

India



REGION: SOUTH ASIA

Also included in this region: Bangladesh, Pakistan

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Indian HE system essentially epitomises the South Asian model. Nearly 80% of all students were enrolled in university colleges in 2018, with almost all the rest at comprehensive universities. Enrolments rose by 140% between 2006 and 2018, from 15 million to 35 million. While this growth is very impressive, it actually lagged the increases across neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh. Indian HEIs are so numerous and open and close so quickly that we must rely on estimates in annual all-India institutional surveys. Best estimates suggest that the number of university colleges grew somewhat less quickly than enrolments from 2006 to 2018, meaning that Indian HEIs became larger over time. Just under 60% of Indian students attended public or publicly-aided HEIs in 2018, which was slightly above the average across the rest of South Asia.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive Universities	Universities	560	343	903
Specialised Universities	Post-graduate diploma in management (PGDM) institutes	67	202	269
University Colleges	Colleges	8,591	30,459	39,050
Secondary Schools	Stand-alone institutions other than PGDM institutes	2,995	6,611	9,606

FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018

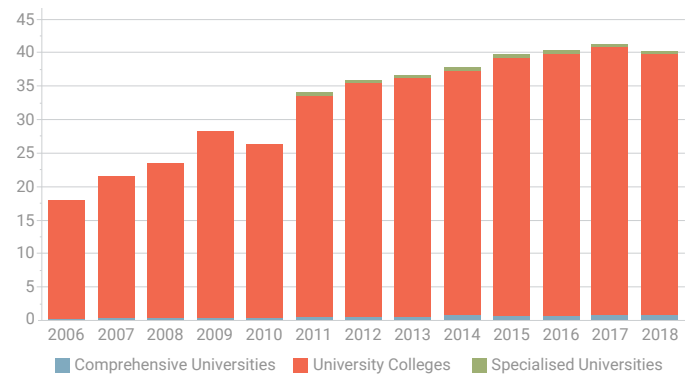


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

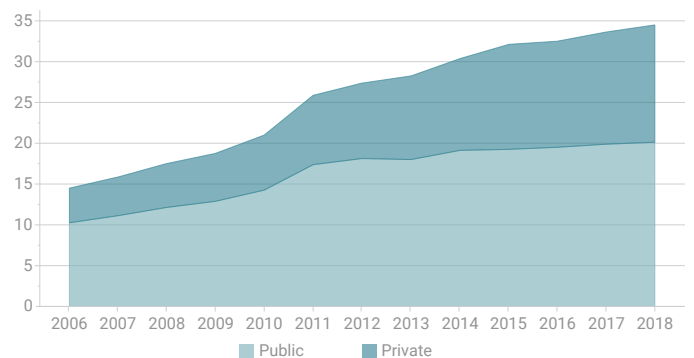


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in India, the rest of South Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

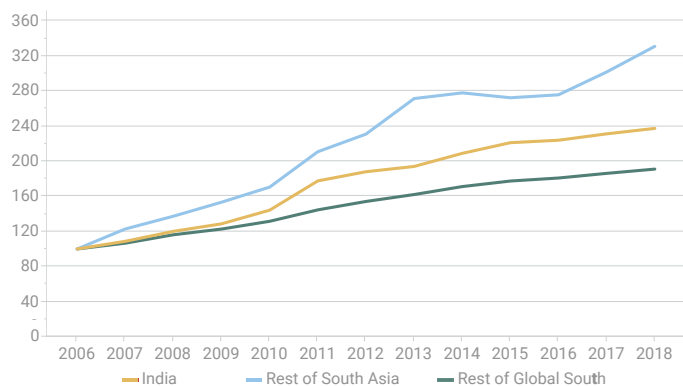


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in India and the rest of South Asia, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

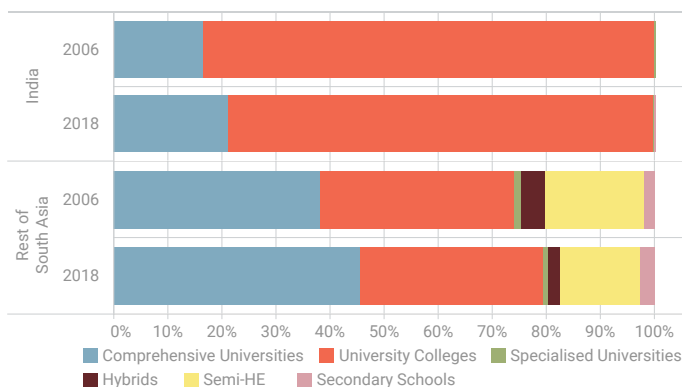


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in India and the rest of South Asia, 2018

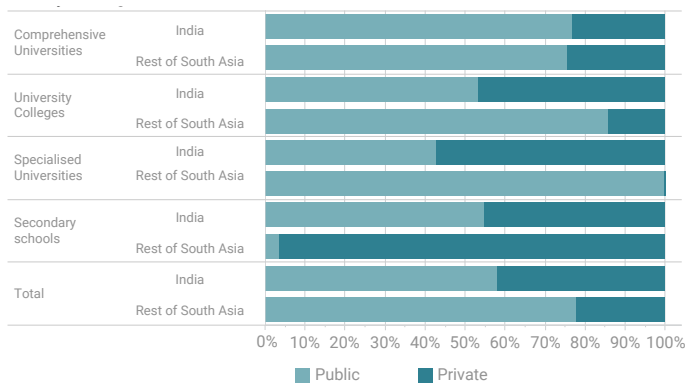
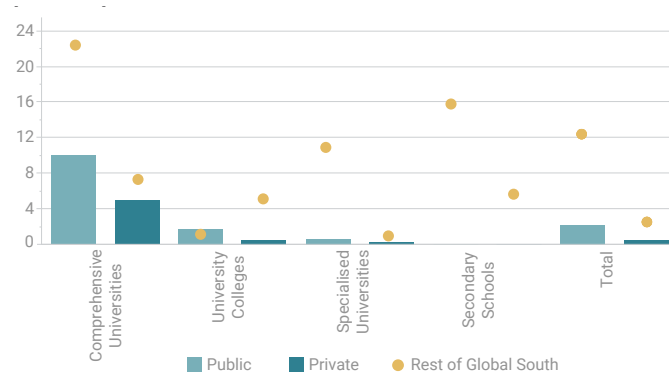


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type, in India and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, India



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in India doubled from 2006 to 2010 and then plateaued before rising quickly again after 2015. The total growth by 2018 almost reached 150%, far above the trend for the rest of South Asia and the Global South. Growth in spending roughly tracked growth in student numbers, such that per-student expenditures ended the period roughly where they began at just over USD 2,000. Relative to GDP, Indian HE spending rose only slightly from 0.6% to just under 0.7%, a level above the rest of South Asia but still below the average for the rest of the Global South.

FIGURE 7 – Change in real total public spending on higher education in India, the rest of South Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

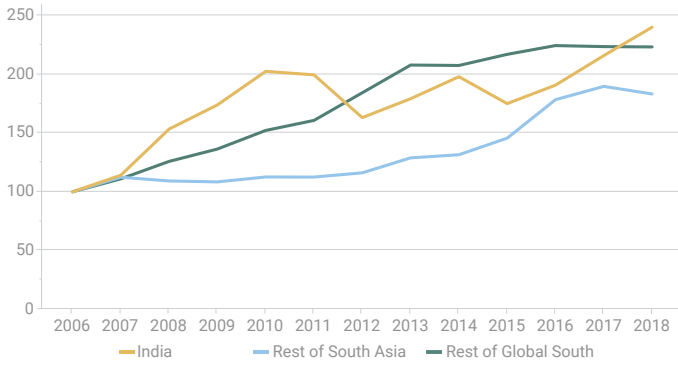


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in India, the rest of South Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

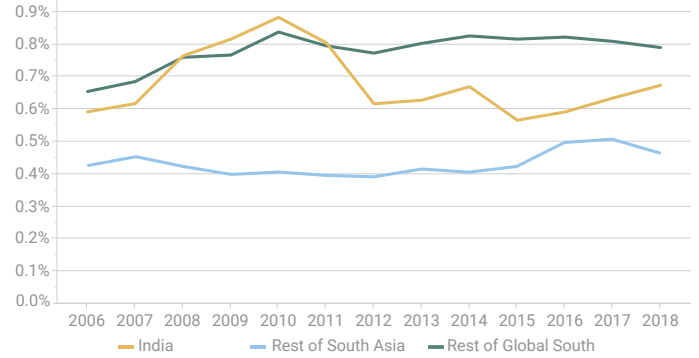


FIGURE 9 – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in India and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

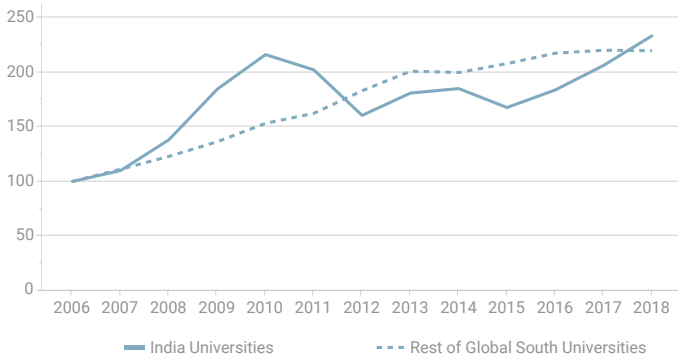
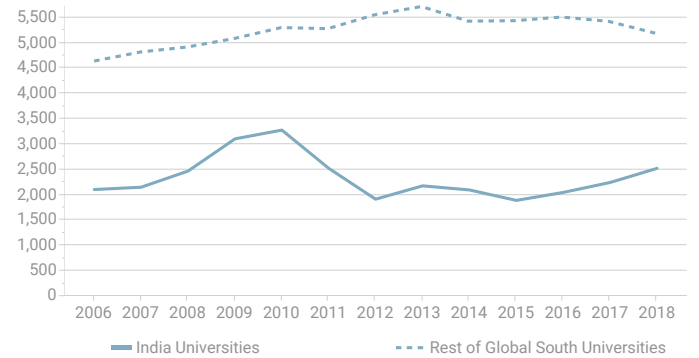


FIGURE 10 – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in India and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

It appears that standard policy for public Indian HEIs is to charge fees to all students. There is insufficient data to analyze student fees any further.

PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

We classify India as having a token government student financial aid model due to its low coverage. A program of scholarships existed in the period in question but constituted only about 1% of total aid disbursed in 2018. The absolute number of students receiving loans rose between 2006 and 2018, but this did not keep up with total enrolment growth and the share of students using loans fell from about 4% in 2009 to 2.5% in 2018. Relative to GDP, disbursements fell slightly from 0.11% to 0.09%, which was well above average for the rest of South Asia but still somewhat below the average across the rest of the Global South.

TABLE 2 – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Central sector scholarship for college and university students, national merit scholarship scheme, targeted scholarships for specific states	Mix of merit, need and geographic-based	157,882	163,400,281
Loans	Private bank loans backed by government	Determined by private lenders	898,656	7,136,124,564

FIGURE 11 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product, in India, the rest of South Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

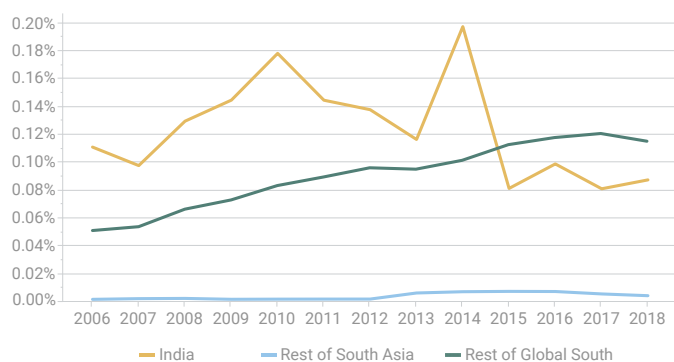


FIGURE 12 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in India and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

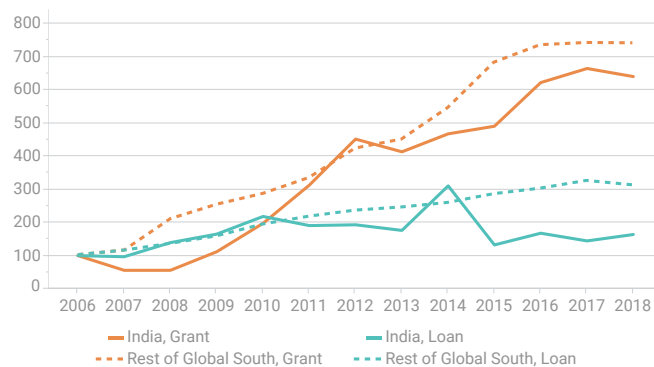


FIGURE 13 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in India and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

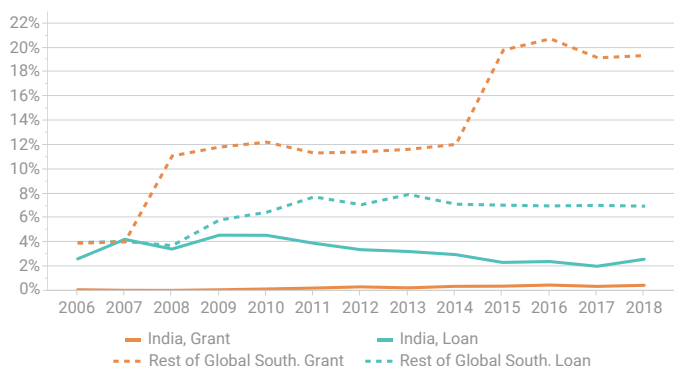
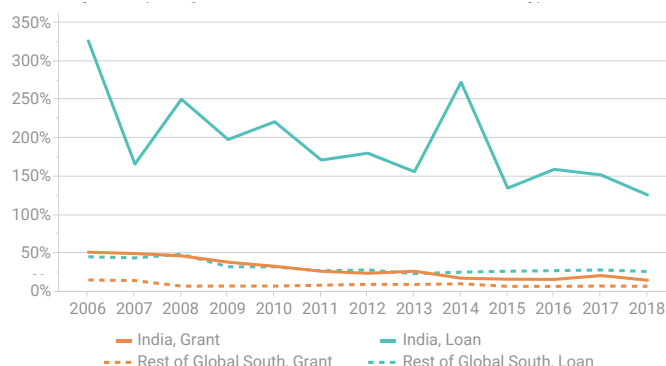


FIGURE 14 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in India and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



***Note:** For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).