

INDIAN EDUCATION VS FOREIGN EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Education is the key foundation for the success of any country and the betterment of any individual. Education builds the man so it builds the nation. Education should make a person free, should broaden the horizon of thinking and should encourage to experiment and to ask questions. Ultimately, it should make a person realize what capabilities and shortcomings they have. For Indian students, the U.S is one of the top most destinations, followed by the UK and Australia. As per one of the leading newspapers in India, between Oct 2012 and Feb 2013, 5,600 student visas were issued in India. Don't you think that this is a big question mark on our education system which is the third largest in the world ? This paper tries to bring the comparison of Indian education system with that of foreign nations and what are the major loop holes in Indian educational system ?To know why did we even fail to get a world ranking in education.

Key words: Indian, Education, foundation, success.

INTRODUCTION:

There is no expertise in particular subject. Students study the subjects so as to gain maximum marks or they pursue a career as they think they would get a good job with good salary Whereas when education in foreign nations focus on practical aspect with lot of expertise. There are wide and broader aspects and prospects of education in foreign nations as students not only are focused to marks but to knowledge and developing a student will help the country to develop there ideology. Everyone has their own opinion about which education system they prefer over the other. But to speak the truth, the education system which is responsible for redefining a human being into some talented person who succeeds in accomplishing his dreams is a good education system and remarkably both the foreign education system as well as Indian education system.

Education system in USA:

Education system in USA is far more advanced and different than the rest of the countries, considered to be better and forgoing. The education pattern is divided into three levels namely the elementary school, the middle school and high school. In each of these levels, the children are included as per their age group and divided into grades. This means that once your kid starts with the elementary school, he goes in the first grade which so on keeps moving to the 12th grade which is the final year of high school. Once the kid finishes high

school, then he can enroll for further studies in the Post-secondary education which is commonly referred as College. The elementary school may start somewhere in the age group of 5 for a child and the high school would end up in the age group of 17 for a child approximately. More emphasis is given to practical understanding, reading, writing, math, understanding concepts, documentation. Students are provide freedom to choose class subjects and are encouraged to take interest and responsibilities towards studies. In addition to this, sports, technical education, arts, foreign languages and more such subjects are given equal importance along with the existing curriculum. Extracurricular activities such as drill teams, bands, football or even non-athletic activity such as musical groups, school newspaper and debate teams are encouraged and each and every student is made to participate in one or the other activity apart from the curriculum. Overall education system in USA is:

- Its focus is on Learning
- Preparing children to explore and understand concepts.
- Its concept is not just reading but actually learning through practical's
- No stress on kids in name of examination.
- Is not about academic competitiveness.
- Is about learning from simple to complex in smaller number.

- One can excel in many ways not just academically but also through sports.

Educational system in India

We do believe that our primary education starts at home with our parents and we respect our family values and tradition. Our young generation gets this message from the society and family that education is the responsibility of the individuals and not the Government. Only education has the power to make one succeed in life and it is the ultimate source of earning money. The current education system in India which seems to be improvising every single day has caught everyone's eye including people outside India. Indian education system has always been inspired from its historical backgrounds which relate way back to the Puranas Vedas. Our educational system has its roots taken from gurukulas. Presently the education system comprises of pre-primary, primary, secondary and senior secondary education which is followed by higher education. Pre-primary is the kindergarten, primary is the middle school and secondary is the high school. Higher secondary education is up to 12th standard and then one can pursue his further studies with graduation or post-graduation level. Specific curriculum is designed for kids which includes all the subjects that are been specified. Additionally there are extra-curricular activities which kids can opt for though not compulsorily. Moreover sports too form an essential part of the

curriculum, but only children who are selected get to avail the opportunity. Though the curriculum has improvised lately, with more and more attention been paid to activities and overall the practical evaluation of the kid which relates to projects and day to day evaluation and less importance is been given to theory and written exams. Overall education in India is all about

- Preparing children's to read and absorb.
- More of memorizing the study material.
- Lot of importance is given to academic performance.
- Student-Teacher ratio in class is not given due importance.
- Academic excellence is on the priority list when compared with sports and other extra curricular activities .
- Teachers hold great value and respect. They gain more respect from students as well as parents.

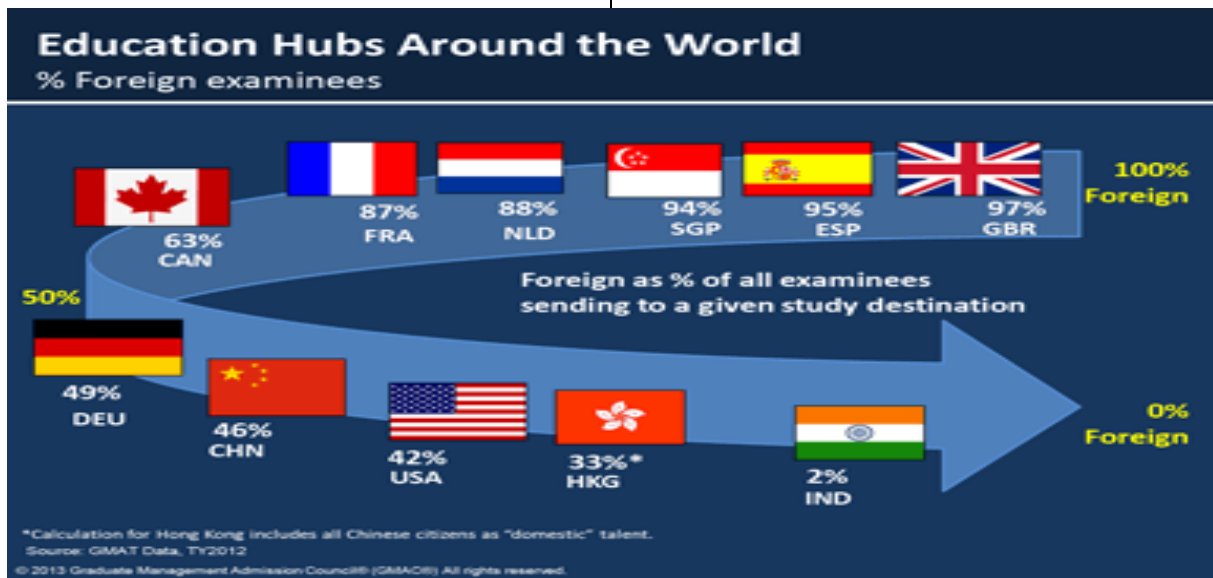
Indian educational system VS foreign education

Parents Preferences

Anyone who has studied in Indian schools and colleges will vouch for the fact that Indian Education system churn out more engineers, doctors and MBAs in comparison to any other country in the world. This has partly got to do with the mentality of Indian parents who believe that sole purpose of educating their kids is to find a well paying job. In India, parents have a huge influence on the major life decisions of their children including which school or college they attend, what branch of

education their kids pursue and even which job they take up later in life. No doubt this creates a huge pool of educated individuals but the quality leaves a lot to be desired. foreign education, on the contrary in general and western education in particular focuses more on individual interests, learning

abilities and aptitude towards any vocations. The social system also supports individual education to a great extent unlike India, the purpose of foreign education system is not to land a job to make a living but holistic development of individuals.



Source: Report of GMAC of 2012

➤ **Quality of the teachers**

Teachers in USA have to go for qualified courses which include their Bachelor or Masters Degree in early Childhood Education and Elementary education. Teachers are been told about what they expected to teach the children. Teachers in India are qualified to become teacher as soon as they pass the Masters in Education or Bachelors in Education. The Masters and Bachelors degree is definitely equivalent to that of Indian Standards of Education.

➤ **Student -Teacher Ratio**

Each and every class in USA Schools has a 20 – 30 children per teacher ratio. But the regular schools in India, unlike US Schools, have around 50 or more than 50 students in class per teacher. However that may not be the same thing with the new ICSE and CBSE schools.

➤ **Curriculum**

While some of these teaching jobs abroad correspond to American, Canadian, or British curriculum, there are also other schools on the

international stage that have incorporated multiple curriculum elements into their format and provide instruction with a global focus. International schools vary widely—as varied as the students they serve. While in India curriculum is designed for easy adoption into the existing curriculum with rich content, with industry inputs and the latest knowledge to promote higher order thinking and analytical skills among students. we were to compare the curriculum of Indian and foreign universities, the latter is better than the former. Unconventional methods of teaching in foreign universities help in personality development and hence attract students. Foreign universities do lots of experiments with the mode and style of teaching which is not done in India.

➤ **Finance and competition**

There is a lot of difference in terms of competition, aptitude and the job markets in both hemispheres. While things are rather relaxed owing to the lesser population, more streamlined procedure and lack of unfair means, things are quite different when it comes to India. As such, money becomes the root cause since most of the higher end courses are taken on study loan. So, it is more about circumstances than choices for many students. To those who manage to get admission in the foreign schools, once adaptability is achieved, the path is set and clear.

➤ **Career options and opportunities**

In a foreign country students get a varied range of courses available and moreover students can choose among a host of classes and courses. They can change their major midway through college. This usually means that students receive more exposure to a variety of subjects and hence, are more aware of their career options and opportunities available to them. The courses are more industry oriented as regards to Indian Education which is far behind the industry. The technique of teaching and the faculty are far more qualified and advanced than in India. The students are required to submit regular assignments and have projects in their curriculum as opposite to Indian Education where in a student just mugs up the syllabus in the text books without understanding the concepts and vomits in the paper to score good marks in exams. Foreign education gives exposure and incredible chance to meet students of different nationalities and religions. Part time job culture makes the student self reliant and also gives a chance to gain work experience.

➤ **Infrastructure**

The infrastructure, access to various resources and other facilities, the quality tends to be higher in terms of conducive learning. Though changes are being noticed in India with top league B-Schools focusing on quality and better infrastructure, there is still that gap between foreign

schools and Indian educational institutions. With globalization happening rapidly and economies getting tighter in developed countries, changes are being noticed but not according to demand in this global world. Infrastructure facilities are much better in foreign universities as compared to those in India.

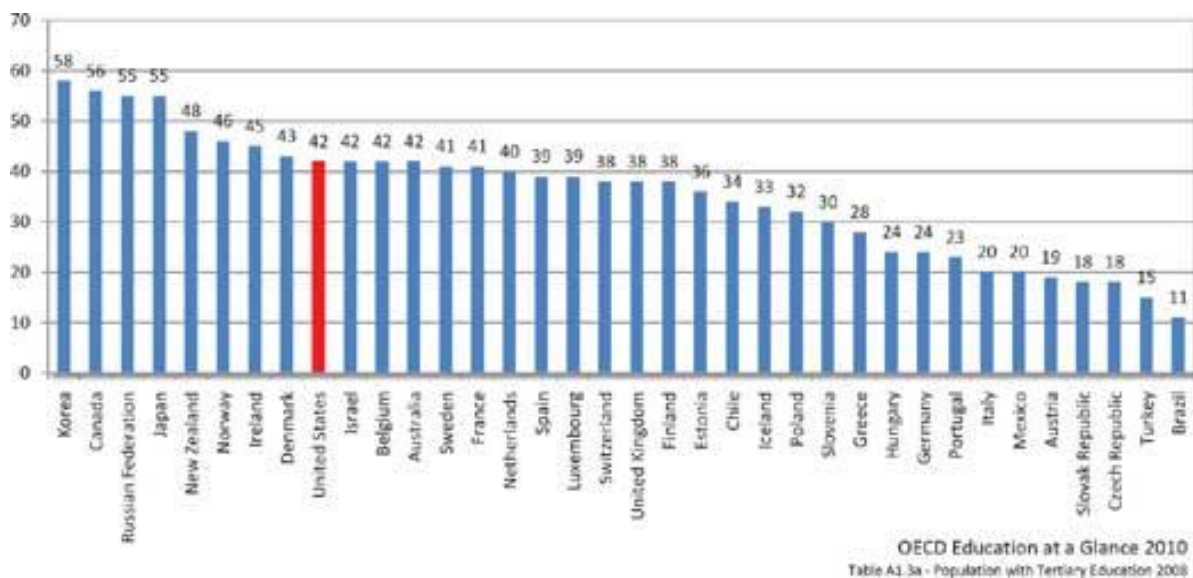
➤ **Standard Education**

The Indian education standard is considerably higher than that of US Standards, as students are made to prepare for challenges in life, unlike US where education is made as said flexible so that each and every student passes out High school. Indian education system provides great emphasis on Math other than US where it is an optional subject. No wonder why India

has so many good software engineers and other professionals. Foreign countries recruit people from India there is 20 % people working in NASA and 40% Indians are working as engineer in foreign countries.

➤ **Higher Education and technical education**

Higher Education is a powerful tool to build knowledge-based society of the 21st century. In foreign nation the demand for higher education plays a prominent role in shaping the nation as well as their individual development. For instance 42 percent of Americans in the 25–34 age range hold a degree from a two- or four-year institution of higher education. At one time, that proportion was high enough to make the United States the best-educated country in the world.



But, in India the scene is different ,only 12% of the Indians go for higher education with 37% of them taking arts as their major options. Hence there is a stiff competition been faces by our country when compared with other nation states.

➤ **Research capacity and innovation**

India does not have enough high quality researchers. The number of students taking PhDs and entering research posts is very low: 4,500 PhDs are awarded per year in science and engineering, compared to 30,000 in China and 25,000 in the US. There is systemic segregation of teaching and research; most teaching-focused universities (the vast majority) do not provide students with research experience or the skills which would prepare them for research careers. Despite a growing reputation for 'frugal innovation' mainly driven from the private sector, the ecosystem for innovation in Indian research institutions is weak. The causes, among others, stem from a lack of multidisciplinary working, no development for faculty and students in areas to stimulate innovation and few links with industry. These constraints reveal themselves in the failure of Indian institutions to make their mark in the world global rankings.

CHALLENGES THAT ARE FACED BY INDIAN EDUCATION

❖ **Unreached expectations**

As noted in the section on irrelevant curricula, the American educational

system is foreign in concept, principle and objective to the Indian student. The thinking, attitudes and experiences of the non-Indian are the base of the value structure rather than the aspects of Indian culture. Thus the educational perspectives of the Indian are not considered. The Indian views education as providing him with immediate practical skills and tools, not a delayed achievement of goals or as means for a future gain.

❖ **Ineffective understanding in higher education:**

Colleges and universities need to establish programs which can deal effectively with the problems and needs of the Indian student—if he is to remain in school. In general, the Indian student has an inadequate educational background as he may have been looked upon as less than college material in high school. He has unusual adjustment problems and usually inadequate financial help. It is time that more colleges and universities attempt to solve these development factors and provide a more successful educational experience for the Indian student.

❖ **Insensitive school personnel:**

It is tragic that this exists in the 20th Century. Too many administrators and teachers are not knowledgeable about the American Indian. Whether it is attributable to apathy, indifference or design does not lessen the problem. If school personnel are truly educators, it behooves them to learn about the people they are teaching: To fail in this task is to fail to educate. The burden of this

responsibility rests squarely on the shoulders of the educator, and the exercise of that responsibility is long overdue.

❖ **Lack of financial resources and mi- use of funds**

By far one of the most pressing problems is the unavailability of money or inadequate funding of Indian education programs or systems. The demand far exceeds the supply, and available monies are only for the most basic educational needs of the students "the traditional curriculum." Very small amounts, if any, are available for innovative programs and ideas but even those are been misused and transferred to other developmental programs of other sector. Hence the government has to take initiative for proper utilization of funds.

❖ **Lack of control in educational matters.**

Indian has not been able to express his ideas on school programming or educational decision-making. When they have been expressed, his participation has been limited and restricted. If problems in Indian education are to be resolved, the Indian citizen must become involved. He needs to have more control in the programs to which his children are exposed, to have a say in what types of courses are in the curriculum, to help hire teachers, to establish employment policies and practices, and all of the other responsibilities vested in school

administration—that of being on a Board of Education.

❖ **Unhealthy Competition**

While healthy competition drives success, unhealthy competition destroys more than it creates. The education scene in India is in a state of unhealthy competition. In India, academic "success" is determined not by true achievement and acumen, but by a number. Numbers obviously make it much easier to judge people, for there is no question that $70 > 69.9$. It will always hold true. The education system doesn't account for variance however. True, a 70-er in school may not be as smart as a 90-er. But it's very likely that all the kids in the 70s are equally smart. This focus on numbers obviously makes the students' work for just the numbers. When the focus is on grades and not learning, there is something inherently wrong with your system. It's not an easy problem to solve given the drawbacks India has, but it is a problem nonetheless.

In this global era these are few major drawbacks that is standing as hurdle to Indian education system in competing with foreign nations educational system. These drawbacks can be overcome with a bit of extra effort by the government and the citizens to make our nation proud in educational sector.

Conclusion

Education in India when compared to foreign nation is actually good, as this system has provided genius

to the foreign nations but the major lag in our educational system is theoretical knowledge been preference rather than practical one. Then slight changes are inevitable in Indian educational system. Many reforms in Indian education system has been taken place but still it according to the trends in the society. Because of the fundamental differences in education, competition, quality of life, job after completing studies, overall personality development etc, most students and their parents prefer foreign universities for further studies. Hence a suggestion to the government and policy makers to go for an revolutionary changes that will suit our students requirements leading to all-round development and preparing the citizen to facing this globalized challenging world with the confident and self - respect.

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