

Opening remarks by Prof. T. Papi Reddy, Chairman, TSCHE

Brainstorming session on “Proposed Higher Education Commission of India”

16th July' 2018

Respected Deputy Chief Minister Sri Kadiyam Srihari Garu, Hon'ble MP's, Vice-Chancellors of all various Universities, Spl CS Smt. Ranjeev Acharya IAS, Sri Naveen Mittal ji IAS and former Vice-chancellors, senior administrators of Universities and invitees to the Brainstorming session on “ Proposed Higher Education Commission of India”.

Good morning to one and all

The Indian Higher Education has undergone an unprecedented growth, especially during the last two decades. It is huge a system with 857 university-Level institutions, around 41 thousand colleges, 33 million students and 1.4 million teachers. The Gross Enrolment Ratio is 25.2% for the year 2016-2017. Although India aims to attain a GER of 30% by 2020, it's still much behind countries like China, which, currently, boasts an enrolment ratio of 43.39% and USA's GER is 85.8%.

The Higher Education scenario in the State of Telangana has been witnessing a massive growth over the last decade. The Gross Enrolment Ratio of Telangana is 36.3% which is greater than India's (25.2%) GER. Telangana higher education system is with 24 Universities, around 2893 colleges, and 384371 students. Telangana tops the college density, which is defined as the number of colleges per lakh eligible population. **Telangana** has, on average, 483 students enrolled in each college. The college density in the top three states is **59 in Telangana**, 53 in Karnataka and 49 in Puducherry.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been playing a key role in management of Higher education since 1956. UGC made its own mark on Indian Higher Education system for last few decades. However there has been widespread criticism that the UGC has not be able to actively deliver the required academic direction given the fact that the Higher education sector in India is undergoing a massive changes in size and structure. There have been a series of attempts to restructure and recognise the UGC in the last decade.

However, The Central Government's recent decision to replace University Grants Commission with Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) has been under a lot of criticism & the frequently asked questions are:

1. The Central Government bold decision to scrap UGC would strengthen the regulatory and monitoring systems?
2. Would it really bring the changes in the present Higher Education Scenario in India?
3. This new Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) can make visible our Indian Universities at Global Rankings?
4. What is the new regulatory authority i.e. HECI?
5. What would be the fate of NAAC and other allied bodies?

This brainstorming session would being out the broad views of academicians, policy makers and Parliamentarians after deliberations and discussions. We would be sending the same to Govt and then to UGC.

I thank the Hon'ble Dy. CM and other Members of Parliament, VC's, Faculty and invitees for having graced the session.