

The Financing of Higher Education in India

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I deem it a great honour to deliver the Kale Memorial Lecture this year and I am grateful to Professor D.C. Wadhwa, Director of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics for inviting me to deliver the lecture. First of all, I wish to congratulate the management, staff, faculty and the students of this Institute on its becoming a deemed to be university. Gokhale Institute is a very well-known social science institute in the country and very distinguished social scientists have been associated with it. I know several of them - in particular three - Professor V.M. Dandekar, Professor N.Rath and Professor D.C.Wadhwa. The Institution stands for quality both in teaching and research and it is in recognition of this quality it has been granted a deemed-to-be university status in the country. I am sure, the founders, several of whom are no more, would feel satisfied that their sapling has attained the status of a deemed-to-be university.

In today's lecture, I would like to discuss an important aspect of higher education in India i.e., their financing.

In recent years, universities all over the world have been facing financial crisis and Indian universities are no exception to this. Among the serious problems which the chief executives of Indian universities face, the financial problem has become a formidable one. It has taken a very serious turn; several institutions are on the verge of collapse. Dilapidated buildings, empty laboratories, sub-standard library facilities are the common features of the university campuses - it is not inspiring sight.

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