Social Justice in Higher Education

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Diversity and Social Justice in Higher Education

Diversity simply refers to a pattern of being diverse. Diversity is considered the beauty of society. Every individual is different, having own unique qualities, diverse from other human beings. Similarly, in educational institutions and in the system of education, diversity is present in the form of students and their diverse background structure. Similarly, diversity is present in the form of college education fee structure. In every educational institution in the country, there is a defined pattern of fee structure. The fee structure is considered as the cost of education or services that are provided by the institution to the students. Students are the ones who pay for the services of educational institutions and get an education. In the United States of America, the structure of college education fees is different than the other countries as it provides excellent services to their students. The fee structure of US college education is expensive and varies from state to state and college to college as well. The diversity present in the college educational fee structure and its expensive cost includes several perspectives, including capital expenditures, financial aid services for the students, increased costs of administrative services, increased cost of teaching staff, curricular services costs, and the cost of educational resources. All these perspectives are important and are leading to the increased cost of college education. A college education is expensive, but there are certain reasons behind its increased cost (Amberg, 2018). In this paper, all these perspectives will be discussed in detail. These perspectives are important to find out the real reasons behind the expensive college education.

Higher Education and National Development

In the modern global and technological world, it is compulsory for countries that have educated youth to increase growth and development. Many states and countries give opportunities to their students to get free education throughout their high school studies in the developed nations of the United States of America and Canada. After completing high school education, it is now compulsory for students to get a college education, and this trend is now widely and globally increasing. When the students complete their school education, it is obvious for them to join college after that and there is no other choice for them. Numerous students already know that they have to join college, and there is no other way. An analysis of college education and high school education reveals that high school students have no choice but to attend college. A college degree does not ensure a job opportunity, but it surely enhances and increases the knowledge and learning perspectives of the students so that they can live a better and purposeful life. But the point is that the students should want to join college without any societal and parental pressure. Society and parents are the primary contributors who lead the students to college, even when they do not want to go. This scenario leads the students to frustration because their parents and society taught them that they should earn a college degree to live a secure and middle-class lifestyle. This way numerous students just completed their degree with less effort and attention because the purpose was not learning but to completing the degree. This perception just added a degree to the student's life but not the learning, and they never learn the true meaning of getting that degree.

Trends in Educational Attainment

In the last decade, the educational attainment level has increased, especially in the adult age range between 35 to 29 years old. The percentage of people who get high school diplomas also increased from 88 to 92 percent approximately. The percentage of people who get an associate degree also increased to more than 45 percent. The bachelor's degree rate increased to 36 percent, and the master's degree percentage increased to more than 8 percent.

Changing Structure of Modern Education

Education is not the same as in the previous eras, but it has changed in every era just to make it better for the people. The education system has several levels, including the school, high school, college, and college level. School and high school levels are the basic and initial levels of education. When an individual succeeds at the school level, he joins the college level to enhance and improve the education level. After succeeding in college-level, individuals join college to make their education level more valuable and improved. Schools are the basic level of education whereas the college level is the most advanced level of education.

Economic Value of College Graduates

In the modern and globalized world today, education is an essential asset for the economic growth and development of any country. College graduates become the most valuable resource for the country. It shows the probability that in the future, the demand for college graduates will increase significantly, not only in developed nations but also in developing nations as well. The level and number of graduates are increasing, but still, it needs more boost which will be beneficial for the country in the future. In the year of 2010, the total number of students which were enrolled at institutions and universities increased from 13 million in 1987 to over 21 million currently. In the future, this level will be increased more frequently due to the latest modern requirements of the country, organizations as well and the international markets. The demand for college graduates will increase in the future, and the countries that are not focusing on the education level will probably start investing in it due to its popularity and requirements. Shortly, countries will invest more in the education level to increase their economic growth and development and also for its sustainability. The education level and requirements will highly increase in the future due to certain requirements of the current world economy.

In the past, school education in many countries was considered as the appropriate and enough education for the people, but now college and college level are the advanced and successful levels of education for the people. In the last decade, the rates of educational attainment increased in the adults and the percentage of people who had received the school education was also increased in the United States. School education increased from 88 to 92 percent; college degree education increased from 29 to 36 percent, and college degree education increased from 5 to 9 percent in the country.

Cost Barriers and Unequal Access

In the United States, public school education is usually free of cost. The students who want to get a higher education after the completion of their high school studies need to pay their college fees. Many times, when students are not able to pay the college fees, they leave their education career and start their professional life. Similarly, many students are the ones who passed out with a great academic record in their high school education so they get a scholarship for their college education. In this way, it is easier for students who want to continue their educational journey without paying the expenses to be able to complete their higher education from college. But when the students who do not get any scholarship want to continue their studies, they have to pay for it. They have to pay for their college education, and in this scenario, they start taking the help of their parents or start working on their studies. Many colleges and educational institutions are the ones that are providing loan services to needy students who are not able to afford the expensive education system. But in this situation, when the students complete their education from the college, they are deep downbound with the debt services of the college. In this situation, the students only have to choose the way of job and start paying back to their colleges. In this case, most students are unable to continue their studies further and stop their educational careers. Due to these reasons, the students who have to pay back the loan to their college are unable to get admission to the universities, and there is no option left for them to wait for a scholarship. Most students who are studying in universities are the ones who get scholarships for their studies, or they are doing jobs to pay for their educational expenses.

Historical Growth of College Tuition

From the historical perspective of the college’s expensive education, the education system of a college education was not expensive as compared to today’s. Since 1980, college study education started to increase their tuition fees, and due to this reason, several problems started to increase. For example, students who came from diverse background structures or came from low-income areas of the country were unable to pay for their college education. The tuition fees and the educational expenses started to increase, and several changes occurred in federal student aid services. Moreover, the decline in affirmative admission is also an important one that played a key role in the expensive college education. These trends started to increase and now it is deeply rooted in the educational system of the country. The fiscal conditions of the country increased with time and impacted negatively to the college education. The public colleges with lower tuition fees are the ones that became famous, and the competition to secure admission to these colleges increased with time. The competition decreases the rate of college admissions, and it is much more difficult now to secure admission to the public college system in the country. All these factors contributed to the fact that it increased the chances of neglecting the factor of equal opportunity. Now there is no equal opportunity that gives any chance to the students to learn in the educational institutions.

Effects of High Costs on Enrollment

The increased cost of college education decreases the rate of students per year who enroll in colleges on the basis of their abilities. Now, people have started to consider that if someone or some student wants to secure admission to college and wants to study in it, they need to have a huge bundle of money, and in that way, the student will be able to find a quality education. Moreover, now educational institutions are selling their education with prices and with expensive cost. People who want to learn in college need money to pay for it. As a whole, students need to buy an education if they want to get a degree. In this way, now the students and their parents consider that they need a lot of money to provide education to their children. The students who are unable to find admission to college on the basis of scholarship needs to pay for it, and in that way, students and their parents suffer from debt for many years. It not only impacts on their educational learning but also their financial stability. For many years, they had to pay back to college just to pay back their debt. In many cases, students who are not able to focus on their studies, like the new environment and new structure of study impact on their mind, are mostly not able to focus on their studies and end up getting bad grades in their college degree. This not only results in bad grades but also leads to student debt.

Students as National Human Capital

Students are considered the most important asset of any country. They are the future professionals who will contribute towards the growth and development of the country. Higher education in any country is compulsory for the system as it is needed for the development of youngsters. Students need proper training and education so that they will be able to develop themselves and contribute to their country. In this way, the higher education system is responsible for their development and provides them with opportunities to learn from the educational system. Higher education nourishes the abilities and capabilities of students and makes them able to study in their major areas. So, the higher education system and the states which are having the most expensive college education structure need to consider their serious issue. The college structure and its expensive study impact negatively on the minds of the students. So, the college education structure needs a proper pattern developed by the states and the administration of the higher education system. The higher education system needs to address this issue, and need to define proper policies to compensate the colleges and the students as well.

Institutional Financial Support and Cost Efficiency

The higher education system needs to provide financial assistance to the colleges so that they could be able to contribute towards the expensive educational services of the colleges. The cost efficiency measures are needed, and it increases the college's excess to more students. The states are putting their efforts into making suitable actions for the spread of college education and decreasing the element of an expensive college education. In 2008, A Maintenance of Effort (MOE) provision for higher education was first adopted in the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 and was included as a requirement for states to participate in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The higher education system should adopt similar measures to reduce the rate of expensive college education with accountability and transparency.

Causes of Rising College Costs

There are several perspectives and factors behind the expensive college education. It includes capital expenditures, financial aid services for the students, increased costs of administrative services, increased cost of teaching staff, curricular services costs, and the cost of educational resources. The capital expenditures of the college are the ones that contribute most towards the higher tuition fees. The building structure of the college, its design, and its playing grounds are the ones that are important, and the administration mostly spends on these capital expenditures. The administration of colleges spends a huge amount of money on their capital expenditures to attract the attention of the students who are able to pay the expensive fees. The college structure and its building attract the students if it is costly and shows that the college spent a huge amount of wealth on it. The administrative services and the teacher's costs are the ones that contribute to the expensive system of the college. The expensive colleges are the ones that spend a valuable amount of money on the training of their staff and to hire the teachers who demand a great salary package. Teachers and the cost of administration increase the expense of college fees. The colleges that are expensive need to hire the best educational staff to attract the students, and it is just like the way businessmen try to attract the attention of customers. Similarly, the college education is similar to the market structure in which the administration of the colleges acts as the businessmen and the students are their consumers. The administration of the colleges spends money on their campuses, on their teachers, on their staff, and on their building structure just to attract the attention of students who are able to pay the price. The college education is similar to the business world in which the contributors only pay attention to the profit and the attraction strategies that are helpful to increase their profit rate. Similarly, the educational resources provided by the institutions are also expensive, such as textbooks. The textbooks are also expensive and the students need to buy these books because their teachers recommend them to buy the expensive books. The educational study resources that are provided by the educational institutions are the ones that are also expensive, and middle-class students who came to college in debt are the ones who are not able to find ways to afford their resources. As a result, they are helpless and increase the rate of their debt by adding the fees of the textbooks to their debt.

Evaluating College Value and Financial Choices

The diversity present in the college educational fee structure and its expensive cost includes several perspectives, including capital expenditures, financial aid services for the students, increased costs of administrative services, increased cost of teaching staff, curricular services costs, and the cost of educational resources. All these services that are provided by the colleges are the ones that contribute towards the expensiveness of the college education. It is similar to the fact that the colleges that are providing expensive education are making profits, not graduates. They only need students who are able to afford the fees or able to take the financial debt services provided by the college. The college education and its diversity of cost system are similar to the business world in which the college administrations only want to attract the students as their consumers and want to make a profit with the tuition fees they pay for their college education. The administration of the colleges spends money on their campuses, on their teachers, on their staff, and on their building structure just to attract the attention of students who are able to pay the price. The college education is similar to the business world in which the contributors only pay attention to the profit and the attraction strategies that are helpful to increase their profit rate. These colleges should need to address the issues of students rather than making profits. These colleges need proper implications and the administration of the state needs to pay attention in this regard. The colleges should be the one that trains their students in the best possible way rather than only focusing on their profit rate. A college education should not be expensive and needs serious measures to address the issues. If college education prices consistently increase in the future, then it will be very difficult for students to secure admission to good institutions. * Student loans are NOT a necessary evil. Ordinary middle-class families can- and *must*-find ways to avoid them, even without scholarships.

Limitations of College Rankings

* College “rankings” are useless-designed to sell magazines and generate hype. If you trust one of the major guides when picking a college, you face a potential financial disaster.

Employment and Graduate-School Outcomes

* The elite graduate programs accept lots of people with non-elite bachelor’s degrees. So do America’s most selective employers. The name on a diploma ultimately won’t help your child have a more successful career or earn more money.

Affordable Education on a Limited Budget

Zac can prove every one of those bold assertions – and more. No matter what your current financial situation, he has a simple message for parents: “RELAX! Your kid will be able to get a champagne education on a beer budget!”

Avoiding Student Debt

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Critique of Conventional College Financing

Armed with his personal knowledge, the latest data, and smart analysis, Zac takes on the sacred cows of the higher education establishment. He reveals why a lot of the conventional wisdom about choosing and financing college is not only wrong but hazardous to you and your child’s financial future. You’ll discover, for instance, that:

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Further Reading on Higher Education

More Read: Higher Education Degrees

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