

## A Study of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education

**Dr. Sangramsing V. Nalawade**, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Accountancy  
Amdar Shashikant Shinde Mahavidyalaya, Medha (MH)

Email- [sangramsinh101@gmail.com](mailto:sangramsinh101@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** The aim of present research paper is to observe Higher Education Ratio in different states and union territories of India. Secondary data is collected through Reports of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE). The main aim of present study is to observe GER of higher education in different states. Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education shows enrolment of 18-23 age group of male and female students in higher education studies. Data revealed that GER of All India increased from 25.2% in 2016-17 to 27.3% in 2020-21. Tamil Nadu has the highest GER (46.9%) and Bihar (15.9%) has the lowest GER among all states. Female GER was 1.1% more than the male GER in 2020-21. India's GER 27.3% shows Indian higher education system is mass system.

**Key Words:** Higher Education, GER, Students, enrollment.

**Introduction:** In the last two decades, the higher education system all over world has witnessed many reforms and transformations. Indian education system is world's second largest education system. According to the report of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2020-21, there are 1113 Universities, 43796 Colleges and 11296 standalone institutions in India. The total enrolment in higher education in 2020-21 was 4.13 crore of which 2.12 crore (51.3%) was male students and 2.01 crore (48.7%) was female students. The increasing number of higher education institutes like colleges and universities provides greater access to the students to the post higher secondary education. Gross Enrolment is a statistical tool used to measure students' enrolment in education. GER in higher education indicates eligible students of 18-23 age groups enrolled in higher education. GER is the only and widely accepted indicator for measuring access to higher education. India's National Education policy aims to increase GER in higher education by at least 50% till the year 2035.

Development of higher education system is classified under three stages based on the level of enrolment. Less than 15% GER in higher education system is considered as elite system where access to higher education is limited and seen as a privilege. When the GER is between 15% to 50%, the higher education system is a mass system where higher education is seen as a right for those who are formally qualified for entering into higher education. GER above 50% considered as universal system showing higher education is an obligation of the state and well-articulated into its public policy.

### **Objective of the Study:**

To observe Gross Enrollment Ratio of higher education in different states of India

To study and compare Gross Enrollment Ratio of higher education of Indian States

### **Research Methodology:**

Descriptive method is used for conducting present study. Secondary data is used for quantitative analysis. Secondary data available through various survey reports is used for present study.

### **Limitations of the Study:**

Present Study is based on secondary data.

The present study is limited to only five years.

### **Review of Literature:**

C. Neelaveni and S. Manimaran (2014) observed the increased effectiveness of higher educational institutions in India and its competitiveness. He concludes that academic autonomy to potential institutes would leads to be more creative and innovative. And at the same facilitating infrastructural needs and enhancing quality and standards as per demand of students meet global competition of higher education. Komal Rawat

(2020) discussed the dissimilarity in male and female GER and gender inequality in different courses. Study revealed that there is gender disparity in GER for Higher Education. It is suggested that having proper mechanism for the allocation of funds at the state level for girls will enhance girl's share in GER. Younis Ahmad Sheikh (2017) studied the challenges and opportunities in higher education system in India. He discussed that enrollment, equity, quality, infrastructure, political interference, facility etc. are the challenges, whereas using new-age learning tools, collaboration with national and international levels are the opportunities in Indian higher education system.

#### Students Enrollment in Higher Education:

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is a statistical tool to measure the student enrolment in higher education. GER is calculated by dividing the number of students enrolled in higher education out of the total population in the relevant age group of 18- 23 years. Currently population of 18- 23 years age group as per census 2011 and who completed higher secondary education is considered for measuring Gross Enrolment Ratio in India.

Following figures shows students enrollment in higher education:

- In 2020-21 total 4.13 crore students was enrolled in higher education and in 2019-20 it was 3.85 crore, it shows increase of 28.80 lakh in one year.
- In the year 2020-21 2.12 crore (51.3%) male students and 2.01 crore (48.7%) female students were enrolled in Higher Education.
- Total 4.13 crore students were enrolled in 2020-21, out of which 14.2% students belong to Scheduled Castes, 5.8% belong to Scheduled Tribes, 35.8% are from Other Backward Classes and remaining 44.2% students are from other communities.
- The growth in enrolment of Scheduled Caste students in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20 is 4.2%, and Scheduled Tribes is 11.9%.
- In the year 2020-21 undergraduate level, enrolment is highest in Arts (33.5%), followed by Science (15.5%), Commerce (13.9%) and Engineering & Technology (11.9%).
- Total number of foreign students enrolled in higher education is 48,035. The foreign students have come from 163 different countries.

**Table No. 1 Gross Enrollment Ratio in Different States of India**

Sr. No.	State	Higher Education Ratio (HER)				
		2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
1	Andaman & Nicobar	24.3	20.0	23.2	21.8	22.8
2	Andhra Pradesh	37.2	35.2	32.4	30.9	32.4
3	Arunachal Pradesh	33.7	35.4	29.7	29.7	28.9
4	Assam	17.5	17.3	18.7	18.2	17.2
5	Bihar	15.9	14.5	13.5	13.0	14.4
6	Chandigarh	66.1	52.1	50.6	56.4	56.1
7	Chhattisgarh	19.6	18.5	18.6	18.4	16.1
8	Delhi	47.6	48.0	46.3	46.3	45.3
9	Goa	33.8	28.4	30.1	28.0	28.1
10	Gujarat	22.2	21.3	20.4	20.1	20.2
11	Haryana	31.1	29.3	29.2	28.7	29.0
12	Himachal Pradesh	38.7	40.8	39.6	37.9	36.7
13	Jammu and Kashmir	25.0	32.4	30.9	27.7	25.6
14	Jharkhand	17.0	20.9	19.1	18.0	17.7
15	Karnataka	36.0	32.0	28.8	27.8	26.5
16	Kerala	43.2	38.8	37.0	36.2	34.2

17	Ladakh	8.4	7.9	--	--	--
18	Lakshadweep	7.2	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.3
19	Madhya Pradesh	27.1	24.2	21.5	21.2	20.0
20	Maharashtra	34.9	32.3	32.0	31.1	30.2
21	Manipur	37.8	38.3	33.7	31.8	35.0
22	Meghalaya	25.8	26.1	25.8	24.7	23.5
23	Mizoram	26.8	26.1	25.7	22.9	24.5
24	Nagaland	17.3	18.5	18.7	17.8	16.6
25	Odisha	20.7	21.7	22.1	22.0	21.0
26	Puducherry	60.8	46.3	46.4	45.4	43.1
27	Punjab	26.3	28.2	29.5	30.3	28.6
28	Rajasthan	26.1	24.1	23.0	21.7	20.5
29	Sikkim	39.9	75.8	53.9	37.4	37.3
30	Tamil Nadu	46.9	51.4	49.0	48.6	46.9
31	Telangana	39.1	35.6	36.2	35.7	35.8
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	10.4	15.5	14.8	14.3	14.7
33	Tripura	19.2	20.2	19.2	21.2	19.1
34	Uttar Pradesh	23.2	25.3	25.8	25.9	24.9
35	Uttarakhand	45.7	41.5	39.1	36.3	33.4
36	West Bengal	21.3	19.9	19.3	18.7	18.5
37	<b>All India</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>25.2</b>

(Source: AISHE, Reports from 2016-17 to 2020-21)

Table no. 1 shows gross enrollment ratio in higher education of different states and UT's during 2016-17 to 2020-21. Among all states Tamil Nadu has highest GER; it was 46.9% in 2020-21 and 45.3% in 2016-17. After Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand- 45.7% and Kerala- 43.2% has the highest GER in 2020-21. Among all UT's Chandigarh has highest GER, it was 56.1% in 2016-17 and 66.1% in 2020-21. GER of Chandigarh increased by 10% from 2016-17 to 2020-21. After Chandigarh Puducherry has second highest GER. It was 43.1% in 2016-17 and 60.8% in 2020-21. During the five years GER of Puducherry is increased by 17.7%; which is highest growth of GER among all states and UT's of India. Delhi is the third UT's having 47.6% GER in 2020-21. Lakshadweep has the lowest GER among all states and UT's; it was 7.3% in 2016-17 and 7.2% in 2020-21. Ladakh- 8.4%, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu 10.4%, Bihar has the lowest GER (15.9%), among all states of India.

**Table No. 2 Gender wise Gross Enrollment Ratio in Higher Education**

Sr. No.	Gender	Gross Enrollment Ratio in Higher Education				
		2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
1	Male	26.7	26.9	26.3	26.3	26.0
2	Female	27.9	27.3	26.4	25.4	24.5
3	Total	27.3	27.1	26.3	25.8	25.2

(Source: AISHE, Reports from 2016-17 to 2020-21)

Table no. 2 shows gender wise GER in higher education during the period 2016-17 to 2020-21. In the year 2016-17 male GER was 26.0% which increased to 26.7% in 2020-21. Whereas female GER was 24.5% in the year 2016-17 which increased to 27.9% in the year 2020-21. All India GER increased from 25.2% in the year 2016-17 to 27.3 % in 2020-21. Female GER increased by 3.4% during the five years i.e. from 2016-17 to 2020-21 whereas Male GER increased only 0.7%. The male GER was 1.5% more than the Female GER in 2016-17 (Male GER -26.0% and Female GER 24.5%). But in the year

2020-21 Female GER was 27.9 % and male GER 26.7 which shows female GER was 1.1% more than the male GER.

**Silent points about GER:**

- The national Gross Enrolment Ratio for higher education has increased from 25.2 percent in 2016-17 to 27.3 percent in 2020-21.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education both for male and female showing increasing trend.
- Chandigarh has highest GER of all states and UTs with a value of 66.1% in 2020-21.
- Lakshadweep has lowest GER of all states and UTs with a value of 7.2% in 2020-21.
- Other states and UTs with a high GER in 2020-21 include Puducherry (60.8%), Delhi (47.6%), Tamil Nadu (46.9%) Uttarakhand (45.7%) and Kerala (43.2%).
- Other states and UTs with a low GER in 2020-21 Ladakh (8.4%), Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (10.4%), and Bihar (15.9%).

**Conclusion:**

GER in higher education means students of 18-23 age group registered for higher education studies. This is the young population of any country aiming to achieve for the betterment of a country. In India, the Gross Enrolment Ratio is continuously rising which is a positive sign for the country. Gross Enrolment Ratio of India in higher education has increased from 25.2% in 2016-17 to 27.3% in 2020-21. These figures indicate increasing number of students enrolling in higher education. The male GER was 1.5% more than the female GER in 2016-17 but in 2020-21 female GER was 1.1% more than the Male GER. which shows increasing female enrolment in higher education. Among all states Tami Nadu (46.9%) has highest GER and Bihar has the lowest GER. Among all UT's Chandigarh has consistently maintained a high GER for males and females, with the highest overall GER in 2020-21 at 66.1%. On the other hand Lakshadweep has constant lower GER around 7%. As per criterion of measuring development of higher education system, India's GER 27.3% shows higher education system is mass system. There are 20 states and UT's having low GER than the average GER of India.

**References:**

C. Neelaveni and S. Manimaran (2014), A statistical study on higher educational institutions in India, International Journal of Educational Administration and Policy Studies, Vol. 6(9) pp.190-195.

Komal Rawat (2020), Gender Disparity: A Study of Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher Education Presidency Journal of Management Thought & Research Vol. X, No.2 , July – December 2020 pp. 20-27. Document accessed from, <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347535661>

Younis Ahmad Sheikh (2017), Higher Education in India: Challenges and Opportunities, Journal of education and practice Vol. 8 No. 1 pp. 39-42.

**Reports:** All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2016-17 to 2020-21