

---

## Addressing the gap between ‘Acquiring and Applying Knowledge’

*Nahida Abdulla*

*Development Practitioner and Researcher, Panvel, Maharashtra-410206, India*

Email: [ar.nahidaabdulla@gmail.com](mailto:ar.nahidaabdulla@gmail.com)

---

**Abstract:** *Education's historical role in shaping generations, and its current transformation into a commercialized enterprise, are discussed, highlighting the decline in quality education. The statement emphasizes the importance of education as both a need and a want for a better life, addressing the gap between generations and its role in eradicating social stigmas. The disparities in access to affordable higher education in India is quite high, despite the country's large population and efforts to expand basic education. While basic education is made more affordable and accessible, higher education remains a challenge, particularly in economically backward regions. A critical issue in India is the disconnect between education and employment, leading to underemployment and potential societal problems. While India is rapidly digitizing, the educational system struggles to produce a workforce that meets the demands of both the international and Indian markets, resulting in a mismatch between skills and job opportunities. This mismatch leads to underemployment, with graduates facing difficulty finding suitable roles and those who are self-employed potentially lacking the resources and skills to succeed. As the rich get richer and the urban areas get developed similarly, in context of education higher education is not necessarily suitable for professional or self-sustaining opportunities. The reality today stands at Under employed individuals being ignorant and self-employed being arrogant. Recognizing that knowledge is a tool for good and being satisfied with one's achievements fosters a sense of purpose and fulfillment.*

**Keywords:**

---

## 1. Introduction

Education has historically served as a tool for societal advancement, enabling individuals to gain knowledge, skills, and understanding, ultimately contributing to a more civilized and peaceful society. The increasing focus on education as a commodity has led to a shift in priorities, where institutions prioritize financial gain over the pursuit of knowledge and the holistic development of individuals. While education is undeniably a fundamental need for personal and societal development, it also serves as a want, providing opportunities for personal growth, career advancement, and a fulfilling life. Education plays a crucial role in bridging generation gaps, offering a platform for understanding, empathy, and respect across different age groups and cultures. Education acts as a mighty weapon to eradicate age-old customs practices of untouchability, social stigma. These can prove to be lethargic if not uprooted with time and the knowledge of wisdom. Education not only provides knowledge but also cultivates wisdom, allowing individuals to make informed decisions and contribute to a more just and harmonious world.

## 2. Materials and Methods

Countries with large population tend to have

more universities in order to accommodate the education needs of all its people. (The Business Review, 2022) [1]. India and Africa are some of the few countries that were not just economically backward but needed 'Education' as a tool apart from other economic endeavors to be a developing country.

### 2.1 Government efforts and disparities

The Indian government is actively working to make basic education affordable and accessible across all areas, including rural, urban, and tribal regions. However, the focus on affordable and practical higher education remains a challenge, especially for those in economically disadvantaged areas.

### 2.2 Regional variations

The specific states with a higher number of universities include Rajasthan (public), Delhi (Central), and Tamil Nadu (Deemed to be). These variations suggest a focus on specific types of institutions and regional development priorities.

### 2.3 Economically backward regions:

Several economically backward regions, including the Himalayan and Northeastern states, and certain districts in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Bihar, face challenges due to difficult terrain,

inaccessibility, and limited infrastructure. These challenges make it difficult to establish and sustain affordable higher education institutions in these areas.

## 2.4 Practical applicability

The passage emphasizes that affordable higher education is not practically applicable in many of these contexts due to the combination of economic hardship, geographical limitations, and limited infrastructure. This suggests that providing equitable access to higher education requires addressing these underlying challenges alongside educational reforms.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Need for a comprehensive approach

The situation highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to higher education that considers not only affordability but also accessibility, infrastructure, and economic development in different regions. This may involve investing in infrastructure, providing targeted support for students from marginalized communities, and developing innovative educational models that are adaptable to diverse contexts.

### 3.2 Mismatch between education and job market needs

Indian education often focuses on theoretical knowledge rather than practical skills, leaving graduates unprepared for the demands of the modern workforce.

### 3.3 Surplus of graduates and inadequate demand

The Indian market, while touted as a labor force for international opportunities, struggles to provide enough jobs for the number of graduates produced each year. The rising cost of living, coupled with the difficulty of finding suitable jobs, contributes to financial instability for graduates.

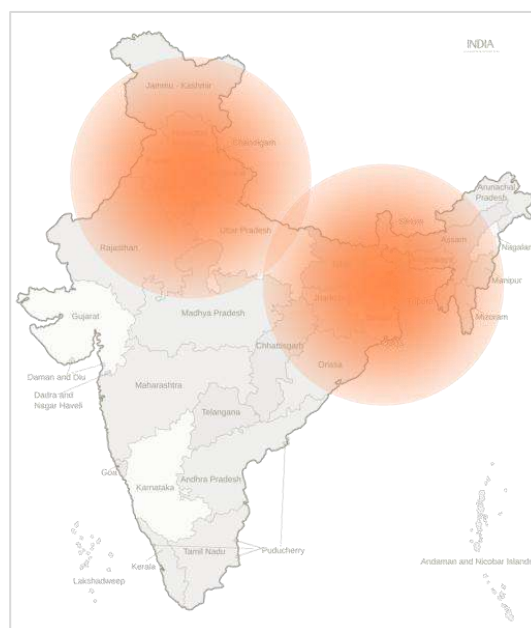


Fig.: States with affordable education in India

### 3.4 Underemployment and its consequences

Despite India's unemployment rate standing at a mere 6.8% according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data of first quarter of 2023, the underemployment metric was "unsurprisingly high". (Verma, 2024) [2].

Underemployment can lead to frustration, feelings of inadequacy, and even a decline in the overall quality of life. While digitalization offers opportunities for education, it also necessitates a focus on developing digital skills to meet the evolving needs of the workforce. The need for specialized skills is not adequately addressed in many academic curriculums.

#### 4. Conclusion

Acquiring knowledge is an easy task with its sets of drawbacks; however applying knowledge is becoming a bug. As to fix a computer bug, one has to start by identifying the issue, then try troubleshooting steps like restarting your

computer, checking for malware, updating drivers, and managing disk space. Similarly for the bug of applying knowledge once has to understand the 'Wisdom of knowledge' by mastering the art of patience through:

1. Bring about a change in someone's life through the knowledge acquired
2. Be satisfied and content with whatever you have achieved
3. Tie your camel by keeping your roots strong

Life does not go where we want to but we go where life takes us, though there set of loopholes between need and want – Acquiring and Applying Knowledge is fruitful only through consistent hunger for knowledge and success. As someone can take the fruit of your hardwork not your hardwork. The generation today needs to understand that lifelong learning and working are a positive approach to living a positive life.

#### References

- [1] The Business Review, (2022). Top 10 African Countries with the Highest Number of Universities. <https://ethiopianbusinessreview.net/top-10-african-countries-with-the-highest-number-of-universities>.
- [2] P. Verma, (2024), *Under-employment surprisingly high: Govt.* Retrieved May 19, 2025, from <https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-under-employment-surprisingly-high-govt-3506537/>