Polity & Governance · GS - II

“Transparency in fee structures is essential for protecting students’ interests and improving accountability in higher education.” Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Higher education regulation, fee transparency, student rights, informed choice, institutional accountability, affordability, consumer protection, regulatory oversight.

Model Answer

Introduction

Transparency in educational fees enables students and their families to understand the financial commitment involved before enrolling in a professional course.

Significance

1. **Student protection:** Advance disclosure of the complete fee structure reduces the risk of unexpected financial demands.
2. **Informed decisions:** Students can compare institutions based on affordability and educational quality.
3. **Institutional accountability:** Clear fee policies discourage arbitrary charges and strengthen public trust.
4. **Access to education:** Predictable costs help families plan finances and reduce the risk of students discontinuing courses due to financial pressure.

Challenges

Weak monitoring, unclear fee components and inconsistent disclosure practices can undermine transparency. Excessive or arbitrary charges may disproportionately affect students from economically weaker backgrounds.

Way Forward

Regulatory authorities should require clear, accessible fee disclosures, monitor compliance and establish effective grievance-redressal mechanisms. Institutions should communicate any legally permissible changes transparently and in accordance with applicable rules.

Conclusion

Transparent fee structures promote fairness and accountability in higher education while enabling students to make informed choices.

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