



Central Government Schemes for Indian Higher Education:

A brief study

Mrs. Sunena

Research Scholar (Commerce) at OSGU, Hisar

E-mail Id: sunaina.jain112@gmail.com

Dr. Kuldeep Singh

Dean, School of Commerce and Management, OSGU, Hisar

E-mail Id: deanscm@osgu.ac.in

ABSTRACT

Government funding in form of different schemes works as the backbone for the education sector specially for the government education institutes who are totally depends upon the funding and schemes of the government. So this study is focused on the review of different schemes of the Indian government for the development of higher education and its students. Quantitative data of FY 2022-23 to 2024-25 related to the funds allocation by central government to higher education department, budget allocation to the different autonomous institution like UGC, IITs, Deemed Universities etc under different scheme included in the study which is taken from different budget report, govt. budget website etc. Brief explanation of some important scheme is the part of the research paper. Study also included the data during the period of 2015-16 to 2021-22 regarding status of different universities and higher education institutions. The study revealed that funding in government scheme is continuously increased by the central government. No. of universities and colleges are also increasing at large scale.

Keywords : Higher Education, Government Schemes, Universities, Colleges, Central Government



INTRODUCTION

“If the people get actual calmness on the earth, they have to start their children educated”.

Mahatma Gandhi (Father of India)

“Education is the key that unlocks the golden door to freedom.”

George Washington Carver

In the domain of education sector, higher education plays a important role in societal development and knowledge diffusion. The fund which is providing by government to the different educational institutions is not just a statistical data but it is insightful mirror of the socio economic advancement and educational modal of India. India a country dedicated to academic success is at the forefront of singular interaction. Indian education ranked at 33rd position at world Level according to the survey conducted in 2020. Indian education has been developing as it got the 35th rank in 2019 and got 40th rank in 2018. The educational environment underwent are unparalleled shift in the years following World War 2. What was formerly exclusive to developed countries quickly spread throughout the world. Determining the driving force behind this globalization of education is a conceptual quest and cross decades and continents.

India is a developing country and has the economical difference and disparities in most of the part of country. Education can have the capability to fill this unequal gap. With the help of the education it may possible for the poor and marginal people to come out from their poverty, unemployment, unequal wealth distribution. To provide economical education to all stakeholders, government came with different strategies for financing higher education for their development. Some of the schemes are related to encouraging girls students to enroll themselves for higher education (like no fee for girls students in govt. colleges and universities, scholarship for single girl child etc.), up gradation of educational institutes, for inclusive education or all types of students regardless to their category, capabilities for employment generation, provide technical education, to make Indian higher education of the global level, to foster the research development by providing project funds and fellowship to the researcher, collaboration of research with the academics. Funds can be provide by either central government or state government or by both with sharing funds in predetermined ratio. So many renowned IIT, IIM, AIMS, NITS, central universities, state universities, government colleges has been establishment and developed with the help of government funds. Many of these institutions may have national and international status in the education sector of global level.



Government also setup various agencies like UGC (for framing policies for higher education, NAAC (for the accreditation and assessment of higher education institutes), NBA (for accreditation of technical education), NIRF (Ranking the institutes), AISHE (for collecting data from all higher education institutes and present in form of report which is helpful for the government to frame policies and deciding about distribution of funds among institutes). Government also has the different apprenticeship training scheme under the Apprenticeship Act 1961 for developing skills of the students. There is a mandate provision of providing stipend to the trainees during training period by the employer. This act has a compulsory obligation on the employer specified by the government to engage a specific no. of apprentices.

Cost of education provided by the private sector is too much high and it is not possible for all students to afford education from private sector. So with the way of establishing many government institutions with minimum fee structure funded them for their development and growth make easy to all capable students to get the education. “Many develop countries allocate 25% of their higher education budget on scholarship scheme” (Goksu, 2015).

ROLE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Central government of India has the distinct Constitutionnel power of higher education system. Education is included within the 'Concurrent List' of Union Government. Central Universities can be established by an Parliament Act. At the Centre level, Ministry of Education handles the higher education system. Therefore, central government have the power to frame policies, making guidelines and regulating higher education institutions. In addition to it, central government also has the responsibilities to set up Central level universities, providing funds to University Grant Commission (UGC) etc. Since 2015, education budget of Indian government lies between 4.1% to 4.6%. This alignment to allocation of budget is according to the International benchmark which is set up by ‘Education 2030 framework for action’. Government also announced that students can take loan upto of Rs. 10, 00,000 for their higher education studies from Indian institutes only.

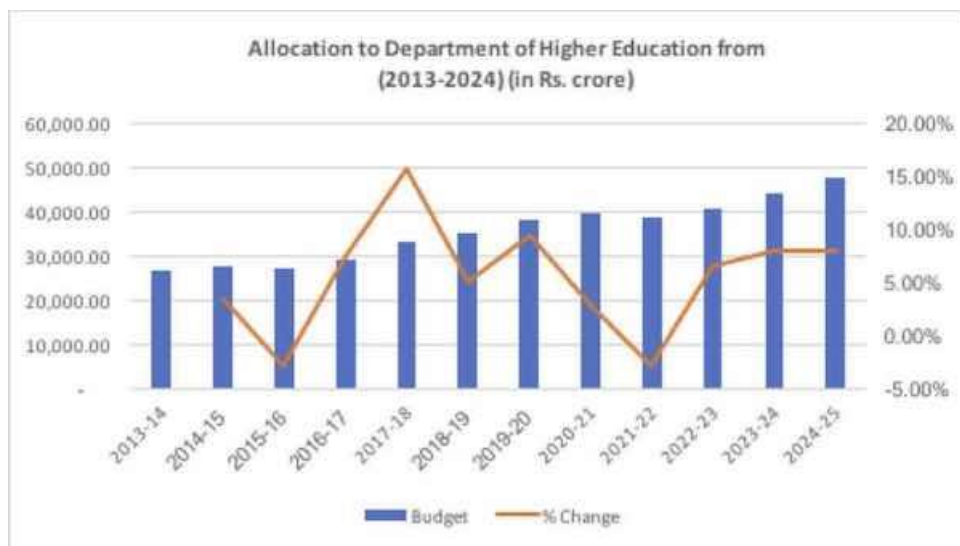


**Table 1: Budget allocation by Central Govt. to the Higher Education
(2022-23 to 2024-25)**

Year	Total amount	For Scheme Allocation	For Non Scheme Allocation
2022-23	Rs. 40828.35 Cr	Rs. 7454.97 cr	Rs. 33337.38 cr
2023-24	Rs. 44094.62 Cr. (8%) increase from FY 2022-23)	Rs. 6468.03 cr.	Rs. 37626.59 cr.
2024-25	Rs. 47619.77 Cr (7.99%) increase from FY 2023-24)	Rs. 7487.87 cr	Rs. 40131.90 cr.

Source: https://www.cprgindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Demands-for-Grants-2023-24-of-the-Department-of-Higher-Education_removed.pdf

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Source: Indiabudget.gov

After analysis the data given in table 1, the amount given to the higher education sector is continuously increases at the rate of 8% from FY 2022-23 to 2024-24,. This shows that government increase their focus of higher education development by providing more and more funds.

**Table 2 Funds allocated to the Autonomous bodies in the financial year****2022-23 to 2024-25**

Autonomous Bodies	2022-23 (RE) (Rs. In Cr.)	2023-24 (BE) (Rs. In Cr.)	2024-25 (BE) (Rs. In Cr.)
UGC		17473	19024
Deemed Universities		500	596
Central Universities	11091.15	11614	15928.00
IITs	9345.00	9661.5	10202.5
NITs	4444	4820.6	5040
IISER	487.52	560	1540

Source: https://www.cprgindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Demands-for-Grants-2023-24-of-the-Department-of-Higher-Education_removed.pdf

Table 2 reflect the data related to the allocation of funds to the autonomous bodies of higher education for the FY 2022-23 to 2024-25. This shows that funds allocated to all autonomous bodies present in table 2 are increasing than their previous years.

STATE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

State universities are setup by state legislative act. State Government provides finance for development and maintenance of the educational institutions, setup new state level educational institutions (universities, schools, and colleges), recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff etc. "Constitutional laws permits to the higher education institutes to discuss and share their responsibilities with the central government and their respective state governments" (Yeravdekar & Tiwari, 2016). As per AISHE Report 2021-22, in Haryana, total no. of colleges were 1090 which is 2.4% of total colleges established in India (253 Government colleges, 133 government aided colleges and 703 private colleges) and 56 universities which is 4.79% of total Indian universities are providing higher education to students in Haryana state. There is 1104532 students registered for higher education in Haryana as compare 43268181 registered students in all higher education institute of India. In Haryana, 2.55% students enroll for higher education as compare to all higher education students of India.

**List of schemes launched by Haryana Government for higher education students**

1. Consolidated Stipend Scheme for the Welfare of Scheduled Caste Students pursuing Higher Education in Government Colleges of Haryana.
2. Haryana State merit scholarship to U.G. Girls Students
3. Haryana State Meritorious incentive scheme for the students who attain first position in CBSE annual Exams in the State
4. Haryana State Meritorious incentive scheme Scholarship
5. Lower Income Group Non Plan
6. Providing free books to SC students of Govt Colleges
7. State Merit Scholarship
8. Stipend Scheme for the Welfare of Grand Children of Freedom Fighters

STATUS OF INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES**Table 3 Indian Universities registered on AISHE Portal from 2015-16 to 2021-22**

Name of University	Registered on AISHE Portal 2015-16	Registered on AISHE Portal 2016-17	Registered on AISHE Portal 2017-18	Registered on AISHE Portal 2018-19	Registered on AISHE Portal 2019-20	Registered on AISHE Portal 2020-21	Registered on AISHE Portal 2021-22	%age from 2015-16 to 2021-22
Central Open University	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Central University	43	44	45	46	48	51	53	23.26
State Public University	329	345	351	371	386	403	423	28.57
State Private Open University	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0



State Private University	197	233	262	304	327	365	391	98.48
State Open University	13	13	14	14	14	14	16	23.08
Institute under State Legislative Act	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	20
Government Aided Deemed University	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	-9.09
Government Deemed University	32	33	33	34	36	34	33	3.13
Institute of National Importance	75	100	101	127	135	149	153	104
Private Deemed University	79	79	80	80	80	80	81	2.54
Total	786	864	903	993	1043	1113	1168	48.60

Source: AISHE.gov.in

Table 3 shows the data of different Indian universities from the period **2015-16 to 2021-22**. There is no new establishment of Central Open University & State Private Open University since 2015. Till now there is only 1 Central Open University named Indira Gandhi Open University (IGNOU) established in 1985 for access distance learning in higher education and 1 State Private Open University. Data of Central University shows that there is 23.26% increment in central universities.



It was 43 in 2015-16 and no. is 53 in 2021-22. As per data of table 3, there is tremendous increase in state private universities that is 98.48% which is very good. State public universities are also increase from 329 to 423 which is 28.57% during the study period. Other universities also increase to provide higher education but very low increase shown by table. The total no. of universities in 2015-16 was 786 which is 1168 in 2021-22.

**Table 4 Status of Higher Education Institutions listed on AISHE Portal
From 2015-16 to 2021-22**

	Registered on AISHE Portal 2015-16	Registered on AISHE Portal 2016-17	Registered on AISHE Portal 2017-18	Registered on AISHE Portal 2018-19	Registered on AISHE Portal 2019-20	Registered on AISHE Portal 2020-21	Registered on AISHE Portal 2021-22	%age increase from 2015-16 to 2021-22
University	786	864	903	993	1043	1113	1168	48.60
Colleges	39071	40026	39050	39931	42343	43796	45473	16.39 16.385 5516.38555
Standalone	11923	11669	10011	10725	11779	11296	12002	0.66

Source: AISHE.gov.in

Table 4 depicts the data of higher education institution including universities, colleges and standalone institutions. As per table, universities grows from 48.6% , colleges set up rate is 16.39% and standalone set up rate is almost 0% from duration of 2015-16 to 2021-22. This table reflected that Indian higher education has a huge infrastructure for provide education.



LITERATURE REVIEW

Vaishnavi, S. (2024) studied of Central Government Schemes in Indian Higher Education: A Comprehensive Analysis of Impact, Quality, and Assessment Methodologies. The main focus of researcher was on influence of Central scheme on GER (Gross Enrollment Ratio). She took mainly 3 initiative agencies like Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan , Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and Higher Education Commission of India. After analysing various report , literature reviews she found that these agencies are very helpful in fulfilling the gap of students enrollment and also develop skilled manpower for the country. Borthakur et al. (2024) studied on Higher Education Landscape in India: Government Expenditure and Its Implications on Growth and Access. Ponder explored about higher education growth after post reform period. Statistical tools like regression analysis, multiple linear model. Ponder revealed that higher education has the drastic growth during the survey period.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Education is the back born of any nation's development. Effective higher education makes the human being skilled, innovative, and talented. Education is most important for the development of any country and its people. Without the government financial support and help, it is not possible to spread the education at all level of society. To provide the best and economical education, for the development of education sector, to incorporate latest and modern technologies, to foster research and development, to build world class educational infrastructure, inclusive education for deprived section of society. Government provide funds to different educational institutional in forms of grants, aids, scholarships, research development funds etc. So in this research, ponder try to analysis the various scheme that is provided by the government of India for the development of Higher Education. Also research focus on the data analysis related to the various types of universities, colleges and standalones and Enrollment of National and Foreign Students in Undergraduate Courses, Postgraduate Courses and total of all courses of Haryana and India (2021-22) to check the performance of the higher education of India.



OBJECTIVE

1. To understand about the role of central and state government in the development of Higher education.
2. To analysis various registered Universities, colleges and standalones from 2015-16 to 2021-22.
3. To know about different government scheme for boosting the higher education sector of India

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper is purely apply secondary data which is available on AISHE portal, govt. websites, reports, Times of India, The Hindustan times, research paper, journals, department of higher education, Haryana, higher education department, India, Budget report etc only the relevant data regarding the research has been extracted from these.

SCHEMES LAUNCHED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES

Indian Govt. Launched numerous scheme for institutes of higher education with a objective to increase quality, access and relevance of higher education system. The aim of designing this scheme is to encourage research, skill development, innovation, employment.

Table 6

Funds allocated to the Major Schemes in the financial year 2024-25 (Rs. In Crore)	
Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) currently known as RUSA	1814.94
Institutions of Eminence(IOE)	1800
Pradhan Mantri Uchhatar Shiksha Protsahan Yojna	1558
National Apprenticeship Training Scheme	600
National Mission in Education through ICT	480
Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education	200
Establishment of 3 Centers of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI)	255

Source: https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/PIB2036125.

Details of some **important schemes** are:

EQUIP (Education Quality Up gradation and Inclusion Program): As per the directions given by the Prime Minister , higher education department launched a 5 year plan called as Education



Quality Up gradation and Inclusion Program (EQUIP) for the period 2019-24 with a vision to increase get to, quality, employment, incorporation, fabulousness. The 10 members expert committee set the 10 critical areas (goals) for higher education institutions. Some of them are :

- Education quality should be as per global norms.
- GER and employment should be double.
- In the area of knowledge creation, institutions should focus on R&D for getting Top 3 position in the global education world.
- Promote Indian education as a world level higher education hub.
- EQUIP was designed as the execution plan for NEP and also fill the gap between plan and its execution. The was mainly funded by Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA).

Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India (TEQIP):

This programme was launched by the Indian Govt. in 2002 with the purpose supporting the efforts to increase the technical educational institutions quality. TEQIP was conceived in compatibility of the National Approach on education 1986 (Changed 1992) with a objective to make exclusive and strides standard of specialized instruction as well as improve already existing capacities of the teachers to ended up energetic, request driven, quality cognizant, productive and looking ahead, responsive to fast financial and mechanical improvements happening at national as well as worldwide levels. This project was funded by World Bank. This project was framed as long run plan which will be executed in three phases with in the period of 10-12 years.

Institute of Eminence (IoE): Institutions of Eminence project was reported by Mr. Arun Jatley (Finance Minister) in 2016 budget speech and has been setup by the UGC in year 2017 to allow and assist HEI's to become global level teaching as well as research organizations. It is a remembrance status which allow greater autonomy at management and educational level, grant more opportunities to alliance with world class universities. The main purpose of IoE is to recognize the 10 private and 10 public institutions which can provide the high class education at economical cost to the normal people of India. Financial help up to Rs. 1000 crore can be given to public institutions but no grant is given to private institutions. Funds grants to IoE in FY 2023-24 is 1500 cr. and in 2024-25 is Rs.1800 Cr.



As per the UGC updates, the list of **Institute of Eminence** are give below:

List of 8 Public Institution having the status of Institute of Eminence

Serial Number	IoE Name	Notification date
1	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay	11/10/2018
2	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	11/10/2018
3	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	11/10/2018
4	University of Hyderabad	17/02/2020
5	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras	17/02/2020
6	Banaras Hindu University	17/02/2020
7	Indian Institute of Technology , Kharagpur	20/02/2020
8	University of Delhi	02/03/2020

Source: <https://ioe.ugc.ac.in/Home/ListofIOE>

List of Private Institution having the status of Institute of Eminence

Serial Number	IoE Name	Notification date
1	Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani	14/10/2020
2	Manipal Academy of Higher Education	14/10/2020
3	O.P.Jindal Global University	04/11/2020
4	Shiv Nadar (Institute of Eminence Deeded to be University)	03/08/2022

Source: <https://ioe.ugc.ac.in/Home/ListofIOE>



PMRF (Prime Minister's Research Fellows): This programme has been planned for upgrade the standard of research and innovation on different HEI's within India. With appealing cooperation's, the project seeks to pull in the most excellent ability into investigate subsequently realizing the aim of advancement through advancement. The plot was reported within the Budget Discourse 2018-19 and recruitment of eligible candidates from renowned universities, IITs, IISER and IISc was started in May 2019. According to the Indian Government Ministry of Education, total 38 institutes getting the benefit of Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme. Research scholars are also facilitates as Monthly stipend around 70000-80000, research grant can be up to Rs. 2 lakh per year given as research expenditure under this scheme

The main objective of PMRF is to:

1. Fascinate and give financial help to the Ph.D. candidate of the S&T (Science and technology).
2. Enhance the research facilities in Universities and research institution of Nation.

SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration)

Education Ministry launched the programme named as Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration by HRD Minister, Sh. Prakash Javadekar in Aug. 2018. For the implementation of this scheme, IIT, Kharagpur appointed as Nodal Institute. SPARC points at making strides the investigate environment of India's higher instructive teach by encouraging scholastic and investigate partnership between Indian educate and the finest teach within the global from selected 28 nations to together unravel issues of national and worldwide pertinence within the to begin with stage. Beneath this Plot, 600 joint inquire about proposition will be granted for 2 a long time to encourage inquire about partnership between Indian investigate bunches with the most excellent in class workforce and famous inquire about bunches within the driving colleges of the world, in regions that are at the trimming border of science or with coordinate social pertinence to the people, particularly India.

Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA): Ministry of HRD was started Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan in 2013 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The main objective of the RUSA is to disbursed the funds to the qualified state government higher instructive organization to get the target of equitableness, brilliance and access. Funds allocated by central Govt. of Rs. 1554cr. in Fy 2023-24 and Rs.1814.94 Cr in financial year 2024-25



Route of fund distribution

Central Government——State Government /Union Territories (Higher Education Institution)——
—— Particular Higher Education Institution.

The **Central and states financing** in RUSA:

- For States of common category (60% proportion of central government and 40% proportion of state government)
- For States of uncommon category (central government proportion is 90% and state government proportion is 10%)
- For union territories (within the proportion of 100: 00)

Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA): This program having a collaboration between Canara Bank and Ministry Of Education, Government of India with share in capital of 9.09% and 90.91% respectively.. It was setup on 31/05/2017 and enlisted as a Union Govt. company beneath Area 8 [Non-profit organization] beneath the Companies Act 2013. It provides funds to the leading education institutions of India for the development of research and development facilities, educational framework and in this manner empowering the higher education to reach at upper level rankings at universally.

Sanction and disbursement of funds under Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) as on 31/03/2024

Category	Sanctioned Amount	Disbursed Amount	No. of Institutions
IIT's	16893.34	7676.08	22
AIIMS & MoHFW	8588.33	4548.08	12
NIT's	3456.85	1874.33	17
IIM's	2907.68	2505.24	7
Central Univ.	5119.26	2612.11	30
Others	2754.29	752.43	15
TOTAL	39719.75	19968.26	103

Source: <https://hefa.co.in/about-us/>



National Institutional Ranking Framework

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was setup on 29th September 2015 by the MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) and propelled by respectable Minister of HRD. This system traces a strategy to give rank to the institutions working in India. The main framework largely cover under NIRF are:

- Inclusivity and Outreac
- “Proficient Practices and Research,
- Penetration
- Teaching, Learning and Resources
- Outcomes of Graduation students

Source: <https://www.nirfindia.org/Home/India>

Overall Ranking of NIRFin 2024:

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras got 1st rank by getting 86.42 score
2. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru got 2nd rank by getting 83.2 score.
3. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay got 3rd rank by getting 81.37 score.

Source: <https://www.nirfindia.org/Rankings/2024/OverallRanking.html>

NIRF Ranking at the University level in 2024:

1. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru got 1st rank by getting 83.2 score.
2. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi got 2nd rank by getting 69.8 score.
3. Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi got 3rd rank by getting 68.11 score.

Source: <https://www.nirfindia.org/Rankings/2024/UniversityRanking.html>

NIRF Ranking at the College level in 2024:

1. Hindu College, Delhi got 1st rank by getting 74.47 score.
2. Miranda House, Delhi got 2nd rank by getting 73.22 score.
3. St. Stephens's College, Delhi got 3rd rank by getting 72.97 score.

Source: <https://www.nirfindia.org/Rankings/2024/CollegeRanking.html>

National Educational Alliance for Technology:



Ministry of Education had declared project named as National Educational Alliance for Technology in September 2019 as PP (Public-Private) collaboration allying education Innovation organizations and Govt. of India. It acted as a executive agency. The main objective of NEAT to fill the gap between students, educational institutions and technology based companies at one platform by providing solutions related to technology through AI. For weaker class of Community, this scheme having seats with no fee for already registered students of their higher studies. the seats with no fee will be given on the basis of students data shared by the Indian education institutions and the admission processing done on NEAT web portal. Amid the primary stage, the entrance would be propelled as a pilot stage in AICTE endorsed Government Colleges of India as it were.

National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)

“Bridging the Skill Gap through On-the-job Training”

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister, Government of India

“Building Skilling Ecosystem by cultivating a Growth Mindset”

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Education Minister, Govt. of India

Scheme named as The National Apprenticeship Training may be a 1 year program preparing actually eligible youth having ground level information and aptitudes required in their work field. The training has been given to the apprentices at their own work premises by the companies. Allocation of funds to the NATS in FY 2022-23 is of Rs. 440 cr., in 2023-24 is of Rs. 440 cr and in FY 2024-25 is Rs. 600 Cr.



Details of National Apprenticeship Training scheme for 2024-25

Establishment Registered	915
Students Registered	170438
Seat Available for Apprentice	130869
Apprentice Engaged	89088
Stipend Distributed through DBT	Rs. 49.8 Cr.

Source: <https://nats.education.gov.in>

Conclusion:

Schemes launched by central government for students of higher education plays a life changing role to attain their career and academic goals. The main purpose of these scheme is to provide economic support to the students who come from different socioeconomic background so that financial issues do not hamper them in getting the quality education while promoting innovative and unbiased education in education sector. To obtain the maximum benefits of the schemes, it is essential to create awareness among the students; implementation process should be well organized and continues evaluation of these schemes should be done to notify the current challenges which prevail in the higher education.



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