



India-Africa Higher Education and Skill Development Summit **26 – 27 August 2019: New Delhi, India**

Concept Note

1. Introduction

According to a report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa or UNECA, the African Union and the African Development, universities in Africa are producing graduates who are not well prepared for the workforce while laboratories are not well equipped to produce top-notch cadres in science, technology, engineering and mathematics – STEM – disciplines. The central thesis is that Africa urgently needs to recognise the need for higher education reforms that will generate a high-quality pool of graduates in STEM disciplines for which it is looking up to India to draw some lessons.

India ranks among the top five destinations for African students for higher education. While the Africa requires more resources — both human and financial — to meet the targets of individual countries in education, Indian higher education system has both, which when twinned can create a win-win for both the sides. African countries can adapt India's experience in developing policies designed to build a strong educational infrastructure able to increase skills and learning competencies – and should emulate India's example in increasing spending on high quality tertiary education.

India's experience suggests that African countries should encourage a bottom-up, location-specific approach to skills development, where the policy framework encourages innovations to meet local needs and local development priorities. Africa could also draw lessons from India's massive expansion of tertiary education, which generated a human capital base with highly developed STEM expertise that allows export of scientists and technologists.

The Indian Government spends roughly 4 per cent of its GDP on education, out of which nearly 70 per cent goes towards meeting the requirements of school education -- Right to Education (free and compulsory for children between 6 and 14 years of age) is now a fundamental right — higher education enrolments have recently increased to 24 per cent. The Government target is to take the gross enrolment ratio in higher education to 30 per cent by 2022. More than 60 per cent of Indian higher education system is funded by the private sector. There are over 800 universities and 45,000 colleges in India.

As per the report by Association of Indian Universities released last year, of all the regions in Africa, the largest proportion (49.25%) of students came from the Eastern Africa followed by the Western Africa (26.48%) and Northern Africa (11.62%) The Middle and Southern Africa accounts for 9.52 and 3.13 percent of the total African students studying in India.



2. India as Global Higher Education Hub

Private sector owns nearly 200 university and university-level institutions in India, plus roughly 30,000 colleges which includes both degree and diploma-granting colleges. While the private players function within a strict regulatory environment, they are more open and active in engaging with others and are constantly striving to increase their linkages with both internal and external agencies. Presence of high quality public sector institutes also adds to the overall appeal of the Indian higher education system to students in other countries. The number of overseas students coming to India for higher studies has been increasing steadily over the years and the recent rupee devaluation is expected to make India even more attractive for foreign students.

3. Education in Africa

Universities in Africa are generators of development and of modernization in practically every sense of the word, even if higher education in Africa is poorly developed and is faced with serious problems. Education enrolment rates in many African countries are low. Schools often lack basic facilities which includes teaching aides and textbooks. Universities suffer from overcrowding and staff is frequently lured away by Western countries for higher pay and better conditions. Hence the student-teacher ratio is generally very high.

Various initiatives for redressing the situation are proposed including those of NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa's Development. In targeted areas, such as the development of the information technologies, international initiatives are sorely needed. Various initiatives are being undertaken for encouraging networking between different higher education institutions in Africa and in other continents to pool their resources.

4. India-Africa Partnership in Higher Education

In many ways the problems in Africa, as far as education is concerned, are similar to those in India though there is a difference in scale and magnitude. Which is why India is in a position to understand and provide solutions to some of the problems that exist in Africa in the field of higher education. At the same time, it can benefit from joint research with top African institutes and create partnerships which are beneficial for both the sides. Faculty exchange, student exchange, student enrolments, faculty development programmes and joint research are possible areas of collaboration between India and Africa.

Currently some 25,000 Africans students are studying in 500 public and private universities across India according to Association for African Students in India. The numbers should grow in future with increased cooperation between India and Africa. The fact that India has a reputable, older and more developed higher education sector is also likely to be magnet to students.



India remains among the top five destinations for African students travelling abroad for higher education. Students who have studied in India are now pursuing successful careers in fields like government, management, academic and scientific research, law, IT and accounting.

Indian Universities are promoting and marketing popular bachelor's degree in commerce, engineering, information and communication technology, health sciences, including nursing, and law among others.

5. Purpose of the Forum

The forum will provide an opportunity for Indian Education providers to interact with leaders from African Government, civil society, and the private sector, university to meet and discuss on specific projects for collaboration in the education sector. The forum aims to showcase the world class education services, skill development, and entrepreneurship. The meet will also provide platform for African countries to showcase the investment opportunities in the education and related sectors to the potential investors who will attend the event.

The India Africa Higher Education & Skill Development Summit will provide a platform for Indian industry / academia to reach out to industry / academia / students on the other side.

Following are likely to benefit from the deliberations and interaction

- Government Officials
- Professionals in field of education & education marketing
- Learning manager & corporate trainers
- Students from secondary schools, colleges & universities
- Parents, teachers & guardians of aspiring students
- Professional associations & trade organizations.

6. Key elements of the India Africa Higher Education & Skill Development Summit

- One and a half days Conference
- Two days Exposition
- Ministerial Delegations from Africa
- Government & Business Delegations
- Participation of Heads of Indian Universities, Colleges and Training Institutes
- B2G & B2B Meetings

7. Objective of the Summit

- Explore the possibilities of establishing quality, publicly funded colleges and universities of higher and technical education, modelled on the Indian institutes of technology and of science, with Indian collaboration.



Ministry of Commerce and Industry,
Government of India



Confederation of Indian Industry

- Developing and preparing of curriculum
- Semester Exchange programmes for African students in India
- Knowledge partnerships especially in technical training with the private sector to strengthen curricula and research to make the graduates employable
- Explore training for African students by Indian Companies doing business in Africa with a focus on providing employment.
- Opportunities for African students to take up innovative courses offered by Indian Universities

8. Focus Countries

- Kenya
- South Africa
- Nigeria
- D R Congo
- Ghana
- Mauritius
- Rwanda
- Sudan
- Ethiopia
- Tanzania

9. Target Participants

- Higher Education and Skill Development Ministers from Africa
- Senior Government officials from India and Africa
- Heads of agencies relating to Higher Education and Skill Development
- Educationists, Vice Chancellors, Directors from Universities, Institutes, Colleges
- Heads of Skill Development institutes / organisations
- Senior representatives from Industry