kearsley (1998) found that students are not getting enough time with their supervisors because supervisors are over worked and there is shortage of supervisors. Supervisors are running short of time where they are not able to pay much attention to students which leads to often change of topic or dropout of course.

Suseela & Sateen Selan, (2011) who suggested that both academic and non-academic university staff members need to equip themselves with sufficient knowledge of the various backgrounds of international students.

Golde & Dore (2001) researched that research students need proper guidance from lecturers to gain the skills they need to design and complete their programs effectively and to help prepare themselves for their subsequent career. The research suggest that up to half of the students of post graduate studies do not complete their studies because of the negative or lack of positive relation between the supervisor and supervisee.

**Lack Of Students Interest:** Sam Lubbe, Les Worrall (2004) stated that many students do not cope because they do not spend the required time needed for their work as they do not plan properly. For a research to be successful, a student should put in their full potential, time and plan properly so that the research can be carried out smoothly.

Grover (2001) in his research found out that the problem faced by the post graduate students is that they collect an asset base for data which often leads to change in topic or drop outs. Students often use many ways to save their documents where they misplace their documents by not saving them accurately with proper names and they do not update their files and save them in different names and therefore they end up in confusion.

Golde (2001) reported that half of the higher education students do not complete their education because of their lack of interest in academics. In this research it was also found out that the students are not ready to take negative comments from their supervisors and hence they drop out of the program.

**Stress:** Stress is inevitable, specially for the higher education students due to plenty of research work to be done, when students get stressed it becomes difficult for them to cope up with it and they get into depression which leads to drop out from courses

Arenson (2001) reported that students need emotional support to cope with study related stress and post graduate is a reality in which the faculty and students have to cope with.

According to bhumija sharma and suvarna prasad (2013) stress health and emotional problems increases during the course of post graduation that leads to mental distress and has a negative effect on

attentive functioning.

Prangya Paramita Priyadarshini Das & Rajkumar Sahoo(2012) researched that stress among higher education students increases the level of depression and they are more likely to deal with their symptoms by consuming alcohol or abusing drugs and/or other pursue risky behavior.

Russell et al found that 41% of international students experience substantial levels of stress. This stress could be from homesickness, cultural shock, or perceived discrimination.

**Financial Constraint For Higher Education In India:** If any initiative has to be successful there should be proper co-operation from family and society. Mainly as to how much importance the society gives for any initiative which is done and how the society helps. It becomes a very big challenge for the students in higher education if the government does not know its importance and has a lack in financial resources.

Tilak, (1997) found that total expenditure on higher education has risen since independence from 483 crores to 2418.3 crores between 1980 and 1995. Higher education occupies a low priority in public expenditures. Its share of GNP was nearly 1 percent during the 1970s, just 0.35% in the mid-1990s before increasing modestly to 0.6 by the end of the decade.

Modi and Mukhopadhyaya, (2000) while the number of educational trusts is increasing, most of them are generating revenue by charging for services rather than through donations or endowments.

According to Dhevesh kappu and Pratap bhanu

mehta (2004): India is facing a deep crisis in higher education, The veneer of the few institutions of excellence masks the reality that the median higher education institutions in India have become incapable of producing students who have skills and knowledge, The most acute weakness plaguing India's higher education is a crisis of governance. Its most visible manifestation is a crisis of faculty.

According to Patrick Nkhangweleni Mafenya(2014) :financial resources, lack of institutional collaboration, low postgraduate enrolments and disconnection between teaching and research were some of the challenges faced by higher education institutions.

**Conclusion:** Final key learning can be studied in this article as

There are many various environmental challenges faced by the students where they are not able to adjust to the changes which results in poor academic performance.

A teacher and student must have a positive relationship between them and a teacher must be efficient enough to guide students in researches.

Students must spend enough time for their researches, they must improve their time management skills and plan properly

Stress is an inevitable factor for higher education students and they find it difficult to cope

A society must know the importance of higher education and the Government must take initiatives to develop the importance of higher education by allotting financial resources etc

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