Higher education determines the future development potential of a country. At this stage, the diverse and complex education systems of various countries make people more concern about how to evaluate higher education of a nation in a unified standard. The article establishes an evaluation system to score higher education system of a nation, and formulates sustainable policies to help the nation further improve its own higher education.

In the first part, we construct our evaluation model based on the TOPSIS method. After quantifying the various evaluation indicators from the education aspect, we select five evaluation indicators, which are the most representative, to examine the education system. First, the data is transformed into the maximal values to obtain the feature matrix. Second, we standardize the matrix and calculate the relative distance between the optimal solution and the worst solution. Finally, we can get the score by calculating the similarity to the worst condition.The model we construct gives scores for the 10 countries. Among them, Britain, Japan, the United States and other developed countries get high scores. We notice that as a developing country, Indian score is 50% lower than that of the United Kingdom. We provide a reasonable explanation for the scores of Indian five indicators based on the state of India.

In the second part, we formulate a set of sustainable development policies to improve higher education of India. In our first model, Indian performance in the five indicators we select is much lower than the two developed country: the United States and the United Kingdom. We have formulated five innovative policies based on the specific national conditions of India to improve these five aspects. Inspired by the natural water cycle, the five policies we propose build five cycles between Indian fast-developing economy and a healthy higher education system. The five policies have improved the gender ratio, higher education awareness, education funding, education internationalization and private higher education system. Those improvements will enhance the five indicators in our first evaluation model. To be further, the talents cultivated by those improvements will help India to accelerate economic growth. The economic improvement means that there will be more government budgets to continue supporting the five policies which we have formulated. This forms a virtuous cycle and ensures our policy to be sustainable.

In the last part, we look forward to the prospects of the policies we proposed. In the current world environment where the pandemic is raging, the effective implementation of policies is still very difficult, and the actual effects are probably difficult to live up to our expectations. So there is still a long way for our policy implementation to go.

Keywords: higher education, TOPSIS, India, cycle system