

Growth of Higher Education Institutions in India 1947-48 to 2014-15

At the time of independence in 1947-48 there were 516 higher education institutions including 20 universities and 496 colleges in India. In a span of sixty seven years (from 1947-48 to 2014-15) the higher education institutions became 39258 (increased 76 times) out of which there were 760 universities (increased 38 times) and 38498 colleges (increased 78 times) as shown in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Growth of Higher Education Institutions in India 1947-48 to 2014-15

Year	Universities*	Colleges	Total
1947-48	20	496	516
1950-51	28	578	606
1960-61	45	1819	1864
1970-71	93	3277	3370
1980-81	123	4738	4861
1990-91	184	5748	5932
2000-01	266	11146	11412
2005-06	350	16982	17332
2006-07	371	19812	20183
2007-08	406	23099	23505
2008-09	440	27882	28322
2009-10	436	25938	26374
2010-11	621	32974	33595
2011-12	642	34852	35494
2012-13	667	35525	36192
2013-14	723	36634	37357
2014-15	760	38498	39258

Source 1. (1947-48 to 2000-01). University Grants Commission

*Universities from 1947-48 to 2000-01 includes Central, State, Private and Deemed-to-be Universities as also institutions of national importance established both by the Central and State Legislatures.

Source 2. (2005-06 to 2014-15) : Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India
(website: <http://mhrd.gov.in/statist>)

In terms of decadal growth of Higher Education Institutions in India has been maximum (207.59 percent) during 1950-51 to 1960-61. Whereas, during the decade 1960-61 to 1970-71 the growth was 80.79 percent, and in 1970-71 to 1980-81, the growth came down to 44.24 percent and the growth was minimum (22.03 percent) during 1980-81 to 1990-91. Then the growth increased to 92.38 percent during next decade from 1990-91 to 2000-01. India added nearly 22183 colleges in a decade (increased from 11412 in 2000-01 to 33595 in 2010-11) which shows growth of more than 194% (**Table 2 below**).

Number of degree granting universities more than doubled from 266 to 621, primarily due to deemed- universities and private universities. The number students enrolled in higher education doubled from nearly 8.4 million to 17 million in the decade (2000-01 to 2010-11), it grew at a slower pace than number of colleges which went up 2.5 times in the same period.

Table 2: Decadal Growth of Hr Education Institutions in India - from 1950-51 to 2010-11

S. No.	From - To	Decadal Growth (% Change)
1	1950-51 to 1960-61	207.59
2	1960-61 to 1970-71	80.79
3	1970-71 to 1980-81	44.24
4	1980-81 to 1990-91	22.03
5	1990-91 to 2000-01	92.38
6	2000-01 to 2010-11	194.38

Higher Education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of Universities/University level Institutions & Colleges since Independence. The number of Universities has increased 38 times from 20 in 1947-78 to 760 in 2014-15. The sector boasts of 45 Central Universities of which 40 are under the purview of MHRD, 318 State Universities, 185 State Private universities, 129 Deemed to be Universities, 51 Institutions of National Importance (established under Acts of Parliament) under MHRD (IITs - 16, NITs – 30 and IISERs – 5) and four Institutions (established under various State legislations). The number of colleges has also registered manifold increase of 74 times with just 500 in 1950 growing to 37,204, as on 31st March, 2013.

Table 3: Number of Women Colleges from 1997-98 to 2013-14

S. No.	Year	Number of Women Colleges	% Change over Previous Year**
1	1997-98	1260	-
2	1998-99	1359	7.86
3	1999-2000	1503	10.60
4	2000-01	1578	4.99
5	2001-02	1756	11.28
6	2002-03	1824	3.87
7	2003-04	1871	2.58
8	2004-05	1977	5.67
9	2005-06	2071	4.75
10	2006-07	2208	6.62
11	2007-08	2360	6.88
12	2008-09	2565	8.69
13	2009-10	3612	40.82
14	2010-11	3982	10.24
15	2011-12*	4266	7.13
16	2012-13*	4386	2.81
17	2013-14*	4506	2.74
Change from 1997-98 to 2013-14		3246	257.62
<i>*Provisional Figures; **%change in last cell from 1997-98 to 2013-14</i>			
Source: UGC Annual Report 2014-15			

Table 3 shows the number of Women Colleges from 1997-98 to 2013-14 and percent change over the years. Last row of the **Table 3** shows number of Women colleges added (3246) and percent change (257.62) during 1997-98 to 2013-14.

Simply opening colleges will not serve the purpose. After proper analyses of demand and supply of different educational degrees and proper planning the decisions should be made about what type of colleges should be opened? What will be the future of students? Will they be getting job opportunities? In the present scenario colleges were opened after privatisation of education but now having less employment opportunities in certain fields the colleges are going to be closed. College owners will switch over to the colleges of other subjects. But students will suffer loses. It will not help the country to develop. There should be colleges of high standards with easy access to the students coming from poor and rich families. Colleges should be opened in those courses which will be suitable for the students' future and for the best use of their education for the country's development as well.