Building World-Class Educational Institutions

What makes great universities great? And what can India learn from established and emerging universities as it sets out to build great universities of its own? Hari Pulakkat finds out.

RANKINGS ARE OFTEN SUBJECTIVE exercise, and many education experts consider university rankings as arbitrary. However, no matter what methodology you choose, the top 10 in the world end up being largely the same year after year. They have been so for a long time, with only marginal changes in the rankings every year, relative to No. 1. The same universities would be at the top of the list. They are not always the ones you would expect. For example, the London School of Economics and Political Science has been consistently ranked among the top 10 over the years. The University of Chicago, Princeton University, and the University of Oxford, Harvard University, and the University of Cambridge have been ranked among the top 10 in the world almost every year since the inception of the rankings.

Building world-class educational institutions is a priority for every country, as these institutions are considered crucial for economic development and competitiveness. However, not all countries are able to invest in building world-class institutions due to various factors such as limited financial resources, lack of infrastructure, and political instability. In this context, it is important to consider the role of government policies, institutional strategies, and partnerships in building world-class institutions.

In India, the government has taken several initiatives to improve the quality of higher education. The National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 aims to transform the education system and promote Holistic Education. The policy focuses on improving the quality of education, making it inclusive, equitable, and accessible to all students. The policy also aims to increase the gross enrolment ratio (GER) and the number of engineering institutions.

The government has also launched several schemes to support higher education, such as the National Mission on Education through Learning Outcomes (NaMo) and the National Plan for Transforming Education (NPT) 2015-20. These schemes focus on improving the quality of education, promoting research and innovation, and enhancing the employability of graduates.

The government has also focused on the development of world-class institutions in India. The National mission on World-class Institutions (NMCI) was launched in 2014 to promote the development of world-class institutions in India. The mission aims to develop institutions that are capable of providing high-quality education, research, and innovation.

In conclusion, building world-class educational institutions is a complex and multifaceted process that requires a commitment from the government, the educational institutions, and the private sector. The government has taken several initiatives to support higher education, and the focus should remain on improving the quality of education, promoting research and innovation, and enhancing the employability of graduates.