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The Indian education sector has been recognized as a Sunrise Sector for investment in the recent past. This recognition stems from the fact that the sector offers a huge untapped market in regulated and unregulated segments due to low literacy rate, high concentration in urban areas and growing per capita income. The government has been proactively playing the role of facilitator in the sector. The higher education sector, owing to its huge potential, holds very promising prospects. With an estimated 150 mn people in the age group of 18-23 years, the sector offers one of the most attractive yet highly complex markets for the private/foreign players. Despite some inherent concerns with respect to choice of entity, not for profit character and foreign investment in formal education space; the industry does offer various innovative businesses, which can be explored for establishing a presence.

India, today, is considered as a talent pool of the world, having qualified and educated human resources in abundance. This has been one of the primary reasons for transformation of India into one of the fastest growing economies in the world since liberalization in the 1990s. As the economist Clark Kerr observed, "On a global scale wealth and prosperity have become more dependent on the access to knowledge than the access to natural resources." India's aspirations to establish a knowledge society in the context of increasing globalization, is based on the assumption that higher and technical education essentially empowers people with the requisite competitive skills and knowledge. It has been realized that it is the quality of education that prepares one for all pursuits of life and in the absence of an acceptable level of quality, higher education becomes a mere formalism devoid of any purpose or substance. As a result, from around the turn of the century, increasing attention has also been paid to quality and excellence in higher education. Post-independence India has witnessed an above average growth in the number of higher educational institutions vis-à-vis its population. While there were just about 20 Universities and 500 Colleges at the time of independence, today these numbers have grown exponentially. A snapshot of the current higher education sector in India is displayed:

- There are 785 Universities, 38056 Colleges and 11922 Stand Alone Institutions.
- A break up of universities is as follows: 267 Universities are privately managed. There are 46 Central Universities, one Central and 13 State Open Universities, 69 Institutes of National Importance, 347 State Public Universities, five Institutes under State Legislature Act, 125 Deemed Universities.
- The top seven states in terms of highest number of colleges in India

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