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Global Opportunities at Indian Higher Education Institutions

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Abstract: Modernization and urge for survival in the global job market has made the young generation students to think deeply before they choose the post high school educational institution. The final decision is made by considering the impact of the institution in job market, location, ambience, internalization and opportunities given to students other than the course content. Only after this, they look in to choosing the major branch of study. Top institutions in India have made a great impact among students in carrying out their thoughts and realizing their dreams. In spite of higher expenses, foreign Universities drag them to realize the expectations of the students by means of confirmed jobs, conducive atmosphere and international exposure.

Keywords: Indian Students, Higher Education, opportunities, Scholarships, collaborations

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has brought ample insight in the field of education and development. Gen x and Gen z students are well exposed to technologies and they expect personal growth and wealth to the next level. This thirst widens their search for better educational institutions across borders that can fuel their desire to flourish and bring out the best in them. A variation in economic condition prevents the best students to explore the best opportunities abroad as the expense is very high. So they were forced to choose from the best institutions that not only fulfil their desire but as well as their international dreams.

Increase in private educational institutions in India has given ample opportunities for school completing students to have a choice of their interest in obtaining higher education. Soon after the great fight to get in to one of the IIT's and NIT's, their focus turn towards private institutions of excellence. Some of the top private institutions are in par with IIT's and NIT's as for as quality of educational inputs and researches are concerned. Some of the private institutions excel in infrastructure and facilities they offer to the students.

Few of them excel in the research and publications compared to IIT's and NIT's. Compared to the government and government aided institutions the opportunities, the student get in a private institutions are higher in terms of knowledge outburst. Though they may not enjoy government funding's or support given in varied forms to the students of government institutions they get exposure in other forms. Many top notches create an ambiance where in the Indian students acquire an overall international exposure by means of having international students in their class, meeting and listening to experts from abroad, participating in international competitions and getting a chance to go to foreign Universities during the course of their study either for a short term or a long term program. This study reveals how Universities across globe awaits Indian students and how Indian Universities exploit international opportunities the student enjoys during their graduate and masters programs.

WHOLE WORLD AWAITS INDIAN STUDENTS

UK secretary of state for business, innovation and skills Mr.SajidJavid, told that Britain has no limits for foreign nationals visiting their country for higher education. He expressed his aspiration to accept more Indian students to get world class education. To achieve this vision eligible Indian students are issued visas in 15 days and part time job opportunities are made available exclusively for Indian students studying there. £21,000 can be earned through a graduate-level job during holidays and weekdays in a year. Though the cost of studies is bit higher in UK, offers given for Indian students drag them to institutions of repute.

According to Tatiana Perova, head of the Russian language training Centre at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in New Delhi stated that Russian Universities allocate yearly budget to attract more Indian students to study at their Universities. There are additional openings for Indians to go to study in Russia free of charge besides "It's time to study in Russia" program. The students will be offered a grant that will moderately cover their expenses, including lodging in addition to free education. Indian students can enroll in any one university and get scholarships at various levels, depending on the majors they choose and University they study.

Takeshi Yagi, the Japanese Ambassador to India, discoursed the opportunity of improving partnerships with Indian institutions and innovative programs for Indian students who wish to study in Japan. Japanese universities have started offering the various majors of study in English, identifying the fact that one of the biggest blockades for Indian students to study in Japan is language. The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) sponsors 300 Indian university students and young professors to Japan for three weeks in 2015-16 under the Sakura Science Exchange Program in Science majors. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology in *Japan* (MEXT) has launched a new short-term invitational program for Indians up to 40 years of age.

American Ambassador to India Richard Verma expressed that the growth in Indian students increased by almost 30 per cent over last year and was grander than from any other country and the biggest jump since they started collecting data since 1954. The report which was published in partnership with State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, USA reveals that Indian students undergoing higher education at different levels in the United States added a massive 3.6 billion US Dollars to the US economy for the academic year 2014/2015. Rajika Bhandari, the nonprofit's deputy vice president for research and evaluation added that increase has been mostly at the graduate level majors due to the obtainability of outstanding science and research amenities on U.S. campuses. Moreover Indian students have always been very attracted to USA.

Over 5,000 Indians witnessing to pursue higher education in Singapore each year at the country's 18 universities and academic institutes that have instigated impressive international consideration and admiration. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said that their government will endure to sustenance Indian community especially Indian students coming to Singapore for education. Singapore has progressively developed in to one of the leading financial centers of the world and headquarters for numerous international multinational companies representing Asia. Over 16 foremost overseas universities have set up centers of excellence in education and research in Singapore. UK, the US, France or Australia degrees can be obtained by studying in Singapore itself through these centers. This is one of the main reasons why the number of Indian students applying to study in Singapore has been rising gradually since 2009. Tan EngChye, deputy president, academic affairs, The National University of Singapore (NUS) said that NUS is keen on strengthening our bond with India as they enjoy a strong friendship that is reflected in the many education and research agreements that NUS has in place with Indian institutes. Currently NUS is ranked second best in Asia by QS. The Singaporean government has endorsed Indian students to choose their own mother tongue (Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, Punjabi and Bengali) as second language.

Australia Universities are not in the radar of Indian Students as a excellence education destination. They choose Australian Universities not to gain best academic productivities but to gain permanent residence, Job opportunities and additional revenue generation through part time engagements. So they often opt for vocational courses at lower ranking universities and institutions. To change this mentality, Australian education has waived restrictions for Indian students by issuing additional one year visa for students pursuing higher education in Australian Universities and varied scholarships. Vicki Thomson, chief executive of the The Group of Eight (Go8) comprises Australia's eight leading research Universities - The University of Melbourne, The Australian National University, The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland, The University of Western Australia, The University of Adelaide, Monash University and UNSW Australia stated that they signed an MoU with six elite Indian private schools hoping to captivate the institutions' preeminent students to study in Australia.

ZienaJalil, regional director at the South and South East Asia Education New Zealand reported that the number of Indian students in New Zealand amplified by 49% in the last five years. New Zealand will shortly replace UK's place as the fourth most popular destination for Indian students. The main reason behind this growth is New Zealand's eight public state-funded universities. A report of QS World University Rankings reveals that these Universities are listed in the world's top 500.

Arnaud Mentré the press counsellor of the Embassy of France stated that Reasonable Cost of higher education, wide-ranging of scholarships across a varied academic disciplines and simplified visa rules are the main reasons of overall increase in the number of Indian students in France that grew by 50% over the past five years. Nearly 3,000 Indian students graduated in France in 2013. The number of students seeking admission in Anglo-Saxon countries escalates considerably to higher level every year. These students prefer courses like tourism, international business, fashion designing, hotel management and few focuses in Engineering majors.

Over the past few years, German Academic Exchange Service, or DAAD plays a vibrant role in attracting students from India to Germany by providing them a feel at home setting, as over 1,600 programs are being offered in English by the universities in Germany. Higher education in Germany is free of cost or comes at a very lesser education fee that comes around 50 to 250 Euros per semester, subjected to the

university and the benefits provided. At an average a student need to spend 55,000 Indian rupees to manage their shared housing, decent food, study materials and other meager expenses towards their comforts per semester. This makes young Indians choosing Germany over other more expensive destinations across the globe. The approximate annual cost of higher education in Germany as per industrial experts is \$6,285 when compared to \$30,325 in the UK and \$35,705 in the US.

According to the Chinese Ministry of Education India remains as one of the top ten sources of international students in China in recent years. 13,578 Indian students are studying in China right now whereas only 765 studied in 2005. As English is the Medium of instruction in top Medical Universities across China it attracts more Indian students. Moreover low tuition fee, decent housings and conducive international environment resulted in increase of Indian students leaving to China.

INDIAN STUDENT MOBILITY TO THE WORLD

UNESCO report stated that China and India lead the way when it comes to students heading overseas. The report also mentioned about the percentage of students studying abroad from Andorra, Anguilla, Bermuda, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Montserrat, the Seychelles and the Turks and Caicos Islands are more than the percentage of students studying at their home countries. According to the report organized and released by Maria Mathai, Director, MM Advisory Services New Delhi in 2014, India has overtaken China by 2% increase in terms of growth rate in the number of students studying in foreign Nations and out of which 85% study in five major countries that include the United States, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. US still remain to be the most prevalent target for students. Australia and Canada are gaining popularity in recent days as these countries issue an additional one year of visa after completing the course and get allowing the students to get work permit.

The most preferred Universities in the US includes Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Stanford University, Yale University, University of Chicago, Princeton University and California Institute of Technology. The predominant reason for Indian students to choose these Universities are World class infrastructure and lab facilities, interaction with global citizens, research centric curriculum, industrial exposure, part-time job opportunities, post placement assistance with MNC's, varied scholarships and fellowships offered by the Indo- American governments, host Institutions and other agencies. Popular courses that are chosen by Indian students comprise Computers, Electronics, Robotics, Bio-technology and Production in Graduate level and MBA with specialization to Finance, International Business and Hospital Management, MS in Automobile, Computers, Automation and Electronics are chosen at the Masters level.

In The United Kingdom a large figure of Indian students are seen in University of Cambridge, University College London, Imperial College London, University of Oxford and King's College London. Simplified admission procedures, scholarships, large Indian community, more opportunities for self-improvement, better living condition and visa procedures attract Indian students to the UK. Most students prefer non engineering courses, psychology, fashion design, and Para Medical Courses in Graduate level, MA, MSc and MBAs in Masters level and PhD in research level.

Australian National University, The University of Melbourne, The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland and The University of New South Wales listed in QS world ranking top the list of most

attracted Universities for Indian students in the last five years. Indian students prefer Australian Universities due to the low annual tuition fees compared to the US and the UK. Visa regulations and admission procedures are simple in getting admitted to any of the Australian Universities. Moreover attractive part time jobs and assured one year extended visa drag Indian students to choose wide range of courses in Australian Universities. By no means can an institution cheat the students for the fee they have paid towards tuition which is protected by Australian government laws that closely monitors universities financial regulations.

Universities in Asia are no way inferior to Universities around the globe in infrastructure and quality of education. List released by QS World ranking of University reveals that the numbers of Universities in Asia steadily increase every year. Indian students prefer choosing National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, Peking University, Seoul National University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology and Pohang University of Science & Technology because of affordable tuition fees cheaper cost of living than the West. It is closer by means of distance and has similar culture and life style. These Universities attracts students who prefer to undergo Civil, Mechanical, Electronics, Production, Animation, Computer and liberal arts in Graduate level. In masters level they attract courses related to disaster management, Power electronics, embedded technology, big data, electricals and Industrial engineering. Research in the field of science and engineering are the key in these Universities.

PATH TO INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Indian Universities or educational institutions are not listed in any of the evaluating agencies across the globe like QS world ranking of Universities, Shanghai Ranking Consultancy or Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Till the year 2000 the Indian education system was in such a way that more inputs and thrust is given to concept rather than practical or application part in any field of study. There were some exceptions like IISE and autonomous institutes who had freedom to modify the content. Whether it is engineering courses or science majors, students carried lot of books than apparatus back home to study. They were exposed a very little in realizing what they learned in the theory. This methodology is one among the reasons for the Indian institutions to lack behind top universities in Asia as well as the world. Things slowly changed after the entry of private Universities so called “Deemed Universities” and “Autonomous colleges”. This power of autonomy has given opportunities for the curriculum designers, board of academic council and academicians in these institutions to look in to the world and industries. They start to design their content as per the need of the industry and to match with the standards of any international universities of repute.

Indian University sign MoUs with several institutions, Research Institutes, Industries, Funding Agencies and Educational consortiums of repute around the globe. This agreements simplify instituting collective endeavours’ with foreign organizations in terms of student internship, projects, faculty exchange, dual degree or twinning programs and establishing collaborative research centres in advanced areas of technical and society developmental areas. These partnerships contribute to the academic and personal improvement of students by escalating their prospects and stipulating them with an international outlook. It also provides a realistic, eminence framework in which students may nurture into affianced citizens of the world. This international exposure gives students an enhanced wisdom of what it means to be a global inhabitant.

Multi-National Companies and corporates highly rate such a global experience gained by the student which increases their employability and job expectations.

BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY

In order to cull out speckled global opportunities a student experience during the course of study, Universities across different states of India are chosen based on the reputation and reach they have among parents and other public. Among the top private Universities in India, Amrita University, Ashoka University, Azim Premji University, BML Munjal University, Chitkara University, Christ University, Hindustan University, Karunya University, Manipal University, O.P.Jindal global university, SASTRA, Sharda University, Shiv Nadar University, SRM University, Symbiosis university, Thapar University and VIT University considerably expose their students and Faculty to the World through their customized programs that is formulated under the guidance of UGC and other educational bodies. Semester Abroad Program, Internship Program, Summer School program, Twinning Program, Faculty Abroad Program, cross cultural developmental program, Conferences and seminars are few successive models that is working well with their Foreign partner Universities. These programs are designed in win-win model where both the parties are mutually benefitted.

SEMESTER ABROAD PROGRAM

The most popular of all international programs that gives exposure to a student is Semester Abroad or Study Abroad Program which in short is called as SAP. In this program the student spends one semester, most probably in their final year or the last semester where they undergo a project. This is one among the key programs offered by the Universities which not only help their students to rise to the level of global citizens but also puts them in the lime lights during marketing or advertising their institution inside and outside their countries. Partnerships and exchange of students will add value during their ranking. Through this program they attract international students from Universities where their students visit. In addition to international learning environment students expose themselves to varied culture, people, living conditions, food and life style practised in those countries. They also get an opportunity to work on an existing project in real time and chance to learn from eminent professors of the university. During their stay, based on their academic performance and relationship with the professors they also get a chance to get admission in masters or research programs offered in those universities. This program will improve students' independency and self-confidence along with the profession prospects both in India and Abroad.

The basic criteria to select student for this program starts with their academic records where they should have no arrears at the time of application and their CGPA should not be less than 8. In addition to this they should have a Statement of Purpose which clearly reveals the reason to be a part of this program and a detailed resume that talks more about their professional and personal track records. Fulfilling all the basic requisites the students' application will be forwarded to the partner Universities and which will be shortlisted by them based on availability of space and projects. Indian Universities in turn spend huge amount of money for such shortlisted and selected students in the form of scholarships usually given considering academic progress, Family financial conditions, research ability of the student and communication skills. The credits earned during SAP in the abroad university will be transferred to the host University who will award the degree.

TWINNING PROGRAM

Twinning or credit Transfer programs are of two major types. In type one student spend one semester or one year at the partner university. Before they depart they choose the courses on the basis of relevance to their major of study, additional exposure, more application oriented and industrial implementations content. A maximum of 27 to 30 credits can be earned per semester depending on the course availability and acceptance of the partner university. This credit transfer program involves no tuition fee. MoU between the universities clearly specify the number of exchange students selected every academic year, feasible majors for exchange, terms of exchanges and other conditions. A maximum of ten students are exchanged each year under this type. These types of exchanges though never generate funds for the partnering Universities they mark as the sign of mutual respect in Global partnerships. The second type allows students to spend part of their course at the host University and part at the foreign University. For example if 220 credits are required to earn a bachelor degree in engineering major, a student completes 90-100 credits at the local University and the remaining at the foreign University. In this method the student pays fee for the first two years at the Indian University and pay the remaining fee at the foreign University. The fee paid at the foreign Universities is always higher as they are paid in dollars or pounds as per the local fee structure formed by the foreign Universities for International Students. This method is more appreciated by the foreign Universities as they generate enormous funds through these admissions. But for the Indian Universities though this method help them during marketing, it is a loss as they lose students from their Universities. Students who fail to get visas or face financial problems continue the course in the Indian University and get the degree from the Indian University. The students, who fly abroad, get the degree from the partner foreign University where they are attached to. This type saves lot of money for Indian students as they save the first two years high tuition fees to be paid in the foreign Universities. They are cherished as the Degree is awarded by the foreign Partner University.

Twinning Programs benefits students by significantly reducing the cost to secure a Bachelor or Master's degree abroad and give them a unique chance to explore opportunity to continue their Masters or Research program abroad and to find job opportunities in foreign land. In some cases the foreign Universities waive GRE or GMAT which is the basic requirement for getting admissions in to their Universities which reduces stress among the desired students. Parents also finds this program very useful as they save lot of money and finally fulfils their wards international dreams.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Internship program extends for a period of 7 days to a maximum of 45 days. The programs enable students and faculty to visits their foreign partner University to witness the current research that are being carried out, spend time with fellow students and teachers involved in the active research to learn more about that and to get them updated with happenings in their field of study. During this program they visit industries, business centres, research centres of other majors, discussion with students/scholars/faculty and get them involved in knowledge exploration. No tuition fee is paid towards this program to the foreign Universities but other expenditures involved related to their travel, food, stay and approvals are borne by the visitors. Usually this internship is arranged in groups, well-structured prior to departure. So if the program involves lectures by eminent person that may also be charged to the visitors. As a whole this internship program is a gift for Indian students to excel in research with global touch.

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Students prefer summer school program that is usually designed for a period of two to four weeks and are habitually conducted in spring or summer depending on the weather conditions exist in the country of visit. Moreover the regular classes will not clash with this program as it falls during June/July. Summer school program is the right mix of lab activities, interactions, industrial visits, cultural visits and classroom lectures. It is customized in such a manner that it attracts students from different capacities and programmes. Foreign collaborators design the program as per the need of the visitors with lots of attractive features embedded on it. As this program generates funds for the foreign University, they show colossal interest to fascinate more students. Moreover it is a great opportunity for the foreign Universities to grab undergraduate Indian students for Masters and Masters Students for research programs in their Universities. They load students with huge information of scholarships and benefits they will enjoy being a student of that University. It is equally a favourable chance for Indian students to negotiate and get maximum benefits for continuing their education.

CROSS CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This is a short and crisp program which runs for about 7 to 10 days including travel. This program is arranged by various foreign Universities purely to attract Indian students to their Universities to continue with their Masters or other certificate and research courses. This program is free of charge for the incoming students from India. Various programs that include Group Interactions, visit to the facilities of the foreign partner university, information related to grants and scholarships available for Indian students given by the foreign Universities in addition to the funds given by both the governments, concessions, part time job opportunities and visa related information are shared with the students. Cultural performance involving participants from both the parties in the presence of local government representatives are arranged. This strengthens socio and national relationships. In addition to this gifts and information related to cultural importance are exchanged for better understanding of each other.

It greatly benefits Indian students to know more about their life style and culture in addition to their campus structures. Students get a comprehensive universal understanding in a short length of time.

FACULTY ABROAD PROGRAM

Students are not the only stakeholders in the academic scenario of 21st Century who enjoys the privilege of being exposed to the global scenario. Only best teachers with updated global information and research can deliver best information to the Genx and Gen z students. Keeping this as the tag line, Universities and educational institutions in India, slowly create a path for their teachers to get exposed to the global arena. Initially teachers are allowed to fly abroad to present papers in a conference of repute, provided the conference papers comes out with possible publication in high impact factor journals. In this case the institution either partially or fully sponsors the expenditure towards registration, travel and stay. In most of the cases top researchers among teachers are chosen and sponsored to visit foreign Universities to identify areas of joint research activities, joint publication, establish joint research labs in collaboration with industries and apply for joint grants given by the either of the countries.

Some of the Universities send their faculty to their partner Universities to make use of their well established and expensive labs and facilities related to their research. Many Indian teachers get a chance to

undergo their Post Doc with their foreign partners. Global interactions is the key to the teaching community as it helps them to identify teachers with same areas of research, identify foreign evaluators for their PhD scholars and to keep themselves updated current changes in their field. Teachers also get a chance to teach in the partner Universities under this faculty exchange program wherein they spend one semester abroad. The other important outcomes of these interactions are joint seminars, workshops, conferences and invited talks. Support from Embassies and related academic agencies that promote education also support these ventures.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Most of the Universities of repute in India issue scholarships and seed funds to motivate their students and faculty to feel the global atmosphere. Based on the performance in exams, research involvement, innovative outcomes, family financial conditions and conduct of the student scholarships are allotted. This may vary from partial to full sponsorship. In most of the cases the Indian Universities sponsor students air tickets and help them to complete the visa procedures. The University focus is to identify, areas of mutual interest of collaborations, feasible joint research activities and solid exchange programs. So more investment is made to identify international partners of repute and that too, joint ventures with the toppers in QS or other recognized World rankings. Indian University ensures every penny invested should yield fruits of globalization in the form of strengthening their rankings in global scenarios, exposure to their students and faculty which in turn help them in ranking and marketing.

CONCLUSION

In today's world, international partnership in educational will enhance research and learning by bringing together students, teachers, and academicians from around the world to create an opportunity for the rich and diverse exchange of knowledge and ideas. Such exposure helps students to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to succeed in the global society of the twenty-first century. India is a big market for global Universities. So they showcase their efficiency in different forms to attract as many students. It's a healthier move where the Indian students, Indian Universities and Foreign Universities are mutually benefitted. Though India will become an important pool of resource for World universities to expand their reach by announcing attractive collaborations and offers they will take away all our top notches.

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