

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND IT'S IMPACT ON ECONOMY: CASE OF INDIA AND POLAND

Dr Pradeep Kumar

University of Applied Sciences in Nysa, Poland, pradeep.kumar@pwsz.nysa.pl

Abstract

Education is a basic tool for the development of a society which accelerate the growth in many fields. And it keeps growing at all levels. By changing demands of industries to get skilled and qualified employees has also effects the model of education to be supplied by the higher educational institutions. For the fulfillment of such gap many pre-dominant and powerful multinational corporations (MNCs) getting involved for providing services to the private and public higher educational institutions, with interest of profit making business. Since, GATS (general agreement on trade in services) covered in the WTO (world trade organizations), education has been traded as service. And many countries are exporting higher education as tools for profits making. The United States is the largest exporter of education services in the world followed by France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation, inspiring many others to be open for internationalization of higher education. The trend of treating higher education as tradable commodity has effected the economy and education system of may developed and developing countries including Poland, and India.

Impact of demography on higher educational institutions in Poland imposed the government of Poland, to bring new changes in the existing laws for the development of higher education system, and use it as commodity for trade services for profit making which will help to sustain private and public universities/educational institutions as well as maintain the quality of higher education. India with largest number of consumers for higher education, treating higher education as a tradable private good, and bringing many changes for the system of higher education to be accessible for all. For Corporates, education as a business sector is a trillion dollars industry, where the students are treated as consumers, teachers are experts, the institutions or companies are service providers, and the teaching-learning process is a business for profit making.

Keywords: internationalization, higher education, trade, economy, India, Poland.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the key to development of any society, state or country. Because education and society are interconnected with each other in many fields, and education system always keeps changing, based on society's needs. With such changes, today the world becomes a global village because of the globalization and all countries help one another in the process of development. Internationalization of higher education became the part of globalization and trade services, since education entered in the General Agreement on Trade (GATT) in Service sector, being negotiated under auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO). As a member of WTO associated with GATT agreement became the part of this global village by opening doors for others to trade in education sector – education as a service product.

International trade in higher education services – a trillion dollar industry has grown rapidly in recent years in a variety of forms, including recruitment of international students, establishment of university campuses abroad, franchised provision and online learning. The main factor of this industry which is enhancing business growth in education service is 'the excess demand for domestic higher

education and the need for internationally recognized qualifications in emerging regional and global markets for highly skilled labor'. Several countries have also deliberately encouraged foreign collaborations to improve the quality of domestic higher education, through bringing many changes as per today's need – India and Poland is among them.

Unfortunately, education is facing difficult times in Poland, India, and many countries. There are problems with budget shortfalls, increasing enrollment demands, escalating educational costs, and a reduction in foreign aid.

Counting bilateral trade India and Poland are not very significant economic partners. From April 2000 to March 2019, India recorded over \$672 million of foreign direct investment (FDI) from Poland, just 0.16 percent of its total FDI inflows in that period. As per Polish statistics, India's exports to Poland had a total value of 2.17 billion Euro in 2017 and 1.79 billion Euro in 2018, while the trade in the reverse direction was valued at 635 million Euro and 694 million Euro in the same years. India's exports to Poland, while steadily growing, have been usually less than 1 percent of Poland's total annual imports in previous years. Polish exports to India have been minuscule both as a percentage of total exports from Poland and India's total imports in the same period¹.

In higher education total number of foreign students studying in Poland (2018) was 72 743 from 170 countries, over 6 950 more than a year ago (over 10% increase) in the academic year 2017/2018. Foreign students currently make up 5.63% of the total number of students in the country (ten years ago the figure was only 0.71%, in the academic year 2016/2017 – 4.88%)². Students from Ukraine and Belarus are the dominant group at Polish universities. In the academic year 2017/2018, 37 829 Ukrainians and 6044 Belarusians were studying in Poland. The third largest group of students studying in Poland are Indians (2987), i.e. 849 students more than in the previous year. Compared to the academic year 2016/2017, increase with 138%. A rapidly growing population in India and at the same time not enough places in Indian higher education institutions make them more and more considering studying abroad, including Poland³.

It is clearly understood that as students mobilities are increasing from India to Poland – trade possibilities to improve business relations are opening new doors. Evidently, recent visit of India's external minister, Dr S. Jaishankar to Poland⁴ on August 28 2019, and launching direct flight on September 11th 2019, Warsaw-Delhi, by Polish state airlines (LOT), shows growing interest from both sides.

Therefor it was necessary to investigate the possibilities for economic development through educational cooperation. Research is presenting a concept that

¹ Krzysztof Iwanek (2019). Revising Warsaw-New Delhi Ties After Indian the Foreign Minister's Visit to Poland, India's economic ties with Poland are not very strong, but relations have potential [Online]. – Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2019/09/revising-warsaw-new-delhi-ties-after-indian-the-foreign-ministers-visit-to-poland/>

² Foreign students in Poland – numbers and facts (2018). [Online]. – Available at: <http://www.studyinpoland.pl/en/index.php/news/85-foreign-students-in-poland-numbers-and-facts-2018>

³ Foreign students in Poland - numbers and facts 2018 (perspective market) [Online]. – Available at: <http://www.studyinpoland.pl/en/index.php/news/85-foreign-students-in-poland-numbers-and-facts-2018>

⁴ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/indian-foreign-minister-visits-poland-ahead-of-direct-delhi-warsaw-flight/articleshow/70882976.cms?from=mdr>

education is not only a service product to be traded but it is a key factor for international trade as well as bilateral relations for two countries. Presenting Poland and India – growing trade is not that much significant as significant is the number Indian students growing at Polish universities (from 209 in 2014 to 5500 in 2019). So the author has selected a sample of questionnaire for research scholars, educational institutions and recruitment agencies working with India and Poland in order to analyze the process of trading education services for economic benefits through internationalization of higher education. It's an ongoing research and final outcome of this research will be presented in the form of a text book.

Objective of the study. The main objective of this study is identify following possible areas towards internationalization of Higher Education and its impact on economy:

1. To find out the possibilities for educational cooperations between India and Poland.
2. Current status of Polish universities – private and public funded.
3. Procedure established by universities – for student's recruitment.
4. Foreign branches of Indian/Polish universities.
5. Education as commodity product for service sector.
6. Identifying the barriers – visa restrictions, language etc.
7. By removing/reducing identified barriers trade will grow.

Hypothesis of the study

Both countries – India and Poland have potentials to improve trade volume by identifying the barriers, and make new changes for removing/reducing barriers in order to improve trade flows. It can only happen when both countries should realize the importance internationalization of higher education, and fulfill each other needs. Polish universities are lacking number of students to be admitted for their courses, who will be paying full tuition fee and continue full circle of higher education in Poland; Indian students have not much options to select best universities in India due to less number of universities and high numbers of applicants. Thus hypothesis is emphasized that by following demand-supply model of business equation between Poland and India, trade flow will be increased. And internationalization of higher education can play a wider role to improve economic growth of both the entities.

Sample selection

In the present study students from various levels – bachelor, master and PhDs, research scholars, faculty members, university authorities and educational agencies from various departments of partner universities of IEEF⁵ (Indo-European Education Foundation), were selected as a sample. Sample was decided in 3 types:

1. Research Sample for university/institution's authorities.
2. Research scholars/faculty members.

⁵ <http://www.ieef.pl/p-59-Indian-Universities>

3. Students – bachelor, master, PhDs.

There were 53 universities/educational institutions, 31 research scholars/faculty members, 200 students from bachelor and master level, and 15 students of Ph.D studies. Hence the total number of sample students was 299.

Data collection

Research participants were given some necessary instructions to fill up the questionnaire. There was time limit of 21 days to return the questionnaire. One and average fifteen minutes participants for this research filled the questionnaire. Most of the participant institutions, research scholars and students are associated with Indo-European Education Foundation, Warsaw, Poland. The students participating from bachelor and master level are mostly from India, Nepal, Ukraine, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. From the study of Appendix 1. Sample for All categories

Results show that there is huge gap between Polish and Indian education system (Figure 1).

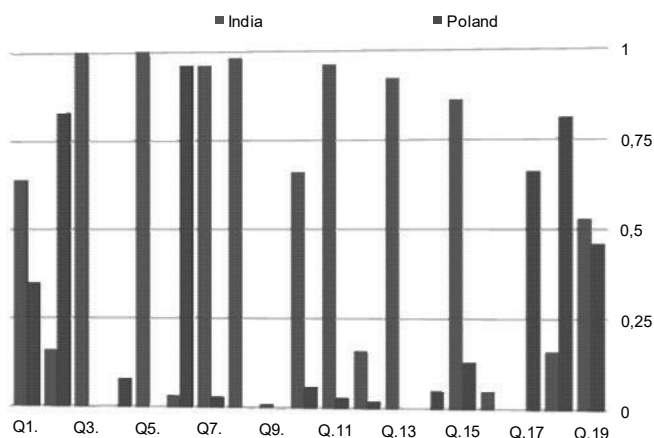


Figure 1. Results of the study of Appendix 1. Sample for All categories

In India were people would like to be associated with public funded universities rather than private universities, when it's a question of internationalization of higher education and youth participation. And more attractive towards private universities when it's about modern education for skill development, to be eligible for competitive market. In other hand, Polish private universities are more open for internationalization of higher education rather than public universities. Polish public universities in are only depending on public grants and EU fundings. But private universities are struggling for survival with no fundings and no students. They are in need to get anyone who pay them for their courses and let them to survive for few more years. It has been also analyzed that most of the private universities in Poland,

are not running any specific procedure for recruitment of students in order to check their abilities and skills including language proficiencies and financial stability, which is effecting quality of education in Poland; opposite to that Indian universities are well established for checking students eligibilities by conducting several layers test such as CET (common entrance test), group discussion, and personal interviews.

Polish universities are not yet internationalized in terms of opening their own branches abroad; but Indian private universities are very much involved to open foreign branches for foreign students. In general Poland and India – public funded universities are more focused to provided education to the people based on funds received by governments as well as individuals, but private universities are more commercialized and providing education as commodity product for service sector. In poland still language is one of the biggest barrier where many faculty and administrative staffs are not able to speak English; other had India in the second largest English speaker in the world (after USA). For international students to be admitted at Polish universities – visa procedure is another biggest challenges for incoming students in comparing to the students going to Indian universities. Examples of perceived ‘barriers’in the trade in higher education services might include visa restrictions, taxation that disadvantages foreign institutions and accreditation arrangements that privilege domestic institutions and qualifications.

B. From the study of Appendix 2. Sample for University/Educational Institutions towards Internationalization of Higher Education (Figure 2)

Sample 2 shows that Internationalization of higher education helps to bring latest knowledge to the country, it would lead to expansion of higher education, it can increase the quality of higher education, it will remove the technological backwardness, benefits of foreign visiting faculty can help to develop the global

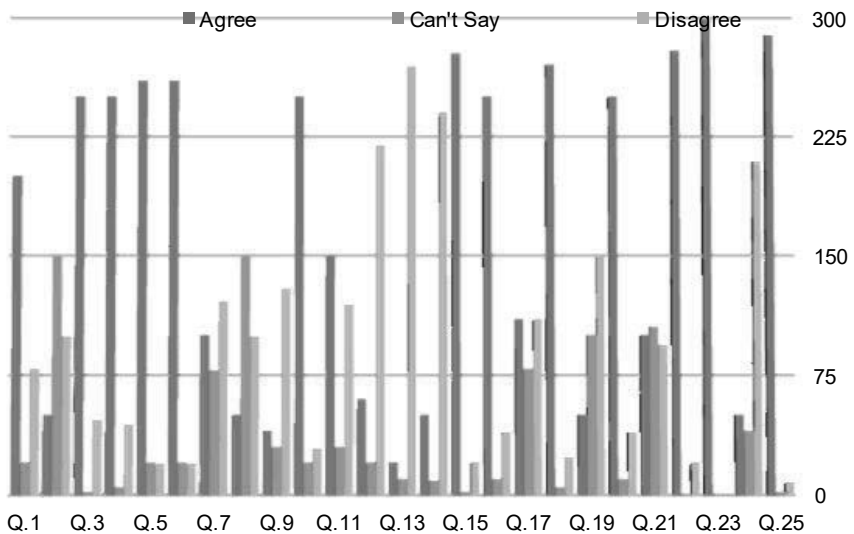


Figure 2. Results of the study of Appendix 2. Sample for University/Educational Institutions towards Internationalization of Higher Education

competencies, education will become the profit generating product. Internationalization will be beneficial to poor and middle class people, and doesn't effect to fee increases at international level, it will help to develop international values as well as cross border understanding and help to decrease the social gap. It won't effect of Indian/Polish status as means of liberation, it is also helping to improve many skills rather than dominating English language.

It is also presented in this research that internationalization of higher education will increase the gap between different social classes, and higher education will become a commodity and business services.

Watching India Poland cooperation for Poland India is one of the largest market for Polish universities, but Polish universities are not most preferable destinations for Indian students. Indian students may choose Poland due to low tuition fee offered by Polish universities and low living cost in EU countries. The result shows that growing population of India is not able to be accommodated by Indian universities, and they'll be looking forward to go abroad for higher education, in this case Polish universities must establish a proper screening process to check qualification of Indian students to be admitted. Also participants presented their concerns that because of internationalization of higher education, education will become a commodity and most powerful countries will control the educational agenda of the world.

C. From the study of Appendix 3. Sample for Research scholars/faculty members towards Internationalization of Higher Education

Research shows that internationalization of higher education will be enhancing researcher and faculty members to become the part of international culture (Figure 3).

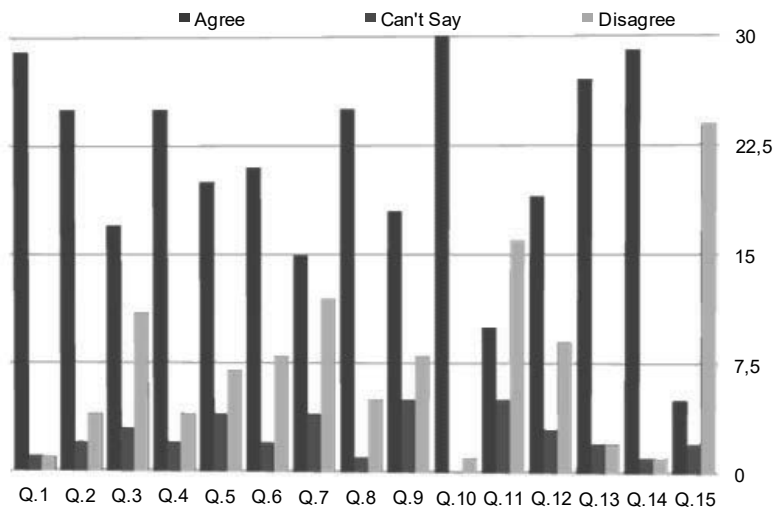


Figure 3. Results of the study of Appendix 3. Sample for Research scholars/faculty members towards Internationalization of Higher Education

It'll hep to improve their skills up to international standards. It'll also help them to conduct joint research projects, improve language skills (English as medium of

instruction), through mobility of faculty and staffs will improve cross-border understanding and it'll help to promote home as well as at host universities. Internationalization will also help to establish new contacts for professional linkages.

Opinion concerning India, Poland cooperation is very positive but working experience with Polish universities are not appreciated, in contrary Polish scholars experience working with Indian universities are much more appreciated, and showing their willingness to go further for university cooperation. About Indian students admitted to Polish universities – opinion about the quality of Indian students are very high and willing to get more students from India.

D. From the study of Appendix 4. Sample for Students – bachelor, master, and PhDs towards Internationalization of Higher Education

Research shows that the value of participating student’ are getting higher qualification with international exposure (Figure 4). It makes them more self independent as well as best solution finders in different situations in cross cultural communication. It helps them to improve their language skills and interactive capacity with students from different part of the world, which makes them a global citizen. As universities are becoming more internationalized, more opportunities to get international scholarships are available for participating students. It’s giving an opportunity to get experience from many different universities as well culture by getting dual diploma certificates by paying even low tuition fees at the home universities.

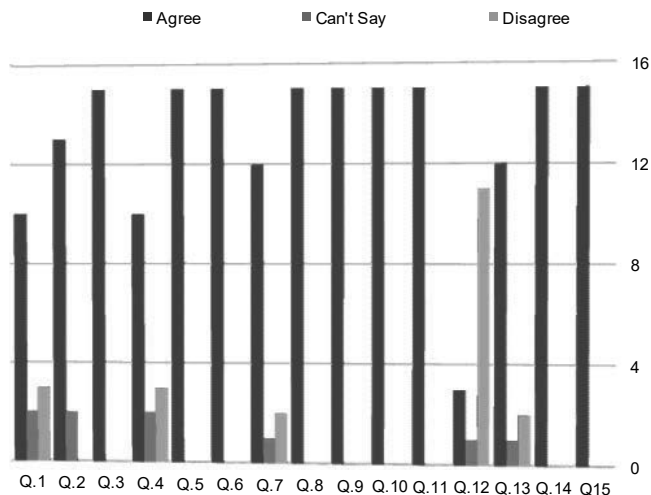


Figure 4. Results of the study of Appendix 4. Sample for Students – bachelor, master, and PhDs towards Internationalization of Higher Education

Internationalization of higher education is very much beneficial for students towards his/her personality development with international skills which helps them to find better job opportunities.

CONCLUSION

All participants in this research are related with education sector and contributing for building nations with their long life learning experiences. They are the shapers of the new knowledge in different fields. So it was very important to know their opinions about the changes which occurs in higher education. From the results it can be said that researchers have a positive attitude towards internationalization of higher education. There are some threats also but overall picture is clear and the new generation is ready to accept the new challenges in the field of education.

There are various reasons for arguing that internationalization will become increasingly important in higher education and it's impact will be visible for national economy. There are three widely recognized arguments which have so far served as main driving forces for internationalization:

1. Academic and professional requirement for graduates increasingly reflect the demands of the globalization of society.
2. The recruitment of foreign students has become a significant factor for institutional income and of national economic interest.
3. The use of new information and communication technologies in the delivery of education and the involvement of private sector in this mean that national borders and the role of national government in education become blurred.

Thus we can say that the process of internationalization and globalization have become salient features of the contemporary world.

REFERENCE

1. Krzysztof Iwanek (2019). Revising Warsaw-New Delhi Ties After Indian the Foreign Minister's Visit to Poland, India's economic ties with Poland are not very strong, but relations have potential [Online]. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2019/09/revising-warsaw-new-delhi-ties-after-indian-the-foreign-ministers-visit-to-poland/>
2. Foreign students in Poland – numbers and facts (2018). [Online]. – Available at: <http://www.studyinpoland.pl/en/index.php/news/85-foreign-students-in-poland-numbers-and-facts-2018>
3. Foreign students in Poland - numbers and facts 2018 (perspective market) [Online]. – Available at: <http://www.studyinpoland.pl/en/index.php/news/85-foreign-students-in-poland-numbers-and-facts-2018>
4. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/indian-foreign-minister-visits-poland-ahead-of-direct-delhi-warsaw-flight/articleshow/70882976.cms?from=mdr>
5. <http://www.ieef.pl/p-59-Indian-Universities>

A. Appendix 1. Sample for All categories

Sr. No.	Statement	India		Poland	
1	2	Yes	Percentage	Yes	Percentage
1	Are you associated with public funded university?	193	0.64%	106	0.35%
2	Are you associated with private university?	50	0.16%	249	0.83%

Sr. No.	Statement	India		Poland	
3	Do you've any specific procedure student's recruitment at your university to check ability of admiring student?	299	100%	0	0%
4	Common Entrance Test or any standard test is organized for selecting your students to get admitted at your university, in Poland?			25	0.08%
5	Common Entrance Test or any standard test is organized for selecting your students to get admitted at your university, in India?	299	100%		
1	2	Yes	Percentage	Yes	Percentage
6	Are you admitting student on the basis of obtained grades/marks on 10+2 std./graduation?	10	0.033	289	0.96%
7	Do you have any special tools to check student's ability for language test before admitting them at your university?	290	0.96%	9	0.03%
8	Your university's admission office is also checking the financial eligibility of a student, before admitting to the specific course of study?	295	0.98%	0	100%
9	Your university have it's own foreign branch ?	3	0.01%	0	0%
10	Are you taking education as commodity product for service sector?	200	0.66%	2	0.006
11	Do you think visa is still a biggest barrier ?	290	0.96%	9	0.03%
12	Positive experience working with Polish/Indian universities	50	0.16%	8	0.02%
13	Language is also a barrier at Polish universities	276	0.92%		
14	Language is also a barrier for Indian universities			15	0.05%
15	Your university is running all courses in English study programs and all teaching as well as administrative staffs are able to communicates in English?	259	0.86%	40	0.13%
16	All degrees/diplomas offered by Polish universities are recognizable in India ?	15	0.05%		
17	All degrees/diplomas offered by Indian universities are recognizable by Poland?			200	0.66%
18	Internationalization of higher education is a tool to generate financial support through foreign students?	50	0.16%	244	0.81%
19	Is internationalization supportive for educational business?	160	0.53%	139	0.46%

B. Appendix 2. Sample for University/Educational Institutions towards Internationalization of Higher Education

Sr. No.	Statement	Agree	Can't Say	Disagree
1	2	3	4	5
1	Internationalization of Higher Education will bring in latest knowledge from the developed world to the developing countries	200	20	79
2	Internationalization would lead to expansion of higher education	50	150	99
3	Internationalization of Higher Education will help the research activity for finding a new partner	250	2	47
4	Internationalization of Higher Education would help to increase the standard and quality of higher education	250	5	44
5	It will eliminate the technological backwardness from the system of higher education	260	30	9
6	Foreign visiting faculty will develop the global competencies	260	20	19
7	Internationalization of Higher Education would result in a profit generating product	100	78	121
8	Internationalization of Higher Education will deprive those who do not have capacity to pay	50	150	99
9	Internationalization of Higher Education will increase higher fee structures	40	30	129
10	Internationalization of Higher Education will result in good student teacher relationship	250	20	29
11	Cross-border understanding will be promoted as a result of this system	150	30	119
12	It threatens existence of own traditions, social and cultural values	60	20	219
13	Education will lose its Indian/Polish status as a means of liberation	20	10	269
14	It is threat to the long term sustainability of linguistic diversity specially through the dominance of the English language	50	9	240
15	Higher Education will become a commodity and business	277	2	20
16	It will decrease the gap between the different social classes	250	10	39
17	The most powerful countries will control the educational agenda of the world	110	79	110
18	India is one of the largest market for Polish Universities	270	5	24
19	Polish universities would be one of the best destination for Indian students	50	100	149
20	Poland is a favorable country among Indian students due to low price of tuition fee offered by Polish educational institutions for foreign students	250	10	39

Sr. No.	Statement	Agree	Can't Say	Disagree
21	Indian universities are mostly crowded with lowest choices for foreign students	100	105	94
22	Highest demands of higher education in india due to fastest population growth is enhancing Indian students to go abroad for higher education	279	0	20
23	Lowest growth of population/ demography impact in Poland making Polish universities to be more open towards internationalization of higher education in order to attract foreign students	299	0	0
24	Polish recruitment agencies or admission offices are maintaining standard to get local as well as international students	50	40	209
25	Indian universities/educational institutions are maintaining standards to get qualified local as well as international students	289	2	8

C. Appendix 3. Sample for Research scholars/faculty members towards Internationalization of Higher Education

Sr. No.	Statement	Agree	Can't Say	Disagree
1	2	3	4	5
1	Internationalization will enhance faculty/research scholars to participate in International culture	29	1	1
2	Internationalization would lead individual faculty/scientist to improve his/her skills up to international standards	25	2	4
3	It'll help to conduct joint research projects	17	3	11
4	It'll enforce to improve language skills and specially to be fluent for English rather than local/regional languages	25	2	4
5	It will increase the value of cross culture in research studies	20	4	7
6	Foreign visiting faculty will develop the global competencies	21	2	8
7	Cross-border understanding will be promoted as a result of this system at home and host universities	15	4	12
8	Internationalization of Higher Education will help to improve skills those are not familiar with international requirements	25	1	5
9	Internationalization of Higher Education will help to increase financial gain and knowledge expansion	18	5	8
10	Internationalization of Higher Education will result in good networking and establish new professional linkages	30	0	1
11	Experience working with Polish universities	10	5	16
12	Experience working with Indian universities	19	3	9

Sr. No.	Statement	Agree	Can't Say	Disagree
13	Potential cooperation for Poland and India to develop trade relations through education	27	2	2
14	Do you've positive opinion about Indian education system and standard of Indian students	29	1	1
15	Do you've positive opinion about Polish education system and standard of students	5	2	24

D. Appendix 4. Sample for Students- bachelor, master, and PhDs towards Internationalization of Higher Education

Sr. No.	Statement	Agree	Can't Say	Disagree
1	2	3	4	5
1	Internationalization values will develop in the students due to Internationalization of Higher Education	10	2	3
2	Internationalization will offer to become a part of international culture	13	2	0
3	It'll help to meet new challenges with best possible solutions	15	0	0
4	Internationalization will help students to more adoptive for different culture	10	2	3
5	It will improve language skills and specially to be fluent for English along with other languages	15	0	0
6	Becoming a global citizen	15	0	0
7	Cross-border understanding will be promoted as a result of this system	12	1	2
8	More opportunities for scholarships or support through international funding	15	0	0
9	Opportunities for Dual degrees programs	15	0	0
10	International exposure through mobilities	15	0	0
11	Several options to select best universities around the world with less fee structure and more valuable degree/diplomas	15	0	0
12	Internationalization will lead to increase of tuition fee to the home university	3	1	11
13	Internationalization of higher education is very much beneficial for students towards his/her personality development with international skills	12	1	2
14	It'll help to find better job opportunities with higher qualifications	15	0	0
15	It'll provide globally recognized degrees/diploma with international standards	15	0	0