



QUALITY CONCERNS AND THE ACCREDITATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

Worldwide admission to excellence in education is essential for emerging, developing an unbiased, balanced and just and fair society, helping national development and growth, scientific advancement and progression, national integration, and social and cultural preservation and safe guards. In this process the role of Higher Education Institution is more significant and the role of the Private Universities post-independence is remarkable. From a meagre twenty Universities (20) at the time of Independence, barely no Private Universities, to more than one thousand and forty-one (1041) Universities as on 2022, with a total of 411 State Private Universities, India has seen remarkable progress in the field of Higher Education. These figures do not reflect Institutions of National Importance established by the Government of India. Thus, the study has been undertaken to measure the impact of the State Private Universities especially in the State of Rajasthan with regard to the Enrollment of the Students which has contributed to the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) and Research. The main focus of the study is to examine the rapid expansion which has resulted in huge growth in the



Private University in India, especially Rajasthan, whether this quantitative expansion has been at the cost of the Qualitative concerns or not. For this the yard stick of the India’s only Institutional Accreditation Agency, viz., the National Assessment and Accreditation Council and its Accreditations has been taken as the bench mark.

Key Words: University Higher Education Gross Enrollment Ratio Accreditation Quality NAAC UGC

DOI Number: 10.14704/nq.2022.20.8.NQ44134

Neuro Quantology 2022; 20(8):1224-1229

INTRODUCTION: Worldwide admission to excellence in education is essential for emerging, developing an unbiased, balanced and just and fair society, helping national development and growth, scientific advancement and progression, national integration, and social and cultural preservation and safe guards. In this process the role of Higher Education Institution is more significant and the role of the Private Universities post-independence is remarkable. From a meagre twenty Universities (20) at the time of Independence, barely no Private Universities, to more than one thousand and forty-one (1043) Universities as on 2022, with a total of 410 State Private Universities, India has seen remarkable progress in the field of Higher Education.

The exponential growth of the Private Universities in India, due to many reasons such as the demand for higher education, the lack of government funding, Public Private Participation due to the requirements of the hour including the need and necessity to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio has necessitated this grown and equally the same is justified. Further, the demand for the skilled manpower, in technical and scientific areas, Health Professionals in the Allied Health Sciences areas has fueled the demand for the growth of the Private Higher Educational Institutions specifically in the areas of diploma and certificate programs which are pursued beyond the 10+2 Higher Secondary level.

The growth of the Private Universities post-Independence is captured in the data and reflected pictorially as under for the immediate understanding of the exponential growth which has largely contributed to the well-planned surge in the Gross Enrollment Ratio.

Nature of University	Numbers
Central	054
State	453
State Private	410
Deemed	126
Total	1043

Table 1. Details of the various category of Universities

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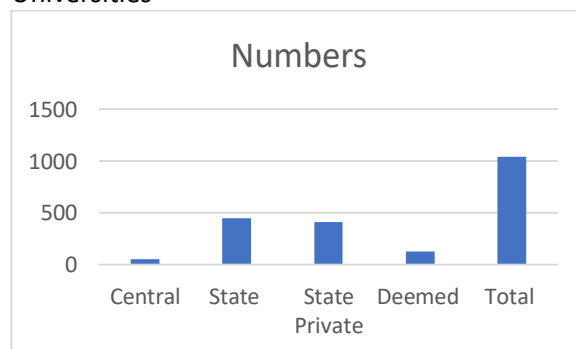


Chart 1: Details of the share of the Private State Universities with regard to total Universities.

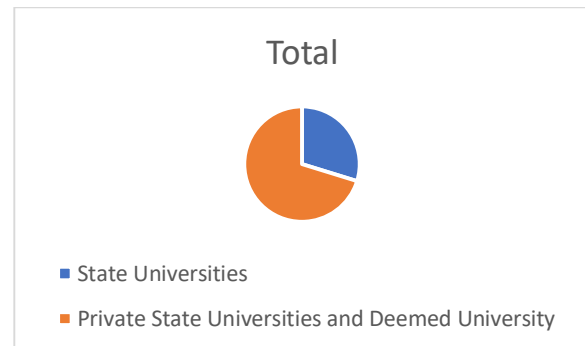
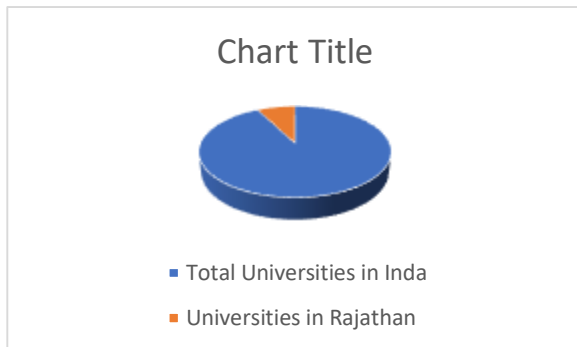
Why Rajasthan? Out of the total 1043 Universities that exist as on the 21st May 2022 in India, the following table shows the existence of the 86 Universities in the State of the Rajasthan alone which can be seen from the following table, having a lion’s share of the existence of more than considerable percentage of the Universities in India, imparting Higher Education and Research



Description of Universities in Rajasthan	Total
Total Universities in India	1043
State Private Universities	52
Private Deemed University	8
State University	25
Central University	1
Total	86

The following diagram depicts the major share of the State Private Universities in Rajasthan versus the State Universities, in Rajasthan.

Description of Universities in Rajasthan	Total
State Universities	25
Private State Universities and Deemed University	59



Why Private State Universities in Rajasthan: Out of the total 86 Universities in the State of Rajasthan in India, a total of 59 Universities that lie in the domain of the Private Sector. Thus the major share of the Higher Education and Research lies in the Private Sector in the State of Rajasthan, which makes a valid point and logic to select this state for the research study of the undersigned towards the contribution of the Private Sector in the field of Higher Education and Research. This research study also critically examines the process of the Inspection which are only applicable for the State Private Universities and Private Deemed to be Universities to certain extent governed under the Tandon Commission which has though a tough Regulatory process has resulted in high percentage of Accreditations in the State of Rajasthan with reference to State Private Universities and Private Deemed Universities and one among them going all the way to attain the Status of the Institution of eminence which is covered in detail in the research study in the following paras.

Regulations Governing the Private Universities: The private Universities established by the respective, individual State Private Universities Act, through the legislation passed by the Legislative Assembly of the State Concerned. These State Private Universities are established under the Section 2 (f) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. The main aspect of the regulatory frame work of these Private State Universities are governed by the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 which is not applicable to the State Universities which are established by the Government of the particular State. Thus, there is a clear discrepancy in the form of the regulating the private Universities and not the State Universities.

Thus, the State Private Universities are required to submit the detailed application for the purpose of the Inspection by the University Grants Commission, by virtue of its power conferred under the maintenance of Standards, as empowered under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. The details of the percentage of the application submitted to the University Grants Commission and the position



of the details submitted by the State Private Universities in Rajasthan, clearly depicts that the most of the Private State Universities do adhere to the prescribed standards and are in compliance with the requirements.

Total State Private Universities	52
Information submitted for UGC Inspection Committee	41
Information yet to be submitted for UGC Inspection	11

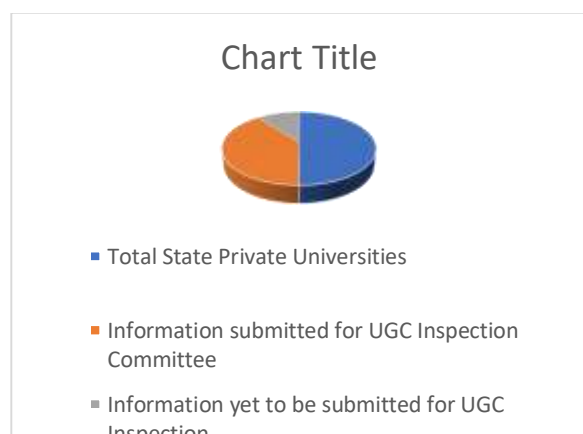


Chart 2: The details of Information / compliance of report submitted to UGC for Inspection – State Private Universities - Rajasthan

INSPECTIONS: In terms of the submission of the details to the University Grants Commission, the Commission constitutes the Inspection Committee to look into the various aspects pertaining to the quality delivery of Academics and Research in the particular University and Inspections are carried out in the prescribed manner.

Total State Private Universities	52
UGC Inspection Committees Constituted	40
Visit of UGC Inspection Committees	36

Yet to be visited	4
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Chart 3: Number of Inspection conducted by the University Grants Commission – State Private Universities, Rajasthan.

The Constituted such Committee physically visits the University Campus located at the respective places and interacts with all the stakeholders, viz., Management, Faculty, Students and Employees and goes through the records apart from Inspection of Physical Assts and Infrastructures and submits its report to the University Grants Commission. Based on the recommendations and findings the University Grants Commission takes necessary further steps viz., 1. Either to accept the findings of the recommendations of the Committee for the purpose of Compliance or 2. To issue appropriate communication to the concerned University for taking corrective action and submit the fresh information on the action taken and compliance in terms of the findings of the Inspection Committee so constituted by the University Grants Commission. The details of the Inspection Carried out by the Inspection Committee of the University Grants Commission and the outcome of the same is depicted in the Table and Chart below.

UGC Inspection Conducted	36
Number of Compliance accepted	26
Number of Compliance under consideration	10



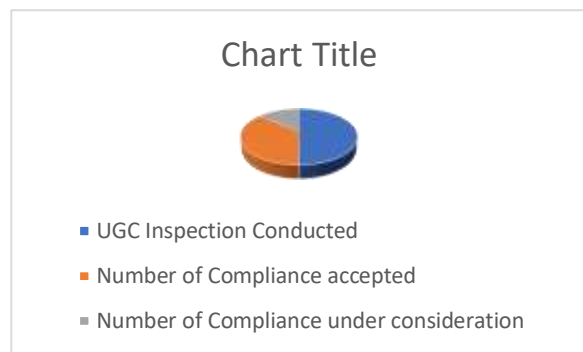


Chart 4: The outcome of the UGC Inspection and the Compliances

From the above research study, it can be very well inferred that the close monitoring of the State Private University has resulted in the huge benefits to all the stake holders in the Higher Education in India, and with reference to the specific study with the Quality improvement in the delivery of the Higher Education in India. This aspect of Measurement of Quality and recognition of quality has been analyzed with regard to the outcome of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India (NAAC) Inspections. The latest data as on 21st May 2022 available from the NAAC clearly depicts that the State Private Universities in India, especially in the State of Rajasthan, is much ahead of the State Universities and the only Central University in Rajasthan.

The comparison of the Universities in the State of Rajasthan with the State Private Universities and the Private Deemed Universities gives the outstanding contribution of the Private Universities in the delivery of Quality of Higher Education in the background of the Accreditations granted by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India which has been taken as a bench mark of the purpose of Indicator of Quality on a 4 point CGPA Scale.

The following is the Table and the details which are reflecting the Contribution of the State Private Universities in Rajasthan and the Contribution of the Private Sector in the Higher Education and Research in India.

eISSN 1303-5150

Description of Universities	Total	Total Accredited
State Private Universities	52	12
Private Deemed University*	7	4
State University	25	1
Central University	1	0

*Includes the Private Deemed University, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Palani, which has been conferred the status of the Institution of Eminence in the very first list of Institutions of India Notified by the Ministry of Education. (Then Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Government of India.

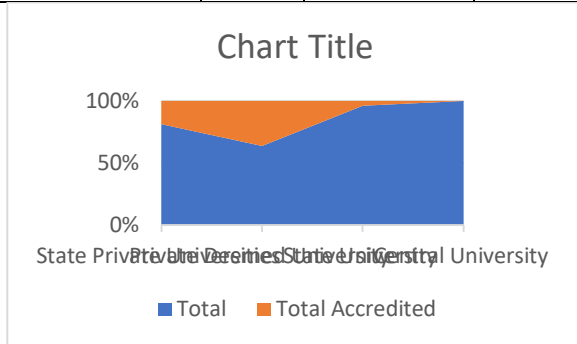
Name of the University	Grade	Date of Certificate/ Inspection	CGPA
Dr K N Modi University	B	22/09/2021	2.13
University of Engineering & Management	B	27/10/2021	2.26
Singhania University	B	19/02/2020	2.09
Sangam University	B	28-10-2021	2.29
NIMS University	B+	28/12/2018	2.54
Mewar University	B	26/09/2018	2.04
Manipal University	A+	05/02/2020	3.28
Jaipur National University	B++	03/05/2022	2.76
JayotiVidyapeet Women's University	B+	24/10/2018	2.63
JK Lakshmipat University	A	20/04/2022	3.05
IIHMR University	B	07/08/2019	2.19
J.E.C.R.C University	B+	22/11/2021	2.65

Name of the	Grade	Date of	CGPA
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University		Certificate/ Inspection	
Banasthai Vidyapith	A++	11/03/2020	3.63
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute	A	03/11/2021	3.04
IIS	B++	31/08/2021	2.91



Conclusion: From the detailed research study it can be seen that the role of the State Private Universities including Private Deemed Universities in Rajasthan has played a huge role in the quality of the Higher Education in India. The various issues, Challenges and Suggestions with regard to the Quality Higher Education and Research is being dealt in detail in the PhD Thesis and the outcome of the same is likely to be completed by November, 2022, which will cover base criteria, International Rankings such as Times Higher Education Rankings, QS Rankings apart from Indian Ranking of National Institutional Ranking Framework.

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