

## Sector briefing

# Education & Skills Opportunities in India

## Why India?

Education, at all levels, is India's biggest economic and social challenge. The Higher education system has emerged as one of the largest in the world in terms of number of institutions as well as student enrolment. However, the education system is bogged down by the fundamental challenges of access, equity and quality. The current resources are unable to meet the challenges and in turn this provides a wide range of opportunities for UK education providers. On the skills side, against a number of 12.8 million workers that annually enter the Indian workforce, the existing capacity of skills development programme in India is 3 million per annum. The Prime Minister has set a target of skilling 500 million by 2022, whereas at present only 2% of the workforce has formal skills training. This again provides opportunities for UK skills providers to work with their Indian counterparts to help India scale-up to meet its skills objective.

Find general information on the Indian market conditions on [UKTI's website](#). The [Doing Business Guide for India](#) gives an overview of India's economy, business culture, potential opportunities and an introduction to other relevant issues.



**“Only 2% of the workforce has formal skills training and the Prime Minister has set a target of skilling 500 million by 2022.”**

## Opportunities

### Higher Education

Over 65% of India's working population is aged 15-30 years. The Indian Higher Education System is enormous and highly diverse. There are 21,107 institutions in the system with over 11.6 million students (this figure is expected to rise to 34 million by 2020). At one end of the spectrum are the prestige institutions. These are mostly public – IITs, IIMs, and a small number of 'central' universities. But there are also a few private institutes, such as the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad. These are typically of very high standard, generously funded and massively oversubscribed. But overall all these institutions account for only a small proportion of the student population.

The share of unaided private higher education institutions in the country grew from 42.6% in 2001 to 63.2% in 2006. Despite this access to the higher education system is currently restricted to a small portion of the society. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in India was 12% in 2007. The Government is keen to increase this to 30% by 2020. In addition to this, the quality of higher education is adversely affected by shortage of faculty and poor infrastructure. This gap in the provision of education offers the following opportunities for education providers from the UK:

#### *Collaboration with Indian Institutes*

These collaborations could be for joint delivery of courses, joint research, curriculum development and student/staff exchange. A large number of joint delivery of courses involves validation of the Indian qualification and transfer of credit to the UK for students wishing to pursue a UK qualification in the UK. This helps the UK university keep control over the quality of delivery of qualification. Indian regulations currently do not allow overseas degree programmes to be delivered in India.

#### *Establishing offshore campus*

The Indian government has tabled the 'Foreign Education Providers' Bill in Parliament. Discussion on the Bill is expected to take place in the Monsoon session of the Parliament (Aug 2011). This bill lays down guidelines for foreign universities to offer degree programmes and set up campuses in India.

### *Faculty Development*

With a number of private sector universities coming up, India is facing an acute shortage of trained faculty. Most of the new universities have faculty within the age group of 28-30 years. There is an opportunity for UK universities to consider providing mentoring services for faculty.

### *Student recruitment*

A large number of Indian students opt to study overseas. According to the latest statistics over 50,000 Indian students were studying in the UK (14% of all foreign students).

### **Technical Skills and Vocational education**

Vocational training in India is offered through public (government owned) Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) as well as private (owned by private sector) Industrial Training Centres (ITCs). The Indian Constitution states that vocational training is a concurrent subject of both Central and the State Governments.

The current capacity of skills development programmes is 3.1 million yet India has set a target of skilling 500 million by 2022. The major challenge of skills development initiatives is to address the needs of such a huge population by providing skills in order to make them employable and help them secure work.

There are over 1800 publicly-funded Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) which cater to 3.1 million students. However industry feels that ITIs continue to teach skills that are outdated as are the equipments that are used for teaching purposes. The Government has announced that it will establish 50,000 skills development centres in the PPP mode. To contribute to the skills mission the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) launched Modular Employable Skills (MES) which allows testing of present qualification/skills level and the exact need for further training specifically for the burgeoning school drop-outs. There are also an enormous number of private institutions engineering colleges, business schools etc - which fill the demand the public system cannot meet. But many of these are of poor quality and fail to teach the most basic requirements for the work place. India's largest IT firm (TCS) has complained that only 1 in 15 of Indian graduates are employable – a

daunting comment given that 138 million young people are expected to hit the Indian job market by 2020.

At present 90% of jobs in India are skills-based, a sharp contradiction to the current figure of only 6% trained workforce in India. The Government is looking to partner with private players for curriculum development, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship programmes to develop a joint approach towards Skills for Employability and to explore the possibility of developing joint programmes for skills development. The skills sector is a \$1.5bn market expected to see a 25% compounded annual growth rate over FY08-12.

There is an opportunity for UK skills/vocational education providers to provide:

*Sector specific skill content and assessment standards* in a wide range of sectors including retail, paramedical, hospitality, travel and tourism

*'Train the Trainer' programmes* to equip the training providers with relevant skills and understanding.

**National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC)** [www.nsdcindia.org](http://www.nsdcindia.org)

The National Skills Development Corporation India (NSDC) is one of its kind, Public Private Partnership in India. It aims to promote skills development by catalysing the creation of large, quality, for-profit vocational institutions. It provides viability gap funding to build scalable for profit vocational training initiatives. Its mandate is also to enable support systems such as quality assurance, information systems and train the trainer academies either directly or through partnerships.

NSDC has the mandate to constitute Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) in India. The role of the SSCs is given on the NSDC website. So far SSCs have been established/approved for various sectors including auto, security, energy, retail, media and entertainment and IT/ITes. Discussions are underway for an SSC covering the construction sector.

## Major events and activities

### FICCI Global Skills Summit

<http://ficciskillforum.org/activities/index.html>

*Website for 2011 event under construction*

Contact: Sunita Kapoor

Email: [Sunita.Kapoor@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Sunita.Kapoor@fco.gov.uk)

15-16 September 2011

### WorldDidac India

[www.worlddidacindia.com](http://www.worlddidacindia.com)

Contact: William Prieto-Parra, BESA

Email: [William@besa.org.uk](mailto:William@besa.org.uk)

28-30 September 2011

### FICCI Higher Education Summit

<http://www.ficci-hes2009.com/2010.pdf>

*Website for 2011 event under construction*

Contact: Sunita Kapoor

Email: [Sunita.Kapoor@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Sunita.Kapoor@fco.gov.uk)

11-12 November 2011

### Find full details of all events in this country and sector on the UKTI website.

New export events are added daily to the site and [you can register to be alerted to them](#) on a daily, weekly or monthly basis

UKTI's Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP) provides grant support for eligible Small & Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's) to attend trade shows overseas. Find out more about [UKTI support](#) for attendance at overseas events

## UKTI contacts

### Sunita Kapoor

Sr Trade & Investment Adviser

British High Commission, New Delhi

Tel: +91 11 24192575

Email: [sunita.kapoor@fco.gov.uk](mailto:sunita.kapoor@fco.gov.uk)

[www.ukti.gov.uk](http://www.ukti.gov.uk)

### Frances Hooper

First Secretary

British High Commission, New Delhi

Tel: +91 11 24192100

Email: [frances.hooper@fco.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:frances.hooper@fco.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.ukti.gov.uk](http://www.ukti.gov.uk)

## Next steps - How UKTI can help

British companies wishing to develop their business in **India** are advised to undertake as much market research and planning as possible in the UK. UKTI's team in **India**, with its wide local knowledge and experience, can provide a range of services to British-based companies wishing to grow their business in global markets.

This can include:

- Provision of market information
- Validated lists of agents/distributors
- Key market players or potential customers in India
- Establishment of interest of such contacts in working with you
- Arranging appointments
- Organise seminars or other events for you to meet contacts and promote your company in India

This work is available via our [Overseas Market Introduction Service \(OMIS\)](#) a chargeable service which assists British-based companies wishing to enter or expand their business in overseas markets.

To find out more about commissioning this work, or accessing other UKTI services and specialist advice, please visit the UKTI website to find [contact details for your local UKTI office](#).

Whereas every effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this document is accurate, neither UK Trade & Investment nor its parent Departments (the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office), accept liability for any errors, omissions or misleading statements, and no warranty is given or responsibility accepted as to the standing of any individual, firm, company or other organisation mentioned.

Published **2011** by UK Trade & Investment.

Crown Copyright ©

Published **2011** by UK Trade & Investment.

©Crown Copyright 2011

You may reuse this information (not including logos, images and case studies) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, [visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email:

[psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This publication is also available from our website at [www.ukti.gov.uk](http://www.ukti.gov.uk) or for more information please telephone +44 (0)20 7215 8000.