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Parimal Vyas and Kiran Pandya

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Institutions of India

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Transforming Higher Education through Research

Dhanappa Makanna Metri

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Developing Academic Leadership for Transforming Higher Education Institutions of India

Parimal Vyas* and Kiran Pandya**

Higher education is the cornerstone of economic development, playing a crucial role in fostering sustainable growth. Academic leadership plays a very crucial role in impacting the education system, where institutions of higher learning are tasked with the dual responsibility of preserving ancient knowledge traditions while embracing modern academic practices as envisioned in National Education Policy (NEP)-2020. Academic leadership is central to the evolution of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), balancing the preservation of ancient knowledge with modern academic advancements (Altbach, 2019). India's academic tradition, from the Vedic gurukuls to institutions like Nalanda and Takshashila, underscores the need for visionary leadership to navigate contemporary challenges and global competitiveness (Mukherjee, 2020). Rooted in a rich and diverse intellectual heritage, India's academic leadership is uniquely positioned at the intersection of ancient wisdom and contemporary educational paradigms. From the Vedic gurukuls to the establishment of modern universities like Nalanda and Takshashila, India's historical contributions to knowledge have shaped the foundation of academic leadership across millennia.

Higher Education Scenario of India: Persistent Issues & Emerging Challenges

Today, as India strives to position itself as a global knowledge hub, the need for visionary academic leadership is more pressing than ever.

In the Indian context, academic leaders are not only expected to manage institutions effectively but also to be the stewards of India's cultural and intellectual legacy, guiding students and faculty through a rapidly changing global educational landscape.

In the recent past, we find paradigm shifts in Higher Education viz., a shift from teacher-centric curriculum to student-centric curriculum, a relatively rigid structure to flexible structure, traditional management to modern new age organisational models, individual decision-making to team-based approach decision making, use of technology in teaching and learning, and localization – nationalization – internationalization in imparting higher education in India.

HEIs are also facing issues related to transparency; limited information disclosure; poor grievance redressal, and weak monitoring

*Former Vice Chancellor, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. Currently, Provost/Vice Chancellor, AURO University, Surat-395 410, Gujarat. E-mail: parimalvyas17@gmail.com

**Provost/Vice Chancellor, Sarvajani University, Surat-395 001, Gujarat. E-mail: keeranpandya@yahoo.com