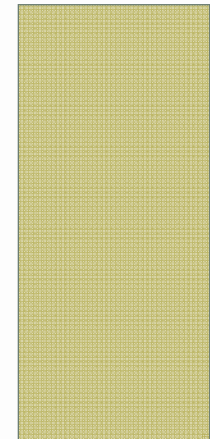




**WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES FACED BY
THE EDUCATION SECTOR? WHAT
POTENTIAL STEPS SHOULD THE
GOVERNMENT TAKE TO ADDRESS THESE?**

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KEY FACTORS THAT MAKE THE US HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM SO EFFECTIVE



- Preparation of incoming students and a curriculum designed with the student in mind
- A variety of universities and colleges are available that cater to students with different levels of preparation and capabilities with flexible system that allows students to move up the ladder progressively
- Campus life that makes collaborative learning an important part of the educational experience
- Investment in faculty recruitment, development, and retention
- Endowment funds through philanthropic support available for scholarships to those who cannot afford the tuition
- Research funding provided by the federal government that makes research an integral part of the educational pedagogy

STUDENT PREPARATION



- Students and parents look for a good fit between the student's interests and capabilities and the programs offered by a university- students choose the university that they will attend and not the parents
- Diversity among student interests and the conviction to pursue them
- Institutions pay attention to a lot of factors in admitting the students
- Students are quite adept in soft skills coming into a university and further develop them while there

INVESTMENT IN FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT



- Faculty recruitment is the purview of the faculty ; they best know the needs of the department
- Faculty development
 - Reduced teaching load in the initial years so they can focus on developing their research programs
 - Start up funds and laboratory space to develop their research facilities
 - Federal Government schemes to aid new faculty (NSF's CAREER Award, ONR Young Investigator Award)
 - Senior faculty mentorship- perhaps the single most important factor in a faculty member's career
 - Tenure system that helps their long-term retention and allows them to focus on different aspects of academia at different stages of their careers
 - Sabbatical system that allows faculty to reinvent themselves every few years

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES- PRIVATE OR PUBLIC



- Research Infrastructure including large equipment costs
- Access to multi-user facilities at national laboratories with clear programmes that are aimed at involving faculty and graduate and undergraduate students
- Support for graduate students
- Summer support for faculty
- Travel to conferences
- A fair and transparent applications process for research support that has peer review at the core of the process