

Social Justice in Higher Education Institutions of Kerala in the Context of Advancement in Technology

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Abstract:- Technologies have influenced the entire domains of human life. Introduction of technology in academic institutes generated a profound effect on educational practices. Technology also facilitated the diverse needs of individuals in society. This technological integration was totally welcomed in the higher education institutions of India. It is a fact that self governed higher education institutions in Kerala integrated the practice of technology in learning and research activities. Integrating technology is not just about knowledge on technology but the expertise needed to utilize and apply appropriate software/device irrespective of gender, intellectual disability, rural /urban and socio economic status. This advancement in the expertise of technology leads to minimize the imbalances prevailing among individuals and education institutions. In this context the investigator conceptually analyzes the Social Justice in self governed higher education institutions in Kerala in the context of advancement in technology. The paper concludes that the anticipated aim in the self governed policy about the Social Justice is not satisfied with the limited advancement of technology.

Keywords: *Autonomy, Social Justice, Inclusion, Technology Knowing, Technology Expertise.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Technology had brought out great changes and revolution in Indian society. The progress of technology along with the development in Science facilitated to guide in a revolution in different areas such as medical, industry, academics, information and technology, and many more. Expansion of middle class is one of the important features of Indian society. This expanded middleclass is highly depending on technology in their all walks of life from kitchen to office. The range of using technology is different in different parts of India based on the digital divide due to socio-economic status and urban rural congregation. Integration of technology in academic institute is one another important feature in Indian society. It started from pre-primary level to post doctoral level. India, the largest human populated country in the world had emerged as the best investment friendly state for technology landing place in the world stated by Indian Brand Social Justice Foundation.

The Indian higher education system has developed in a miraculous way, especially in the latter half of 20th century, to turn in to one of the great system in the world. It was by establishing State Universities, Central Universities, Technical Institution, Open Universities, Medical Colleges, Affiliated College System, Engineering Colleges, Private Universities, Private Colleges, NIT, IIT, ITI, IIM, and Deemed to be Universities so on inentire state to produce and transfer knowledge with the good objective of granting easy opportunity to higher education to the citizen of Indian. The government initiatives triggered a visible and regulating role in this stage. Almost all institutions were government institutions with powers to control educational activities on their institutions at the same time in their zone of jurisdiction through a system of accreditation. Even the individuals and private institution enjoyed the public fund through scholarship and aid. Boosting the self governed nature of the institution is one of the contemporary trends in Indian higher education.

Some important studies expressed that higher education system of India had expanded. Ashok Mithras commission had studied the higher education setup of Kerala and expressed that Kerala also had expanded in same way. The enrollment in higher education was also increased with the increasing number of school enrollment. It also shown that ten per cent of those who admitted in primary school chosen for degree courses; and also that the total number of students entering higher education every year accounts for about 15 per cent of the relevant age group. While taking other rubrics also ensure that in related to many states, Kerala equates critically with respect to the progress in higher education. Presently there are fourteen universities, seven agriculture colleges, ten ayurvedic colleges, five Catering & Hotel Management Colleges ,one computer institution, sixteen dental colleges, sixty nine engineering colleges, five homeopathic colleges, twelve law colleges, thirty three management institutions, eight mass communication colleges, twenty two medical colleges, ninety eight nursing colleges, thirty two pharmacy colleges, one physiotherapy college, fifty three polytechnic college, three research centre, one sidha college, forty eight teaching college, four veterinary colleges& Animal Husbandry Colleges and one hundred and sixty four arts and science colleges among nineteen are self governed colleges.

Kerala had approached for self governed status to arts and science colleges after a long discussion from all side. It was a hot political debate in the public sphere of Kerala. The quality and financial part was the main concern. The government appointed different committee to study the socio cultural and academic important of autonomy in Kerala. Finally it came to reality by 2013 onwards. So last five years Kerala had experiencing the self governed status in the arts and Science College. Among nineteen self governed colleges, only Maharajas Government College achieved autonomy from government college side. The best NAAC 'A' accredited colleges are eligible to apply for autonomy. There is an AAC (Autonomy Accreditation Committee) specially formed in Kerala to scrutinize the application to UGC.

II. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HIGHER EDUCATION

In a country where poverty and deprivation are still widespread (conservative estimate identify that one out of four people still below poverty line), where survival is still a matter of daily struggle, it cannot be assumed that all sections of the population will be able to prioritize the higher education to the same extent and for several years at a stretch. Here is the issue of Social Justice will arise. In education mainly two important elements consider while defining Social Justice. They are fairness and inclusion. Fairness means the elements particular to individual's status should not snooping with the credential of education achievement. The next vital element is inclusion, which means a wide quality that solicits to all individuals in a definite education system. Above all these there should be an opportunity irrespective of gender, intellectual disability, rural /urban and socio economic status.

India as a progressing state has been structurally developing on the academic front since twentieth century onwards and has seen a substantial surge in entering out to all the structure and levels of its community. The increase on the country's wealth front, the improvement of scientific technology and the arrival of the internet, have widely strengthened the improvement of academics in its all domains. The rapid development of the academic sector in the last years is bubbling evidence to this fact. Different academic movement from different part of country has been achieving strong government help through indiscriminate planning in its different policy. Above all the live interfere of the private sector has initiated to depict important gain and acceleration in the Indian academic zone. Private higher education institute of India contributes almost 60% of higher education institutions. This has increased initiation of higher education which has created over the last decade molding India a land to the second biggest number of Higher Education institutions and enrollment in the world. Even though this had created a vast opportunity in higher education the real Social Justice is achieved or not is a big question while come to the socio economic level of society, distribution of this institution in urban or rural domain and discrimination in the gender domain.

Social Justice in academics is well accepted as important to succeed total progress and sustainability. Both the NIEPA (National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration) and Indian higher education report 2016 give special attention on the issue of Social Justice in Indian higher education system. The study analyses the problems connected to the growth and development of higher education; disequilibrium in cultural, gender, social, zonal, economical and their effects on education; student heterogeneity and unfairness; and the transforming space of the Nation, Industry and private sector in a time of wide expansion of the academic sector.

The large number of political and social movements in Kerala transforms the society in present way. Freedom of Farmers and labors from their brahmanical cast structure and land based socio-political setup is important in this progress. Political party's struggle in 1960s for the land rights of farmers act as a bridge to protract them from exploitation. Later years this spirit was influenced in the Kerala development policy through people-centered approach. These social movements had also reflected in academics and generated Social Justice space in Kerala context for a large extent. In another domain educational reforms are also brought Social Justice in Kerala society irrespective of rural/urban, Gender disparity.

III. TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT IN SELF GOVERNED INSTITUTE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Higher education institutes were normally updating new technologies very quickly, often even before proving their real academic value. While we tracing the history of using technology in higher education it is starting from black board and it go beyond personal computer. From among this, most of the technologies are become permanent part of higher education and some are outdated and neglected. Technological development has the credentials to revolutionize the conservative academic activities and teaching process. Computers and telecommunications are the important techno gadgets which will rebuild the colleges, universities and other institutes. Due to progress in each of these sides, e- mail, fax machines, the World Wide Web, CDROMs, and commercially created simulations and courseware are remained the day today work and increasing the task of higher education institutions. Especially the self governed higher education institution has to do immense contribution in India. Self governed institute are receiving some additional fund from UGC for its innovation, administration and building. Technological advancement in self governed colleges is evaluated in this context. How self governed colleges used this additional fund in the progress and growth of technology? How these funds are used to create technological awareness and expertise? How this developed technology generated Social Justice in the local territory. This can be accessed in self governed higher education through following rubrics.

IV. TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE

Kerala is known as a model of other Indian states for development. Social Justice is one of the important unique features of Kerala model development. Kerala policy on transgender, gender justice, digital health system for organ donation, education had appreciated entire India. People have good knowledge on technology is also one of the characteristics of Kerala society. Even the labor workers communicating and taking order through modern gadgets only. Coconut climbers used to take the order and informing the date of plucking through WhatsApp only. So technological knowledge had a wide spread in Kerala society. Then, what about the condition of technological expertise?

Technological knowledge will be confined in to the primary and technical use of any technology. While technical expertise will go beyond from primary use and it will expertise himself can find the solution of that particular technical issue and have good idea to use present latest technology. Individual having technological knowledge and having technological expertise are different in its professional and personal life. If someone who is having technological expertise can overcome technical issue while technological knowledge person need assistance of technical expert and he may not have substitute the technology with his mere technological knowledge. Self governed institution in higher education institutions of Kerala can enhance the use of technological expertise through curriculum than mere technological knowledge.

V. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND TECHNOLOGY

The advancement of the technology in self governed higher education institutions of Kerala can eradicate all technical and even cultural issue which hindrance Social Justice in society. The self governed institution which located in the local area had given a wide access to use and familiarize of worldwide innovative technology in its knowing and expertise. Distance is the one of the factor which always restricts female gender in access of higher education from rural area. The introduction of innovative technology in locally removed this gender discrimination in its all type of access. Apart from male and female now exist different other form of gender in contemporary society. All these gender difference had got the legal acceptance also. This locally culminated gender difference can sustain without any inferior complex through technology.

The word “inclusion” is the watch word of a progressed post modern society. Inclusion means considering all human beings irrespective of their intelligent, physical disability and socio-economic conditions. Progressed use of technology in self governed institutions can facilitate all these inclusions in the institutions. Technology can overcome the barrier of physical disability, socio-economic conditions and even the intelligent too. By introducing different online and presentation tools such as different apps and software can

overcome physical disability. Access in innovative gadgets and technological devices are very costly. But if the institutions are integrating all these technologies, even a person from below poverty line can also access all these gadgets and he can become more technological expertise. In the case of intelligent there are some technological devices which will help to teach these mentally retired persons. So altogether the inclusion issue in the Social Justice can overcome through technology. But how far self governed institutions are introduced this technology for solving the inclusion issue in Kerala is an unanswered question. What is prescribed in the aims of the self governed policy is not fully satisfied in the Kerala self governed institutions.

VI. CONCLUSION

Technologies become breathing air of twenty first century human beings. The progress of technology has reduced the manual labor, the time take to do a particular task and the mode of the work. The technology has intervened in both personal and professional life of individuals. A person begins his day with some technological gadgets and also at the end of the day sleep with the support of some technology. So the twenty first century Social Justice will satisfy only when the people have proper knowledge, expertise and access in technology. In this technological era how this Social Justice is achieved through self governed education institutions are primarily focused in this paper. Herethe spaces of self governed institutions creating Social Justice in society are analyzed in the context of technological advancement. Even though the policy of autonomy has a great vision to generate Social Justice in society, the present self governed colleges in Kerala are not fully satisfied the prescribed aim. Especially the innovative technological facility which will ensure the access and opportunity of students irrespective of gender, socio-economic condition and intellectual disability is not fully institutionalized in the self governed institutions of Kerala. The vision of Social Justice in the self governed policy is still remains in the paper.

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