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Since times immemorial, India has always been a Center of Learning. World class universities & the “Gurukulam” model of imparting education, all have endorsed India’s unequivocal contribution to the cause of education. To meet the global challenges of a changing educational system, educational institutions today are vying to be Centers of Excellence, aiming to develop the overall personality of the student. Towards this end, the health and over all wellbeing of the student is of critical significance. This more humane and holistic vision of health in general and specifically of health on campus has led to significant shifts in the theory and practice of health (in all its dimensions) on campus.

Higher educational institutions / universities provide an ideal “settings based approach” for wellness promotion. Consequently Health Promoting University (HPU) projects have been implemented the world over. The concept of a Health Promoting University means facilitating a whole organizational approach to embed health, well-being and sustainable development into the ethos, culture, policies and daily processes of the University.

It is obvious from the foregoing that health and education are closely interlinked. Academic institutions have a significant role to play in the changing paradigm of health in general and specifically health on campus. Higher education institutions, especially universities offer varying levels of healthcare services, including initiatives for health promotion. Unlike in the West, the concept of a health promoting university is nascent in India. Consequently, awareness and an understanding of the same is fragmented and limited.

Sporadic, isolated and to a certain extent, incoherent (not addressing all dimensions of health) efforts are being undertaken. Further, information and documentation regarding the same is limited. Hence, the current research on healthcare delivery systems of higher / professional educational institutions and the role of the academia in health promotion is exploratory in nature. Hence, an investigative approach necessitating further studies is the need of the hour.
A model of health promotion practiced by academic institutions and near similar to the ones operational internationally is being implemented at the focal institution of the researcher. The researcher aims to compare health care systems at the focal institution of the researcher with those operational at other institutions, nationally. An attempt has also been made to study the healthcare systems on campus of educational institutions, internationally. Such a comparative study would perhaps facilitate evolving a consensus model which could be replicated. Higher educational institutions in India could be sensitized to adopt standards to facilitate global benchmarking. Their collective experiences may subsequently form the basis of a model for national policy formulation. The policy formulation in turn is likely to be the basis of a national consensus for on campus health care systems.