PREFACE

The origin of the present form of Indian higher education is traced back to the year 1857, when the first three universities were established at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. India has been a major seat for learning for centuries. Higher education flourished at Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramshila and Ujjain University in the first millennium. In the post independence period, education became the responsibility of the state as well as the center, through an amendment in the constitution.

Higher education has had a long history in this country, but its achievements have been mixed. While some institutions have been spectacularly successful at the international level, many universities are now languishing due to number of factors. The core mission of higher education is to educate, to train, to undertake research and to provide service to the community. In the context of globalization, the scope and demand for higher education is increasing and the new paradigms involve creation of intellects (and that means promotion of global standards in institutions of higher education) of world standards. And also training of skilled human power at mass level without compromising on quality.

World over, the higher education is passing through an interesting phase due to implementation of GATS. It is changing radically by becoming organically flexible in diversity of programmes, in its structure, in its curricula, in its delivery systems and in adopting itself to clever use of information and communication technologies. The nations are struggling to meet diametrically opposite demands of education with quality and enhancement in number of students who desire to go for higher education. Quality and quantity both ask for better academic and physical infrastructure and greater financial resources.

The coming years are of great significance for the higher education services in India mainly because we will have to take a stand on globalization of Indian higher education with reference to GATS agreement. As India has both the import as well as export interests in higher education, the challenges arising out of GATS agreement need to be addressed in a careful manner.
Higher education can be studied at macro and micro levels. In the context of emerging challenges of higher education under GATS era, some of the issues are studied at micro level. This study systematically analyze the situation prevailing in universities of Gujarat at a time when Indian higher education is going to be made open (in terms of import and export) in GATS era.

(Ashish. K. Makwana)