

Executive Summary

As of March 2020, there were 18 State Public Universities in the State under the administrative control of Higher Education Department of Uttar Pradesh. One hundred seventy government degree colleges, 331 non-government aided colleges and 6,682 self-financed private colleges in the State were affiliated to these Universities. During 2019-20, 90.61 lakh students were enrolled in these Colleges. Higher Education Department spent ₹ 13,848 crore during 2014-20, which was between 0.56 *per cent* (2015-16) and 0.76 *per cent* (2014-15) of total expenditure of the State. This expenditure was 0.15 *per cent* to 0.19 *per cent* of GSDP of the State during 2014-20.

The Performance Audit of Outcomes in Higher Education covering the period 2014-19 was carried out during the year 2019-20 and it was updated for the year 2019-20 in August 2021. Two Universities – Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith Varanasi (MGKV) and University of Lucknow (UoL) along with 10 colleges affiliated with these Universities were selected for detailed examination. The access and equity in higher education along with quality of higher education in the State were assessed. Governance and management issues which are critical for improving all these factors were also assessed. This report aims at identifying the areas that require systemic corrections and improvements.

Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of the State during 2019-20 was lower (25.30 *per cent*) than the all India average (27.10 *per cent*). None of the State University/College was in the top 100 Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) of India. Only 8.47 *per cent* (498 HEIs) of HEIs graded in the State with NAAC grading in 2018-19 were further reduced to 2.60 *per cent* (183 HEIs) in 2019-20. Of these, only 29 HEIs (0.40 *per cent*) were accredited with ‘A’ grading.

Number of State Public Universities, Private Universities and Government and Non-Government Aided Colleges under the administrative control of Higher Education Department was stagnant from 2016-17. However, the number of Self-financed Colleges increased from 5,377 in 2016-17 to 6,682 in 2019-20. Five districts did not have any government degree colleges and another five districts did not have men’s or co-ed government degree colleges. Further, 20 districts did not have either Government or non-government aided girls’ colleges. The enrolment level showed a regular decline from 94.88 lakh students in 2015-16 to 90.61 lakh students in 2019-20. The average enrolment *per* college reduced from 1,830 students in 2015-16 to 1,261 students in 2019-20.

The State did not have any specific policy for opening of universities/colleges. However, a scheme is being implemented in the State for opening new colleges by private management in unserved areas with the criteria that the blocks which do not have any college were to be given priority. Against approval of 90 such

colleges during 2014-17, only 12 got affiliation in different streams of courses of study as of March 2020.

In spite of specific provision given in University Grant Commission (Affiliation of Colleges by University) Regulation, 2009, the test checked Universities (MGKV and UoL) did not approve fees structure for their affiliated private colleges. Audit observed that the fee of regular and self-finance courses charged from the student during 2014-20 by the test checked institutions were varying to a large extent. The tuition fee fixed by the State Government through executive order was not complied with by many higher education institutions test checked in audit.

Audit observed that 73 to 80 *per cent* students in MGKV and 56 to 67 *per cent* students in UoL were benefited from post matric scholarships provided by Social Welfare Department during 2017-20.

During 2019-20, only 29 *per cent* and 17 *per cent* class rooms in MGKV and UoL respectively were ICT enabled. However, libraries of the Universities provided access to e-resources to students.

While implementing National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government did substantial works on designing and development of curriculum and choice-based credit system has been introduced from academic session 2021-22. During 2014-20, the average percentage of programs having focus on employability in MGKV and UoL was only 21 *per cent* and 10 *per cent* respectively.

As against prescribed ratio of 20:1, the Student Teacher Ratio (STR) in government colleges during 2019-20 was 49:1. On average, 19 *per cent* teachers in MGKV and 16 *per cent* teachers in UoL attended training programs during 2014-20.

From 2014-15 to 2019-20 (except during 2018-19), results of different courses were delayed up to 273 days in MGKV. The information related to declaration of results during 2014-17 was not made available to audit by UoL though asked for. As analysed in audit the results during 2017-20 were delayed up to 175 days in UoL.

During 2017-20, very few students (0.15 *per cent*) applied for re-evaluation in MGKV, however, marks of average 90 *per cent* students were increased in re-evaluation. Further, during 2017-20, on an average, marks in 77 *per cent* papers increased in improvement examination of MGKV. In UoL, marks of all students (2,783) increased in improvement examination.

Research projects in MGKV and UoL were completed with delays up to 1,463 days. Some were prematurely closed without any project outcomes. Patents awarded and consultancy given was nil in test checked Universities.

Data of students going for higher education either outside the University or colleges or pursuing the higher education in same University during 2014-20 was not maintained.

Governing Bodies in Universities were not functioning effectively due to vacant seats of members and lack of requisite meetings. Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) was established in MGKV (April 2010) and UoL (December 2016). However, State Level Quality Assurance Cell for monitoring the functioning of IQAC in the colleges was not set up and decision to establish was under consideration (July 2022) at Government level.

As of March 2020, MGKV and UoL have 341 and 171 affiliated colleges scattered across five districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Lucknow district respectively. Out of 28 test-checked Self-Financed Colleges in MGKV, 18 did not fulfil four to 29 *per cent* of criteria for affiliation. The inspection of affiliated colleges was not done. There was extension of temporary affiliation to colleges not having adequate infrastructure. The relaxation of norms for granting affiliation to colleges may affect quality of education.

State Government released its share including central share for development of University and Colleges to State Project Director of *Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan* with delays ranging up to 1,636 days. MGKV and UoL were not self sufficient to meet out their expenditure out of revenue earned by them and were dependent on government grants.

Recommendation 1: *To achieve overall targeted Gross Enrollment Ratio of 40 per cent by 2030 in Uttar Pradesh, the State Government should ensure access to higher education by providing more colleges in districts where there is shortfall.*

Recommendation 2: *To provide quality education in all Colleges the State Government should provide prescribed basic infrastructure in Government Colleges. The Universities should ensure availability of infrastructure and basic facilities in affiliated private colleges.*

Recommendation 3: *In order to make higher education affordable the State Government and the Universities may regulate fee structure of private colleges.*

Recommendation 4: *Timely revision of curriculum may be ensured and courses having focus on employability may be included.*

Recommendation 5: *In order to ensure quality education, the State Government and the Universities should maintain prescribed Student Teacher Ratio in government Colleges and Universities.*

Recommendation 6: *For improvement and continuous development in the performance of teachers for individual and institutional excellence, the State Government and the Universities should conduct relevant professional development programs regularly and ensure that all teachers are imparted training in these programs.*

Recommendation 7: *Examination system and delay in declaration of results should be closely monitored.*

Recommendation 8: *Quality and timeliness of research should be ensured by the Universities/State Government by close monitoring of the projects.*

Recommendation 9: *The State Government/Universities should ensure that placement cell and career counseling cell are set up in all Higher Educational Institutions.*

Recommendation 10: *The Higher Educational Institutions should put in place a robust system of collecting and maintaining data relating to higher studies and placement of students.*

Recommendation 11: *Vacancies in Governing Bodies in the State and the Universities should be filled up on priority basis.*

Recommendation 12: *The Universities should strengthen the affiliation process to ensure that only those colleges which comply with all regulatory requirements are granted affiliation.*