

## Skills Gaps In Historical Research- The Role of Higher Education Sector in Promotion of Historical Research

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**Abstract:** This paper examines the skills gaps in historical research and focuses on strategies providing for innovative courses across all higher education Institutions. The development to historical research has been a much hampered subject because of several component issues. The studies on this subject have shown that lack of skilled human resource , lack of funding, lack of responses, lack of knowledge and lack of progression have been detrimental in the process of historical research. The declining rates of enrollment to social science subjects often hamper the progress of the subject. Higher education sector can support historical research through new and pioneering short term certificate courses & add on courses. Historical research has to be promoted because the lack of historical knowledge is leading to erroneous interpretation of history and also destruction of historical monuments.

**Key words:** historical research, higher education sector, innovative history courses.

### I. Introduction

Higher education scenario in India has to embark upon focusing these impediments & provide support to students who come from various socio- ethnic backgrounds. Besides there are social & spatial inequalities which are emerging with several influences in behavioral standards of the youth. Today Indian youth is divided as urban rural, traditional modern, literate illiterate, social conventional, digital & non digital. There are impediments to their access to higher education.

Type of HEIs	number
Universities	700
Colleges	48,000 +
Central universities	42
State universities	275
Deemed universities	130
Private universities	90
Exclusive women colleges	1800
HEIs of national importance	65

Even though there is an increase in number of HEIs employability is very meager. The following table shows the employability percentage

Employability in HE sector	33-53%
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It is estimated that 18% of the Indian youth aged between 18-22 years are enrolled in HE The recent moves from government is targeting to increase this number to 30% by 2020.

Year	% increase
1983	6%
2014	19%
2020* (Prospective)	30%

Source : various Wiki sources

It is estimated that 18% of the Indian youth aged between 18-22 years are enrolled in HE The recent moves from government is targeting to increase this number to 30% by 2020. This is a great strategy move from the Central Government as HEIs are being established across India. Only 20% of the total number of Higher education institutions have obtained NAAC-accreditation. Corruption is rife in the sector with private colleges often students to pay cash donations before they start their course . Between early 1980s late 2000s the market was unable to solve the problem of bogus & poor quality private education because so massively out stripped supply the ratio of men to women in higher education moved from 8:1 in 1950-1 to 1:1 in 2014-

5.90% of the country's GDP and 75% of its employment will be derived from the services and manufacturing sectors. But Higher education sector has failed to create employment to graduates. Corruption include higher castes seizing scholarship meant for low castes , hiring irregularities to academic positions establishments of bogus colleges cheating in examinations , using of colleges to launder money. The employability rates of Indian graduates are estimated at between 33-53%. 48 % % the educated graduate youth are partially employed or unemployed. It is reported that 19% of the urban technical graduates are under employed . 32 % the rural graduates are working in urban cities as laborers.

**Knowledge of history-** History as a subject deals with finding gathering structuring and passing facts about past events. It aims at objectivity because it deals with cause effect situation in a chronological process. History subject creates knowledge for people about the evolution of human society human values human concepts & human nature in a community. History helps societies to understand past deeds and motivates them to take a better decision & plan best for the future. History is descriptive but has lots of potential for present & future generations.

Knowledge of history offers

1. Flexibility,
2. Help students develop good analytical skills
3. Capacity to identify and analyze and explain trends behavior and
4. Great research skills

**The careers offered by History**

1.	Academic librarians
2.	Archaeologists
3.	Conservation officers
4.	Gallery curators
5.	Historical building curators
6.	Manuscript conservators
7.	Museum curators

**Short term certificate courses-** Globalization has set a new landmark towards career development as specialized reshuffling has become more skillful. Vocational skill imparting has become more demanding as traditional courses offered by HEIs are being sidelined. They are secondary as not being global job market friendly. The issues relating to training students in HEIs through professional short term courses were mooted at Higher education & MHRD led academic sessions. HEIs were called for initiating short term courses in vocational professional subjects. Several of HEIs thus started short term courses which were career friendly . The following table shows the structure of courses in degree colleges under Higher education sector . As this chart reflects there are several impediments to creation of higher education for sustainable future in India is seen.

**Objectives of short term courses**

1. Deliverance of a new skills trainings which can be applied practically towards promotion of historical research
2. Practical training to students towards historical research
3. Promoting skill development among students towards taking up historical research
4. Entrepreneurship development towards
5. Job orientation with skill based courses in historical research

**Short term courses benefits** - Short term courses in connection with historical research needs to support the skill & knowledge mandates of professional research. This provides a dynamic learning environment, it engages the students with job market needs, & helps them to equip themselves with employability skills. These courses provide educational opportunities for students who wish to take up social science studies. Meeting student needs for career placement, development, and advancement is possible though these courses. These courses also help the historical research needs by providing skills needed for research and development . It also provides history research sector with resources & skilled workers. This also acts as a bridge towards getting entry to challenging global job market where research orientation is highly developed.

Certificate Course in

1. museology
2. manuscript conservation
3. museum curation

4. historical buildings survey and conservation
5. historical artifact museum / office / library management
6. numismatic management

**Role of UGC** – The UGC has to prioritize the professional development & networking opportunities in HEIs & fund career oriented short term courses in all colleges uniformly across India. This will support historical research because Indian culture is multi dimensional and historical development varies from place to place.

**Challenges of Short term courses (SSC)**- But there are several challenges as Students in Short term courses are trained only in basics while historical research demands more deeper and elaborate skills. Besides a thorough & ultimate career professionalism needed for historical research is not gained by Short term courses. The students are made to learn only elementary historical research skills while the historical research demands more upgraded skills hence they do not fit in the job opportunities needed in historical research circle. The several of the Short term courses are not trained through professional instructors hence the quality is not up to the mark Several of the Short term courses are not certified by professional careers groups or branded or ISO certified / Government registered companies Even though participants in Short term courses acquire a certificate they do not get any good employment since their certificates are not certified by authentic authorities. Students in Short term courses are made to acquire additional training through certified Institutions later which is a financial burden for the students. Getting workable knowledge in 2-10 week course interlude of a Short term courses / training programs is exceedingly questionable. Several of the Short term courses teach through recorded videos which are not updated Several of the Short term courses teach unstructured course work which do not have updated syllabus of historical research .

## II. Conclusion

Thus the development to historical research has been a much hampered subject with component issues including lack of skilled human resource , lack of funding, lack of responses, lack of knowledge and lack of progression have been detrimental in the process of historical research. The declining rates of enrollment to social science subjects often hamper the progress of the subject. Higher education sector can support historical research through new and pioneering short term certificate courses & add on courses. Historical research has to be promoted because the lack of historical knowledge is leading to erroneous interpretation of history and also destruction of historical monuments.

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