



Challenges in Rural Higher Educational Institutions in Karnataka

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Abstract: -India is called as a young nation in the world, with around 28 million youth population being added every year. More than 50 % of the total population is under the age of 25. And more than 65% is under the age of 35. In a fast developing country like India younger generation is progressing at a rapid pace with high speed. However without education the progress of rural India is not possible. Education is one of the fundamental means of social change in human societies. And is the key to the development society. It helps individuals prepare themselves for the challenges they may face in life. In this context rural higher education has great responsibility to provide quality education and contribute to social and economic development. However higher education, institutions in rural India face numerous challenges in delivering quality education. This research paper highlights the challenges faced by rural higher education institutions in India and suggests various remedies to overcome these challenges.

Keywords: Rural Higher Education, Challenge, Quality Education

Introduction:

India is called as young nation with around 28 million young people being added to its population every year. More than 50% of the total population is age of 25 and more than 65% is aged 35. India's population is expected to become the world's youngest. This means that a growing number of Indian youth will need the right education. Education plays a big role in the development of stable and civilized

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society. It creates a scientific way of thinking, polishes human skills, facilitates transformation of culture, improves knowledge, encourages to flow of information promotes active community participation and creates awareness among people to build a better society. Education broadens our minds and prepares youngsters to face challenges. It helps to develop integrity values intelligence and confidence. Even though India has completed nearly eight decades of independence, in the expected progress is still not visible in many higher education institutions, especially in rural areas there are no good attractive buildings, a lack of laboratories and qualified faculty, no inadequate of libraries and a shortage of good books. Governments are often most prioritizing the development infrastructure for higher education institutions and other learning resources located in urban areas. Unfortunately most private higher education institutions are also concentrated regions in urban. Therefore there is significant need to discuss the challenges facing higher education in rural in India, particularly in rural areas of Karnataka state.

Review of Literature:

UNESCO(2002), highlights how the application ICT could benefit the students, employers and the government, it could be harnessed for multiple purpose and it is increasing the capacity and effectiveness of education and enhance the quality of higher education.

Dr. Ladgaonkar, B.L. indicated issues of higher education institutions in rural area are non-availability of qualified staff, accountability of governance, expansion or decrease in student strength, applicable laws, view of management, students indiscipline and unrests, lack of healthy teachers-students relationship.

Uttam Kr Pegu, he examines the role of Information and Communication Technology in higher education in India. He mentioned the real fact that the higher education in India is plagued by the challenges of inadequate of technology access.

Research Methodology:

Data for the present study were collected from research thesis, academic journals, books, government reports and through the social research method of observation with particular emphasis on participant observation the study primarily relied on secondary sources of data which were systematically collected, analysed and utilised in the preparation of the research paper.

Objective of the study

The following objectives have been adopted for the present research article

- To examine the status of rural higher education institutions in Karnataka
- To identify major challenges faced by rural institutions
- To suggest measures for improving educational quality

Higher Education Scenario in India:

The institutional framework of higher education in India consists of Universities and Colleges. As reported in 2013, India had 651 Universities and 31,324 Colleges of higher learning in the country as on 2011 according to the report of higher education. As reported in 2015, India had 760 universities and 38,498 colleges, as of 2017 there were 789 Universities, 37,204 colleges and 11,443 stand-alone institutions in India. The number of universities and colleges are increasing that shows the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has taken forward step towards higher education. According to the higher education committee in the 12th Five-Year Plan report the number of student enrolled in the universities and colleges have increased. However this growth in numbers does not reach much improvement in the higher education in the country.

Table-01.

Number of central universities, State Universities, private Universities and higher education institutions situated in rural areas in India-2025-26

SL NO.	Type of Universities	Number of institutions	Percentage
1	Central universities in India situated in rural areas	19	34%
2	Universities situated in rural areas in India	480	41%
3	Total private Universities in rural areas in India	475	43%

4	Total higher education institutions situated in rural areas in India	26891	61.4%
5	Total standalone institutions situated in rural areas in India	6134	58%

Source: (UGC Excluding Institutions of National Importance 2006, UGC annual Report 2013, 2017, 2019, 2024,2025)

Table-02.

Total Universities in Karnataka-2025-26

State Universities	43
Central Universities	01
Private Universities	29
Deemed to be Universities	16
Total	89

Source : (Karnataka higher education Council-2025)

Table-03.

Strength of teaching positions in Karnataka-2025-26

Sanction teaching positions in public universities in Karnataka	4705
Filled teaching position in public universities in Karnataka	1705
Teaching vacancies in public Universities in Karnataka	3000 (64%)

Source :1(Karnataka higher education council-2025-26)

Source:2(Commisioner for collegiate education Bangalore-2025-26)

Table-04.Higher education institutions in rural areas in Karnataka District wise-2025-26

01	Bagalkot	65
02	Ballari	60
03	Belagavi	140
04	Bengaluru (Rural)	45
05	Bidar	55
06	Chamrajnagar	35
07	Chikballapura	45
08	Chikkamagaluru	55
09	Chitradurga	50
10	Dakshina Kannada	65
11	Davangere	55
12	Dharwad	45
13	Gadag	40
14	Hassan	65
15	Haveri	55
16	Kalaburagi	85
17	Kodagu	25
18	Kolara	60
19	Koppala	50
20	Mandya	65
21	Mysore	80
22	Raichur	55
23	Ramanagara	45
24	Shivamogga	55
25	Tumakuru	95
26	Udupi	40
27	Uttarakannada	55
28	Vijayapura	60
29	Vijayanagar (Hospet)	30
30	Yadagiri	35

Source:(1.Karnataka higher Education council -2025-26)

Source: 2. All India survey on higher Education -2025-26)

Source:3(Commisioner for collegiate education Bangalore-2025-26)

Analysis and Findings

While people from urban areas realize the role of education and aim to create a strong foundation for their young ones, but rural areas have a different picture about education. They are not aware of the opportunities after education, hence there is a crucial need to realize and create awareness about education. They do not know about the various jobs they can do after completing education.

India has the second largest education system. The Indian Government has given to ensure the quality of education. On the other hand rural education is facing shortage of teaching staff that is Assistant Professor, Associate Professors and Professors, the government are not given proper training to teachers or involvement in work. About 60% of college teachers are working on temporary basis, most of teachers do not have NET/SET/Ph.D. (National Eligibility Test, State Eligibility Test And Doctor of Philosophy) qualifications. It is directly affect the quality of students. But these are contribute to the problems. It is affecting on higher education systems in rural areas in Karnataka.

Central government as well as the state governments are not taking interest towards establishment of higher educational institutions in rural areas. Even the research surveys shows that the need of establishment because of political parties and the interference of middle mans of different political parties. The governments are not showing much interest towards the establishment of higher education institutions.

In Karnataka many rural colleges are facing shortage of classrooms laboratories libraries hostels digital learning facilities internet connectivity and modern teaching equipments very limited infrastructure affecting the quality of teaching learning process in rural Karnataka A major challenge in rural higher education institutions in Karnataka is faculty shortage and recruitment problems Universities in Karnataka facing shortage of 3000 teaching faculties and degree colleges in Karnataka facing shortage of more than 5000 teaching faculties the practice of conducting teaching in Karnataka University and degree colleges solely through guest lecturers without appointing permanent faculty members is having a negative quality of teaching this causes the impact on the quality of education.

Young aspirant seeking a Ph.D. degree are becoming discouraged and frustrated due to the lack of Ph.D. supervisors in karnataka's University although the digital

education has expanded after the pandemic, Many rural colleges still facing very poor internet connectivity, inadequate computer facilities, Rural families in Karnataka are facing financial hardship and are unable to send their children for higher education due to high College and University fee structure.

As a result, many talented students from rural areas are being deprived of opportunities for higher education. Rural higher education institutions often have inadequate research institutions very limited access to journals and books insufficient funds leading research productivity remain very low. Another important challenge in higher education institutions in rural Karnataka is employability and still gap rural graduates in Karnataka are not receiving adequate information about suitable employment opportunities due to lack of job related skills that match the degrees they have earned many struggle to secure employment.

The absence of entrepreneurship training centres employment information centre computer skill training and industrial promotion initiative in rural colleges has further worsened the situation. As a result many young people remain unemployed and are being forced into an uncertain and difficult future which is truly a tragic situation.

NAAC accreditation and quality assurance is also an important challenge in rural higher education institutions in Karnataka many rural colleges in Karnataka do not have sufficient infrastructure as well as qualified faculties who are qualified in National eligibility test and Ph.D. Because of poor documentation system affecting institutional quality ranking and funding opportunities from University grants commission New Delhi.

Most children in rural areas of Karnataka belong to economically weaker sections of the society including scheduled caste schedule tribes the children of farmers and the children of daily wage laborers. A lack of awareness and motivations to pursue higher education by attending colleges still persists among many of them, which remains another significant challenge for rural education in Karnataka.

Conclusion:

Ministry of Human Development should take a step collaboration with state governments to reserve the funds for better infrastructure for the establishment of higher education institutions in rural areas. Government should not compromise with

the quality of the qualifications of faculties to be appointed. The faculties appointed for higher education institutions situated in rural areas must accompany with quarters along with civil amenities. The modern technical equipments should provide without any kind of prejudices.

Suggestions

- ❖ The Central and the State Governments have to increase the budget for higher education in rural areas.
- ❖ The Government has to put special effort for the awareness of higher education in rural area through mass media.
- ❖ The Government has to appoint qualified teaching faculties.
- ❖ The Higher Education Institutions have to update the syllabus which is useful to contemporary society and competitive examinations.

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