

Topic: 'Impact of Governance in Higher Education'

1. Outline of the Study

The 12th plan has laid a lot of emphasis on governance in higher education. The structure of the governance system of higher education plays a crucial role in defining the state of higher education in India. It is essential to have a conceptual framework to understand the role of governance in higher education and its growth, the state of governance in Indian institutions and the accompanying drawbacks, and a proposed model of reforms.

2. Purpose of the Study

- To understand how to place issues of governance amongst several factors that impact higher education (HE)
- To elaborate its role in defining the level of effectiveness and quality that has come to be associated with the Indian HE system and the role that university as an "organization" plays in building a superior learning ambience.
- To study the three salient relationships in understanding the effectiveness of the governance systems:
 - University & the Government
 - Managing The University as an Organization
 - Relationship of the University and the Society

3. Scope & Extent of the Study

The study will outline these relationships, explore strategic/organizational/ operational areas of governance, understand (from a decision making perspective) the constraints that each entity puts on the other thereby affecting their ability to achieve their respective goals, understand the process of decision making in academic institutions including the effectiveness of various layers of governance, explore the tensions and its sources amongst various stakeholders, and evaluate the effectiveness of the governance regime. In navigating through these, the study will try to find how to better governance systems of academic organizations.

4. Usefulness of the Study

The study will help policy makers understand the hurdles faced in the universities and how to enable them to improve quality of learning and knowledge generation; will help academic leadership understand the nuances of influencing decisions and how to build consensus in their own organizations; and provide the society a process of re-engaging with the higher education ecosystem. This will, in general, help improve the accountability in our higher educational system and help 'balance of power' between the various authorities.