



# Trends in Higher Education

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## Abstract

This article is indicating about the trends in higher education. As we all can see the formations in education line becomes rapidly change due to covid-19. But before Covid there are many formations will be done in higher education. Online education just changes the face of higher education as well as professional courses. Before covid online education was on small scale but during covid it becomes worldwide. The main article is based on quality education and the new trends in higher education.

**Keywords-** Education, New Trends, Technology, Curriculum

## Introduction:

Higher education leaders face many challenges and opportunities in an ever-evolving professional discipline. Changes in how students learn what they expect, and where they come from are four important trends of today. Understanding what these changes mean more broadly can help provide the foundation for strategic growth in a higher education institution.

This article aims to discuss current social, technological and academic trends in higher education institutions around the world to help students, educators and recruiters understand what changes can be expected in the coming years. It provides insight into the field of higher education as well as the key factors that will drive these changes in the industry.

## Trends in Higher Education

### **Social Trends:**

- Diversity of university and faculty students
- Increasing the number of non-traditional students
- Mental health awareness

### **Technology Trends:**

- Adopting artificial intelligence for learning
- Online education is more widespread
- Virtual reality for education

**Curriculum Trends:**

- Focus more on bridging the skills gap
- The Rise of Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs)
- Enrollment of foreign students
- Growing need for alternative financing options

**Social Trends:**

We know that our economy today requires an educated and skilled workforce. The number of graduates from state institutions is nowhere near the required number. Globalization also leads to the interconnection of world economies, which is why people with professional education are in demand abroad. Such a growing need for manpower could not be met by the public sector alone, and this led to the need for private participation.

- Diversity of university students and faculty:

Universities and colleges are tasked with supporting student success and preparing for a competitive workforce. To this end, institutions should strive to promote educational excellence and reduce opportunity gaps by creating welcoming and diverse campuses. In addition, educators should recognize the educational value of ethnic and racial diversity and work to break down barriers that prevent proper diversification.

- Increasing the number of non-traditional students:

Usually, the terms "college student" and "college student" specifically refer to 18- to 24-year-old students matriculated immediately after completing high school. Society has long assumed that college students were teenagers or young adults who lived with or supported their parents to make ends meet in college. Age was the only variable that strengthened the gap between traditional and non-traditional students, at least until 2008.

As businesses took a hit during the Great Recession, many jobs were lost. According to since then, the importance of college education and the need to prepare for the future of jobs has dawned on the workforce in general. As a result, people juggling multiple responsibilities, full-time workers, parents, carers and retirees have joined colleges and universities to retrain or up skill. On the other hand, institutions have changed their policies and models to help non-traditional students balance schedules and competing priorities. This move further attracted more non-traditional students and by 2022, 40% of undergraduates in Indian universities and colleges were non-traditional.

- Mental health awareness:

Experts use terms like "crisis" and "epidemic" to describe the persistent mental health problems facing college students. The Indian Psychological Association supports this claim in a study on the prevalence of mental disorders among first-year students in eight countries, which revealed that 35% of people struggle with mental illness. This is further exacerbated by the alarming numbers in student stress statistics across the United States.

This challenge has prompted colleges and universities to come up with innovative approaches, online resources and creative programs to raise awareness about mental health. Institutions are addressing these issues early on by proactively sharing mental health information with students during orientation sessions.

**Technology Trends:**

As invasive as technology is in our lives as a whole, it's no surprise that the field of higher education is responding with its own innovations. Online education, while not a new trend, continues to grow in sophistication and opportunity, with more than 70 percent of institutions offering some form of distance learning.

Online learning technologies such as collaborative multimedia learning are now common even in the traditional classroom. Today's students expect to be immersed and engaged in their academic experience, with technology serving as a vehicle for personalized exploration and discovery. From guest lecturers via Skype to interactive whiteboards to "branching" challenges in education, the educational environment is more dependent on technology than ever before.

- Adopting artificial intelligence for learning:

The role of technology in higher education is not only in equipping students with information, but also in bridging access to quality education. It should help bypass the constraints of time and space and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all while fostering creativity, curiosity and collaboration. One technology that brings extraordinary potential to achieve these benefits for higher education is artificial intelligence (AI). AI in education is making its presence known. It tailors the learning journey and assessment of students to provide valuable insights. All of this is to help today's generation become tomorrow's innovators and entrepreneurs.

- Online education is more widespread:

For history buffs, the history of e-learning offers some deep insights into its origins. Online learning is a broad term that includes other learning methods such as blended learning and e-learning. It is a sub-category of digital learning which simply means using online learning tools. This type of learning takes place in a non-traditional setting, allowing students to engage in learning regardless of the constraints of time, distance, or location. In other words, the lecturer and student do not need to be in the same room for learning to occur. The very nature of online education, as well as technological advances, explain why it is becoming so widespread.

The new generations of students are accustomed to using technology from a young age, so they are comfortable using tech tools at home to acquire knowledge and skills. As such, the online environment is familiar to today's students, making online education a proposition they inherently want to try. Currently, a third of college students take at least one course online. Additionally, the advent of high-speed Internet, which facilitates ubiquitous connectivity, is giving online learning a boost. This coupled with virtual communication and virtual reality technology, means that lecturers can deliver live online lectures to students in remote locations. The use of online-only courses has gained momentum in recent months and is poised to accelerate even after the dust of COVID-19 settles.

- Virtual reality for education:

Technology and the Internet have long made their presence felt. The pandemic only accelerated the need for technology. Education was not left untouched either. Now you can sit at home and earn an MBA in Business Analytics. There are tons of online programs, from MBAs in healthcare management to master's opportunities in data analytics from prestigious institutions. Google Classrooms and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are here to stay.

According to KPMG and Google, the online education industry was expected to be worth \$1.96 billion by 2021. Recently, about Rs.1043 billion has been earmarked for the education sector in the Union Budget for the financial year 2023, paving the way for the much-needed digital push. Thus, there is an increase in digital learning resources and the blending of conventional teaching with new technologies.

### **Curriculum Trends:**

Previously, the curriculum was more subjective and emphasized pre-defined content. This led to monotonous coursework with little or no scope for introducing innovative thinking or encouraging students to think ahead. However, higher education will provide the necessary space for students and will motivate them to apply their creative abilities. So instead of what to think, the focus shifts to how to think. These trends are sure to bring a big change in your academic journey. However, a quality education at a reputable college or university can be expensive. Hence, higher education loans allow you to achieve your goal without relying on others.

- Focus more on closing the skills gap:

Speaking at the 2018 G20 summit, Mauricio Macri (former president of Argentina) said that "the future of work is a race between technology and education". Simply put, as technology advances, education systems should transform, anticipate and prepare for the impact of digital technologies on the workforce.

This means that higher education institutions should focus on shaping future employees by imparting knowledge, skills and competences that are in demand in labor markets. Because of this, there is an urgent need to redesign degree programs, courses, and curricula in general to meet the needs of modern learners while keeping up with the evolving workforce.

- **The Rise of Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs):**

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are open online courses created for a large number of participants, provide free access, and can be accessed anytime, anywhere by anyone with an Internet connection. Based on popular online courses, MOOCs have built a strong foothold in the education sector. Today, this revolutionary concept is reshaping the model of higher education.

To better understand what drove this disruptive education model into its current form, we must first understand the benefits of MOOCs. First, unlike traditional online courses, MOOCs have the advantage of unlimited enrollment, fewer requirements, and are available on a global scale. Second, MOOCs are offered at minimal cost, making them the safest bet to reverse the tide of crushing education costs.

Another interesting thing is that MOOCs are not fixed in the traditional semester models of universities. This means that students can start the course at any time and it can be of any length. Even better, most courses are short and highly focused on a specific topic. This makes them compelling prospects for students looking to gain a deeper understanding of an area.

Top universities are increasingly introducing MOOCs not only to stay ahead, but also to improve access to education. In 2019 alone, MOOC providers launched around 2,500 courses, 170 micro credits and 11 online degrees. Overall, the MOOC movement has reached more than 110 million students to date. Companies like Coursera, edX, Udacity, FutureLearn and Swayam work with leading institutions to address the most pressing learning needs of today's learners.

- **Enrollment of foreign students:**

The decline in the number of new students enrolling in Indian universities is a trend that is gaining momentum. The failure of Indian colleges and universities to attract new international students benefits institutions in other countries such as Australia and Canada. Australia in particular saw a significantly high enrollment rate of 47% between 2015 and 2018. What is to blame for this change? Factors driving this change include escalating global competition, the social and political climate, the high cost of higher education, which have contributed massively to the decline in the number of international students.

### **Conclusion:**

Although we live in the shadow of the pandemic, education is the only sector that is flourishing. According to a World Economic Forum report, critical thinking and problem solving will be the main skills employers will be looking for. Employers are currently looking for self-management skills including resilience, flexibility, active learning and stress management. The need to get rid of grades and promote skill-based learning is the need of the hour. The Indian education system is now stepping up to this challenge and promoting a more innovative education system.

As we can see, the environment of higher education is changing rapidly. The arena is affected from all sides by social, curricular, technological changes. Institutions that want to stay ahead of the competition and better align with their goal of producing "marketable" future employees should be prepared to adapt to these trends.

The changes we have seen in higher education have brought tangible benefits. For example, emerging technologies such as virtual reality have simplified learning so that it is easily accessible to all students regardless of where they are. Additionally, AI has enabled institutions to offer personalized education that will help students acquire the perfect mix of skills.

However, these technologies are very expensive in their current usage. For this reason, many institutions fail to make the most of them. To overcome this obstacle, universities and colleges should invest heavily in research to come up with innovative but cheaper ways to adopt new technologies.

Technology aside, more research is needed to determine what curriculum will work best for future students. In addition, stakeholders should involve the government and solve the problems that cause the decline in the number

of international students. In addition, as non-traditional numbers continue to rise, universities should redouble their efforts to provide better support services.

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