



Role of Higher Education in Achieving the Vision of Viksit Bharat 2047

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Abstract: *This study examines the crucial role of higher education in steering India toward the ambitious vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, a milestone year that will mark a century of independence. The goal of “Viksit Bharat by 2047” is to transform India into a developed, holistic development and sustainable nation. Today, higher education institutions not only impart knowledge to students but also develop their skills, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, which form the foundation of national development. The present study objective is to examine the role of higher education in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat. A qualitative method was adopted for this study, and data were collected from secondary sources. This study highlights the findings that higher education produces skilled human resources that meet the demands of modern industries and educational sectors. However, higher education has served as a powerful instrument that will significantly contribute to the realization of the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 and in establishing a self-sufficient and developed nation.*

Keywords: *Higher Education, Viksit Bharat 2047 and Holistic Development*

Introduction: The vision of Viksit Bharat by the year 2047 represents a comprehensive blueprint for national development. The vision of transforming India into a fully developed nation by the year 2047, popularly articulated as Viksit Bharat 2047, represents a significant milestone in the country’s developmental trajectory. This vision is not merely an economic ambition but a multidimensional framework that encompasses social equity, technological advancement, environmental sustainability, and global leadership. As India approaches the centenary of its independence, the need to strengthen its institutional foundations becomes increasingly critical. Among these, higher education stands out as a key driver of national transformation, as it directly influences the quality of human capital, the pace of innovation, and the capacity for knowledge creation. In a rapidly globalizing and knowledge-driven world, nations that invest in strong higher education systems are better positioned to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. The evolution of higher education in India reflects a complex journey marked by expansion, diversification, and reform. Since independence, the country has witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of universities, colleges, and specialized institutions, along with a steady rise in student enrolment across disciplines. Policy initiatives have consistently emphasized the need for improving access, ensuring equity, and enhancing quality. Recent reforms have further highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary learning, digital integration, research orientation, and global collaboration. Despite these advancements, the higher education system continues to grapple with several structural and functional challenges. Issues such as unequal access to quality education, regional and socio-economic disparities, inadequate research output, and limited industry-academia

collaboration persist. Furthermore, concerns regarding employability and skill mismatch indicate that the system is yet to fully align with the demands of a rapidly changing economy.

In the context of *Viksit Bharat 2047*, the role of higher education becomes even more crucial, as it is expected to contribute not only to economic development but also to social transformation and nation-building. Higher education institutions are increasingly being viewed as centers of innovation, entrepreneurship, and critical thinking. They are expected to foster creativity, encourage interdisciplinary research, and address real-world problems through knowledge generation. However, the transition from traditional models of education to more dynamic, flexible, and outcome-oriented systems require significant institutional restructuring and policy support. The ability of higher education to respond to emerging challenges such as technological disruption, environmental concerns, and global competition will determine its effectiveness in contributing to national goals. This study review of existing literature indicates that while higher education has been widely studied in relation to economic growth, employability, and policy development, there is a noticeable lack of comprehensive research that explicitly connects higher education with the long-term vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*. Most studies tend to focus on specific aspects such as quality assurance, curriculum reform, or institutional governance without situating them within a broader national development framework. Moreover, there is limited empirical evidence examining how higher education institutions can strategically align their functions with national priorities such as self-reliance, innovation-driven growth, and sustainable development. Another significant gap lies in the insufficient exploration of the disconnect between policy intentions and their implementation at the institutional level. While policy frameworks emphasize excellence, inclusivity, and global competitiveness, practical challenges often hinder their effective realization. From this gap highlights the need for a more integrated and holistic analysis of higher education in the context of India's developmental vision. It becomes essential to examine not only the status and challenges of the higher education system but also its potential to act as a catalyst for transformative change. This involves understanding the role of governance, funding, curriculum design, technological integration, and stakeholder collaboration in shaping the future of higher education. Additionally, the study of regional variations, institutional diversity, and socio-economic factors is crucial in developing a nuanced understanding of the system. Considering these considerations, the present study aims to critically examine the role of higher education in achieving the vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*. It seeks to analyze the existing challenges, identify structural and functional gaps, and explore strategies for strengthening the higher education system in alignment with national goals. The study also intends to highlight the importance of innovation, inclusivity, and quality enhancement in making higher education more responsive to contemporary needs. The significance of this study lies in its potential to contribute to both academic and policy discourse. By providing a comprehensive and research-based analysis, it can offer valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and institutional leaders in formulating effective strategies for reform and development. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of positioning higher education as a transformative force capable of driving India's transition towards a developed, self-reliant, and globally competitive nation by 2047.

Objectives

- To examine the role of higher education in achieving *Viksit Bharat*.
- To explore the role of digital learning in higher education.

Methodology: The study was carried out based on the qualitative approach of research. The information presented in this paper was collected from various secondary sources like- government data, research articles, research journal etc. The method used for gathering information is documented review, investigation, representative theme etc. .and gathered data were coded and analyzed. in this study *Viksit Bharat 2047* have been analyzed deeply. Each document's contents are examined in detail by researchers.

Operational definition: Higher education: Higher education is students' participation in post-secondary academic programs in recognized institutions measured through indicators such as enrollment ratio, skill acquisition, academic performance, and involvement in innovation, research, and employ oriented activities contributing to national development.

Viksit Bharat 2047: Viksit Bharat 2047 is India's targeted status of becoming a developed nation by the year 2047, measured through key indicators such as quality of education, skill development, employability, innovation and research output, economic growth, and social inclusion, as reflected in policy outcomes and individual capabilities developed through higher education.

Holistic development: Holistic development refers to the overall growth of an individual across multiple dimensions intellectual, emotional, social, physical, and ethical operationalized through measurable indicators such as academic performance, emotional stability, social skills, physical well-being, and participation in co-curricular and value-based activities

Findings

Objective-1: The study finds that higher education plays a significant and multidimensional role in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat. It contributes to the development of skilled human resources by enhancing students' knowledge, critical thinking, and employability skills. Higher education institutions promote innovation, research, and technological advancement, which are essential for economic growth and global competitiveness. The findings further indicate that higher education fosters holistic development among students by improving their social, emotional, and ethical competencies, thereby preparing responsible and productive citizens. Additionally, it supports inclusivity and equal access to educational opportunities, which is crucial for balanced national development. However, the study also highlights certain challenges such as gaps in quality, unequal access, and limited industry-academia collaboration, which need to be addressed to fully realize the goal of Viksit Bharat.

Overall, strengthening higher education systems is essential for transforming India into a developed, knowledge-based, and self-reliant nation by 2047.

Objective-2: The study finds that digital learning has emerged as a transformative force in higher education, significantly enhancing the teaching-learning process. It provides flexible and accessible learning opportunities, allowing students to access educational content anytime and anywhere. This flexibility is particularly beneficial for students from remote and underprivileged backgrounds, as it reduces geographical and economic barriers to education. The findings indicate that digital learning improves students' engagement and understanding using multimedia tools such as videos, animations, online quizzes, and interactive platforms. These tools make learning more interesting, student-centered, and effective compared to traditional methods. Additionally, digital platforms support self-paced learning, enabling students to learn according to their individual abilities and needs. Digital learning plays a crucial role in developing technological skills and digital literacy among students, which are essential for the modern workforce. It also promotes independent learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. Online resources, virtual classrooms, and e-learning platforms have expanded opportunities for collaborative learning and global exposure. However, the findings also highlight several challenges associated with digital learning. These include lack of access to digital devices, poor internet connectivity, limited digital skills among teachers and students, and reduced face-to-face interaction. Such issues create a digital divide, affecting the overall effectiveness of digital learning in higher education.

Overall, the study concludes that digital learning plays a vital role in enhancing quality, accessibility, and inclusivity in higher education. However, to maximize its benefits, there is a need for improved digital infrastructure, proper training, and effective integration of technology into the education system.

Analysis

Objective-1: The analysis shows that higher education serves as a foundational pillar in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. It plays a critical role in developing human capital by equipping students with advanced knowledge, technical skills, and critical thinking abilities. Through structured academic programs, higher education enhances students' capacity to adapt to changing global demands, thereby contributing to a skilled and competent workforce. Higher education institutions act as centers of innovation and research. The promotion of research activities, technological advancement, and interdisciplinary learning fosters creativity and problem-solving skills among students. This innovation-driven approach is essential for economic growth, industrial development, and global competitiveness, which are key components of a developed nation.

The analysis also highlights the role of higher education in promoting employability and entrepreneurship. By integrating skill-based education, internships, and industry collaboration, institutions help bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. This not only increases employment opportunities but also encourages self-employment and startup culture, contributing to economic self-reliance. Higher education contributes significantly to holistic development. It nurtures students' social, emotional, ethical, and leadership qualities, preparing them to become responsible citizens. This aspect is crucial for building an inclusive, democratic, and socially balanced society, which aligns with the broader vision of Viksit Bharat. The analysis identifies several challenges that hinder the effective role of higher education. These include disparities in access and quality, lack of adequate infrastructure, limited research funding, and weak industry-academia linkage. Such issues create gaps between policy intentions and actual outcomes.

Overall, the analysis indicates that while higher education has a strong potential to drive the vision of Viksit Bharat, there is a need for continuous reforms, improved quality assurance, increased investment, and stronger collaboration between educational institutions and industries. Addressing these challenges will ensure that higher education fully contributes to transforming India into a developed and knowledge-driven nation by 2047.

Objective-2: The analysis indicates that digital learning has significantly reshaped the landscape of higher education by introducing flexibility, accessibility, and innovation into the teaching-learning process. It allows students to access lectures, study materials, and academic resources beyond the limitations of time and place, thereby making education more inclusive and learner-centered. This is particularly important for students from rural and disadvantaged backgrounds, as digital learning reduces barriers related to distance and cost. Further analysis shows that digital learning enhances the quality of education through the integration of multimedia tools and interactive platforms. The use of videos, simulations, online assessments, and virtual classrooms makes learning more engaging and effective. It supports different learning styles and promotes better understanding of complex concepts. Moreover, digital platforms encourage self-paced learning, enabling students to take greater responsibility for their own learning process. Another important aspect revealed in the analysis is the development of digital literacy and 21st-century skills. Through continuous engagement with digital tools, students acquire technological competence, critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and adaptability. These skills are essential for employability and align with the demands of a knowledge-based economy. The analysis also highlights the role of digital learning in promoting collaboration and global connectivity. Students can participate in online discussions, webinars, and collaborative projects, gaining exposure to diverse perspectives and knowledge systems. This enhances their academic experience and prepares them for a globally interconnected world. The effectiveness of digital learning is constrained by several challenges. The digital divide remains a major issue, with many students lacking access to reliable internet, devices, and proper learning environments. Additionally, inadequate digital skills among teachers and students, along with reduced face-to-face interaction, can affect the overall quality of learning. Issues such as lack of motivation, screen fatigue, and limited personal engagement also emerge as concerns.

In conclusion, the analysis suggests that while digital learning plays a transformative and essential role in higher education, its success depends on effective implementation, adequate infrastructure, and capacity building. Strengthening these areas will ensure that digital learning contributes meaningfully to improving the quality, equity, and relevance of higher education.

Conclusion: The study concludes that both higher education and digital learning play a crucial and complementary role in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Higher education acts as a foundation for national development by creating skilled, knowledgeable, and responsible human resources. It promotes critical thinking, innovation, research, and employability, which are essential for building a developed and self-reliant nation. At the same time, digital learning enhances the effectiveness and reach of higher education by making it more accessible, flexible, and inclusive. It supports modern teaching-learning practices, develops digital competencies, and prepares students for the demands of a technology-driven world. The integration of digital tools with higher education strengthens the overall quality of education and expands learning opportunities for diverse groups of students. This study also identifies challenges such as unequal access to educational resources, digital divide, lack of infrastructure, and gaps in quality. These issues need to be addressed through proper policy implementation, investment in infrastructure, and capacity building of both teachers and learners. Overall, the combined strength of higher education and digital learning has the potential to drive India towards becoming a developed, inclusive, and knowledge-based nation. Strengthening these sectors is essential for successfully achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

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