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Liberal Education in the Age of Neoliberal Capitalism: The Case of Hyderabad, India

Hyderabad which is also known as a "hitech" city in the State of Andhra Pradesh, is a hub of educational intuitions and is credited with holding the largest number of Indian universities. It signifies the ever increasing institutionalization of higher education that focus on Business Management, Computer Science and Information Technology. Such an exclusive focus as engendered by State and private interests is seen satisfy the global demand for jobs in these areas as more and more "call centers" have come to populate the City. This paper argues that it creates an "intellectual crisis" not only in the context of meaningful research and development in the areas of science and technology, but also in terms of writing our own cultural and political histories because very few students are encouraged to turn toward the liberal arts and humanities as part of their intellectual growth and profession. There is a kind of technological determinism that operates in this particular dynamic of State-subsidized education in its pursuit to become the regional hub of knowledge based economy but questions remain about the nature of that knowledge production and the specific (corporate) interests it serves even as the State performs the role of chief patron of art and culture.