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# The Rise of International Universities and Legal Education in India: Opportunities and Challenges

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## ABSTRACT

*“Legal education plays a crucial role in society, as it equips Students with the necessary knowledge & skills to address legal issues & challenges. It goes beyond the traditional concept of imparting knowledge of the law & its principles, by emphasizing the development of critical thinking, analytical base reasoning, persuasive communication, & problem-Solving abilities. Legal education enables individuals to understand the values & principles underlying the legal system and the role they play in shaping society. It also promotes social justice & equality by empowering lawyers to the paper also talks about the marginalized vulnerable sections of the provided legal Society. Moreover, legal education fosters the evolution of ethical & professional standards, making lawyers responsible & obliged for their actions. In conclusion, legal education is an essential tool for building a just a fair society, & it plays a vital role in shaping the future of the legal profession.*

**Keywords:** Legal Education, Legal Reforms, Professionalism, Rule of Laws, Legal Empowerment, Legal Culture, Human Rights.

## I. INTRODUCTION

This research paper examines the rise of international universities and legal education in India and the opportunities and challenges associated with this development. The article examines the factors driving the development of international universities in India, including globalization, and economic liberalization, and emphasizes the need for high-quality education. Additionally, the paper explores the challenges faced by these universities, such as regulatory hurdles and limited access to resources. It also examines the implication of this trend for legal education in India, including the potential benefits of an internationalized legal education system and the challenges of adapting to a globalized legal market. The research paper aims at exploring the rise of international universities and legal education in India and The Development which is associated with the opportunities and challenges which are rising day by day. Some educational

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policies like NEP (National Education Policy) 2020 were meant for professional education like Agriculture, Engineering, Law, Medicine, and other disciplines. DNEP (Draft National Education Policy) 2019 has been not included in NEP 2020 on behalf of The Future of Legal Education. Now India has absorbed the International opportunities of International universities, legal education & higher education. India is emerging as an enormous of International Conciliation, alongside London, Singapore, and Canada. Hence the paper urge to focus on the opportunities for peer groups to new areas of legal education.<sup>3</sup>

## II. AREA OF OPPORTUNITIES

Having international universities in India can bring numerous benefits to the country. Some of these benefits are:

### 1. Exposure to diverse cultures:

Indian students studying abroad will be exposed to diverse cultures, helping them develop a better understanding of the world. International universities foster a diverse and inclusive environment, which can promote an exchange of cultural ideas that can help broaden Indian students' horizons and enhance their cultural awareness.

### 2. Better education and career opportunities:

International universities offer high-quality education and better career opportunities, providing Indian students with a competitive edge in the job market. An international degree from such universities can provide Indian students with better job opportunities globally and also enhance their competitiveness in the global job market.

### 3. Personal development:

Living and studying abroad can be an enriching experience, building good communication skills, improving independence, and broadening perspectives. International universities can attract foreign direct investments and boost India's economy by creating job opportunities, increasing income distribution, and also leading to the growth of local businesses.

### 4. Broaden professional network:

International universities allow students to broaden their professional network and establish connections with people all over the world. An international degree from such universities can provide Indian students with better job opportunities globally and also enhance their

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<sup>3</sup> LEENA CHANDRAN WADIA, *challenges and opportunities for legal education in India in a globalised world: leveraging nep 2020*, 1, 5-6 (2021)

competitiveness in the global job market.

#### **5. Enhanced language skills:**

Indian students studying abroad get to develop and enhance their language skills and also learn other languages.

#### **6. Exposure to cutting-edge research:**

International universities are home to some of the most advanced research facilities, providing Indian students with an opportunity to work with leading researchers and participate in new research initiatives. International universities bring a wealth of research, knowledge, and expertise to the country, which can significantly impact the educational quality of Indian students.

#### **7. Global exposure:**

Indian students studying abroad will learn to adapt and deal with unfamiliar situations independently, and imbibe new life skills such as time management, planning, and organization. Indian students can benefit from exposure to international universities, learn from global perspectives, and gain international certifications.

#### **8. Global citizenship:**

Studying in international universities allows Indian students to become global citizens and make lifelong friendships with people all over the world.

### **III. CHALLENGES TO MEET**

Foreign universities to be allowed to set up campuses in India:

According to reports, the Indian government is contemplating allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in the country under the new National Education Policy 2020. The policy, approved by the Union Cabinet last month, suggested measures that would allow the top 100 universities in the world to build campuses in India. These universities are expected to bring in technical expertise and help bridge the gap in teaching quality and learning outcomes in the country. The move could also help Indian students save large sums of money usually spent on education abroad. However, the policy faces criticism for potentially favoring foreign institutions over domestic ones.<sup>4</sup> India is a distinct and vigorous country that is incomparable in its legacy. The establishment of international universities in India has the potential to provide a

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<sup>4</sup> MANSVINI KAUSHIK, *Foreign university campuses in India: Is the move practical*, FORBES INDIA, Jan 31, 2023 04:30:06 PM IST <https://www.forbesindia.com/article/take-one-big-story-of-the-day/foreign-university-campuses-in-india-is-the-move-practical/82871/1>

unique opportunity for students and researchers to engage with this vibrant culture, and contribute to the country's economic and social development. However, the presence of international universities in India also poses several challenges that must be addressed for the venture to be successful.

One of the major challenges that may arise from having international universities in India is the issue of quality control. It is important to ensure that the quality of education provided by these universities is on par with global standards and that students receive a quality education that is up to the mark. This can be difficult, as India's education system has often been criticized for its lack of standards and quality control mechanisms. To mitigate this issue, international universities must ensure that they adhere to strict quality standards within their own countries, and work closely with Indian regulatory bodies to ensure that these standards are upheld in India as well. Another potential challenge of having international universities in India is the issue of cultural differences. India is a country with a diverse population of more than 1.3 billion people, each with their language, customs, and traditions. International universities must take steps to ensure that their academic programs and campus culture are sensitive to these differences and that students from all backgrounds feel welcome and included on campus. This may involve hiring faculty and staff who are familiar with Indian culture and traditions, and who can communicate effectively with students from different cultural backgrounds.

A third challenge that may arise from having international universities in India is the issue of funding. Building and operating a university campus can be an expensive proposition, and international universities may find it difficult to find funding in a country like India where there are already many established educational institutions. To overcome this barrier, international universities may need to work closely with local colleges and universities to form partnerships and collaborations that can help them tap into funding sources and resources.<sup>5</sup>

### **1. High competition:**

Legal education in India is highly competitive, with thousands of students competing for a limited number of seats in prestigious institutions. This poses a significant challenge for students who are not able to secure admission to top-tier law schools.

### **1. Lack of opportunities in rural areas:**

Many law schools are located in major cities, which can limit opportunities for students from rural areas. This can make it difficult for students to access the same resources and opportunities

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<sup>5</sup> Philip G Altbach *India's higher education is opening up. But is it ready*, 05 November 2022 <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20221102093858736>

available to students in urban areas.

## **2. Limited scope for specialization:**

Most law schools in India offer a traditional curriculum that focuses on general law. This can limit opportunities for students who wish to specialize in specific areas of law.

## **3. High fees:**

Law school fees in India can be quite high, making it difficult for students from low-income households to afford legal education. This can also create a barrier to entry for talented students who are unable to pay high fees.

## **4. Lack of infrastructure:**

Many law schools in India lack adequate infrastructure and resources, making it difficult for students to access the necessary tools and facilities to excel in their studies.

## **5. Language barriers:**

English is the primary language of legal education in India, which can pose a challenge for students who are not fluent in the language.

## **6. Lack of job opportunities:**

Despite the high demand for legal professionals in India, there is often a mismatch between the skills of law graduates and the needs of the market. This can result in a lack of job opportunities for graduates.

# **IV. IMPRESSION OF LEGAL EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Legal education plays a crucial role in India's economy and society as it produces educated and skilled lawyers, judges, and legal professionals who help in the smooth functioning of the legal system. A strong legal system is essential for attracting foreign investment and fostering economic growth. It also helps in maintaining social order and ensuring justice for all. Legal education equips students with the knowledge and skills required to provide legal services to individuals, corporates, and government agencies. The quality of legal education impacts the effectiveness of the legal system, and therefore, it is vital to ensure that law schools produce competent legal professionals. Legal education in India covers various aspects of the law, including civil law, criminal law, constitutional law, and international law. It also emphasizes research, analytical thinking, and communication skills essential for legal professionals. Legal education provides opportunities for students to learn about their legal rights, responsibilities, and duties. It also creates awareness about the rule of law, which is crucial for a democratic

society. Legal education helps in creating a culture of legality, where individuals understand and respect the law.<sup>6</sup>

International universities have the potential to make a significant impact on the Indian education system. Here are some potential impacts:

**1. Improved quality of education:**

International universities are known for their high-quality education and innovative teaching methods. Collaboration with such universities can help Indian universities to upgrade their infrastructure, teaching facilities, research facilities, and course offerings.

**2. Number of research opportunities:**

International universities can collaborate with Indian universities to increase research opportunities for students and faculty members. Such partnerships can lead to joint research projects, joint publications, joint seminars, and an increase in the quality of research output.

**3. Scope of student exchange programs:**

With the collaboration of international universities, Indian universities can provide more opportunities for students to study abroad, and for international students to study in India. This can help Indian students to gain international exposure and enhance their employability in the global market.

**4. Integration of global perspective:**

The collaborations between international universities and Indian universities can help in the integration of the global perspective in Indian education. It can help to expose Indian students to different cultures, lifestyles, and ideas, which can broaden their outlook.

**5. Employability:**

With a globalized business environment, Indian students who gained education from international universities have a better chance of securing jobs in global companies. Collaboration with international universities can increase the employability of Indian students and allow Indian universities to tap into the global talent pool.

## **V. THE FAMOUS LAWYERS & THEIR IMPACT**

### **Mahatma Gandhi:**

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<sup>6</sup> Siddhant Tiwari, *Legal Education in India: Scope, Importance, Objective*, Indian law portal, july1,2020 <https://indianlawportal.co.in/legal-education-in-india-scope-importance-objective/>

Although he did not specifically study law abroad, Mahatma Gandhi was called to the Bar in London in 1888. He is one of the most famous and influential lawyers to have come from India, and his impact on legal education and practice was tremendous. He is noted for his philosophy of non-violent resistance and his work as a reformer and advocate for human rights, which has shaped India's legal system and social conscience. "An education which does not teach us to discriminate between good and bad, to assimilate one eschew the other, is a misnomer". [Harijan, February 1939.]

**Fali Nariman:**

Fali Nariman is a renowned Indian lawyer who studied at St Xavier's College, Mumbai and went on to study law in England. He has been a member of the International Commission of Jurists and is known for his work on constitutional law and human rights. He has also been an advocate for judicial independence and has served as the President of the Bar Association of India. Since 1999, he also has served as a Member of Parliament to Rajya Sabha, the Upper House, for a six-year term. His other prior government service was as an Additional Solicitor-General in the early 1970s. Articles written and published by Mr. Nairman reveal the wide scope of his interests and accomplishment.

**Harish Salve:**

Harish Salve is one of India's most successful lawyers who studied law at Oxford University. He is known for representing high-profile cases in India and has also served as the Solicitor General of India. He has expertise in constitutional law, arbitration, and international law, and is highly respected in the legal community for his knowledge and skills. Arvind Datar is a senior advocate at the Supreme Court of India and studied law at the University of Cambridge. He has extensive experience in taxation law and has also contributed greatly to legal education in India by publishing several books and serving as a visiting faculty member at various law schools. Menaka Guruswamy is a renowned lawyer who studied law at Oxford and Harvard University. She has been a strong advocate for human rights and equality and is known for her successful fight against Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalized homosexuality in India. She is also an advocate for gender equality and has served on the board of the International Women's Rights Action Watch.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

International universities and legal education are of great importance in India for several reasons. Firstly, they provide access to world-class education and training that can help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a highly competitive global economy.



Secondly, they can expose students to different cultures, perspectives, and ideas, which can broaden their horizons and make them more adaptable in different contexts. Moreover, international universities and legal education can help bridge the gap between different legal systems and bring greater diversity and innovation to the legal profession in India. With the growing need for cross-border legal services, it is increasingly important for lawyers to have a deep understanding of different legal systems and practices. International education can provide this much-needed exposure and help prepare Indian lawyers for the changing legal landscape. Furthermore, Indian lawyers can benefit from international legal education through exposure to new technologies, innovative teaching methodologies, and research techniques. This can equip them with the knowledge and skills to address new challenges faced by the legal profession in India and the world. International universities and legal education are vital for the growth and development of the legal profession in India. They not only provide access to world-class education and training but also help bridge the gap between different legal systems and bring greater diversity and innovation to the profession. Therefore, India must continue to foster international collaborations and partnerships in the field of legal education.

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