

HOW ECONOMY + EDUCATION CAN BIND BRICS



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India has become the fastest growing economies among the BRICS countries according to an analysis undertaken by PHD research bureau. India stands no 1 in the ease of doing business as per logistics performance index, Global Innovation index, Global Retail Development Index, Global Competitiveness index and Global gender gap Index.

India is the world fastest growing economy today, countries worldwide sees India as huge market and an emerging world power. Therefore a grouping of the five countries has become an irrepressible force in global governance. Various welcome BRICS as an accelerator in the transformation of the global economic governance system.

The five BRICS countries have started a process of calling up investment and teamwork to deliver quality higher education to around 40% of the world's tertiary students. The number of higher education students has improved dra-

matically over the years, with Brazil, China, India and the Russian Federation. Brazil with a population of 200 million and aims to increase its gross enrolment ratio in higher education to 50% of the population aged 18-24, and the net enrolment ratio to 33% by 2020.

Improving Higher Education:

With more than one in three students in the world today living in a BRICS country, a major challenge is not just continuing massification but at the same time enhancing quality through establishing centres of excellence.

As part of its efforts to improve the quality of higher education, Brazil plans to award 60,000 masters degrees and 25,000 doctorates locally every year by 2020. Through the government's Science without Borders initiative, 100,000 Brazilian students mostly in science, technology, engineering and maths fields are being awarded full scholarships to study abroad.

The expansion of quality postgraduate studies in science and technology is also intended to increase the presence of Brazilian researchers and students in leading institutions in other parts of the world. The ambition of China is also to have world-class universities and be a powerhouse in the global higher education landscape by 2020. Since the beginning of BRICS, India has played a significant and dynamic role; it assigns high status to the BRICS forum for endorsing global economic growth, peace and stability. Collaboration on the economic front is one of the focus areas of India's policy towards BRICS. Over the year India has developed multilateral and strategic relation with all member countries.

In its efforts to improve higher education, India has launched a 25-year plan Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan an initiative to improve access, equity and quality in tertiary education by establishing new institutions and expanding enrolment in existing ones, as well as upgrading infrastructure and creating state higher education councils. The primary goal of India is to enrol 10 million more students in the next five years, Federal public universities and national



tion in the global higher education market. However, in the last 10 years the BRICS alliance has increasingly become an important destination for foreign students with Russia currently hosting the largest contingent of 174,000 students, China 99,000, South Africa 70,000, India 31,000 and Brazil 14,000.

There are also numerous ideas in progress to create a BRICS Network University, an initiative that will allow universities in the group to together develop and teach courses and allow the common gratitude of

research universities have been established in Russia to optimise resources available in each region and strengthen links between universities, the economy and society.

Working together:

BRICS countries have formed a new model for shared benefits cooperation amongst the evolving and developing economies, since the mechanism was established in 2006, it has helped improved the picture amnesty of developing countries and in the International monetary fund and the world bank in the recent years. The forum has helped member countries coordinate approaches in tackling challenges confronting the global economy. Currently the combined GDP of BRICS is almost equal to that of US and is more than 90% the size of US output. The economies of BRICS countries complement each other while India and China are the largest consumer of energy Russia and Brazil are happened to the largest energy producers.

BRICS countries have stepped up student mobility not just among themselves but also in providing opportunities for their students to seek quality educa-

qualifications and the transmission of credits between contributing institutions. The efficient use of global standard-setting instruments and experiences frameworks is crucial to ensuring quality in cross-border higher education and coherence across bilateral and multi-lateral efforts to increase student mobility.

BRICS is also making use of UNESCO-backed regional conventions on recognition of degrees and other academic qualifications in higher education. In order to build a stronger global presence in cross-border education, BRICS countries have started positioning their universities to open branches overseas and to undertake international exchanges. In this regard, in the last few years China has elevated the number and quality of its Confucius Institutes that are the conveyors of Chinese language and culture abroad. BRICS countries are also determined to increase international aid to education, in order to build linkages with other developing and emerging countries.



BRICS Performance:

India has played an important role in setting up of the new development bank, The establishment of the bank has not only boosted the development of the five member countries but it also injected fresh driving force into the mechanism leading role in South-South cooperation. Overall exports from India to BRICS soil upswing upto 7.5% in the first quarter of 2018. Over the corresponding period of last year in terms of total volume according to a report by mars clinic one of the leading container shipping company, also for India collaboration with the BRICS is important in terms of addressing its food and energy security matters and fighting terrorism.

While there is no doubt that BRICS have made progress in higher education, there are still many obstacles to their ambition to achieve world-class status. The BRICS countries will need to focus sharply on the quality and equity of education in the quest for academic excellence in higher education. So far, many South African students are lagging behind in numeracy and literary skills, while India's success in expanding access to education risks being undermined by inadequate education infrastructure and poor teaching.

Even though education is compulsory in Brazil



until the age of 17, statistics show that most children do not progress beyond lower secondary school, denying them access to higher education and the skills needed for decent jobs and labour productivity. The BRICS countries are also confronted with deepening disparities in the quality of schooling at all levels, especially between rural and urban areas and in schools serving poor households.

To Conclude:

BRICS countries have the potency to meaningfully increase the profile of education in intergovernmental fora such as the United Nations, the G20 and regional meetings – and hence catalyse superior political and financial support for education. In specific, by defending the Muscat Agreement, which suggests a global goal and aims for education post-2015, BRICS could play a vital role in safeguarding a strong promise to education in the future growth agenda. With BRICS leaders confirming that the development program beyond 2020 should safeguard reasonable, comprehensive and excellence education and lifetime learning for all.

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