



## All India Survey on Higher Education 2020-2021

**For Prelims:** All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021, Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Persons with Disabilities, National Education Policy (NEP)

**For Mains:** Major Highlights of the AISHE Data, Current Major Issues Related to India's Higher Education System.

### Why in News?

The **Union Ministry of Education** released data from the [All India Survey on Higher Education \(AISHE\), 2020-2021](#), which showed a **7.5% increase in student enrolments** across the country compared to 2019-20.

- The survey also revealed that in 2020-21, the year when the [Covid-19 pandemic](#) began, there was a **7% rise in enrolments in distance education programmes**.

### What is the AISHE?

- To portray the status of higher education in the country, the **Ministry of Education** has endeavored to conduct an **annual web-based AISHE** since 2010-11.
  - Data is being collected on several parameters such as teachers, student **enrolment, programmes, examination results, education finance, infrastructure**.
- Indicators of educational development such as **Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index, Per Student Expenditure** will also be calculated from the data collected through AISHE.
  - These are useful in making informed policy decisions and **research for development of the education sector**.

### What are the Major Highlights of the AISHE Data?

- **Student Enrolment:**
  - [Gross Enrolment Ratio \(GER\)](#) for all enrolments (as per 2011 Census) increased by over **2 points to 27.3**.
    - The **highest enrolment was seen at the undergraduate level**, which accounted for **78.9%** of all enrolments.
  - The **female enrolment in higher education** programmes had increased to **49% of total enrolments in 2020-21** compared to 45% in 2019-20.
    - But, the overall figures for [Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics \(STEM\)](#) enrolments (at all levels of [higher education](#)) showed that women lagged behind men, who accounted for over 56% of enrolments in these fields.
  - **Gender Parity Index (GPI)**, the ratio of female GER to male GER, has increased from 1 in 2017-18 to 1.05 in 2020-21.

- The number of students in the [Persons with Disabilities](#) category dropped in **2020-21** to 79,035 from 92,831 in 2019-20.
- The **proportion of Muslim students** enrolling for higher education dropped to **4.6% in 2020-21** from **5.5% in 2019-20**.
- **Uttar Pradesh; Maharashtra; Tamil Nadu; Madhya Pradesh; Karnataka** and **Rajasthan** are the top 6 States in terms of number of students enrolled.
- **Universities and College:** During **2020-21**, the number of **universities has increased by 70**, and the number of **colleges has increased by 1,453**.
  - The **21.4% government colleges accounted for 34.5% total enrolments** in 2020-21, whereas the rest **65.5% enrolments were seen at private aided colleges and private unaided colleges** put together.
  - **Uttar Pradesh; Maharashtra; Karnataka; Rajasthan; Tamil Nadu; Madhya Pradesh; Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat** are the top 8 States in terms of number of colleges.
- **Faculty:** The female per 100 male faculty has improved to 75 in 2020-21 from 74 in 2019-20 and 63 in 2014-15.

## What are the Current Major Issues Related to India's Higher Education System?

- **Faculty Shortage:** AISHE 2020-21 showed that the **teacher-pupil ratio was at 27** for all universities, colleges and standalone institutions and at **24 if only regular mode is considered** due to which the quality of education remains a concern.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Poor infrastructure is another challenge to higher education in India.
  - Due to the **budget deficit, corruption and lobbying** by the vested interest group, public as well as private sector universities in India lack the necessary infrastructure.
- **Regulatory Issues:** Management of Indian higher education faces challenges of lack of **accountability, transparency, and professionalism**.
  - As a result of the increase in the number of affiliated colleges and students, the **burden of administrative functions of universities has significantly increased** and the core focus on academics and research is diluted.
- **Problem of Brain Drain:** Due to cutthroat competition for **getting admission in top institutes like IITs and IIMs**, a challenging academic environment is created for a large number of students in India, so they prefer going abroad, **which makes our country deprived of good talent**.
  - There is definitely a **quantitative expansion of education in India** but the **qualitative front (essential for a student to get a job) is lagging behind**.

## How can the Indian Higher Education System be Revolutionized?

- **Implementation of National Education Policy (NEP):** The implementation of the [NEP](#) can help shake the education system from its slumber.
  - Moving away from the **current 10+2 system to a 5+3+3+4 system** will bring the **pre-school age group** formally into the education set-up.
- **Education-Employment Corridor:** India's educational setup needs to be enhanced by **integrating vocational learning with mainstream education** and providing right mentorship at school (**especially in government schools**) to ensure that **students are guided in the right direction** from the start and are aware of career opportunities.
- **Taking a Note from Past to Future:** It is important to look to the future while keeping our long-established roots in mind.
  - The **ancient evaluation of education was not restricted to grading thematic knowledge**. Students were assessed on the skills they learned and how well they can apply practical knowledge to real-life situations.
    - The modern education system can also **devise similar systems of assessment**.

**UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

**Prelims**

**Q. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution does India have a bearing on Education? (2012)**

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 3, 4 and 5 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 5 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans- (d)**

---

**Mains**

**Q1.** How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate on your answer. **(2020)**

**Q2.** Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. **(2021)**

**Source: TH**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/all-india-survey-on-higher-education-2020-2021>