

**A STUDY ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASSAM****Archana Shyam**

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**Abstract**

The higher education is one of the most important stages of education. It is the highest level of the formal education ladder. It can be acquired in the Universities basically after completing the Bachelor degrees. There are so many issues in higher education. Assam is a land of diversified culture and communities where variety in social, educational, political and cultural sectors is observed. The higher education of Assam is still in a developing stage. We see that every year many students go out of Assam for better higher education. It reveals that existing higher education of Assam is unable to fulfil the needs and wishes of the students. It seems that as compared to other parts of the country, the higher education of Assam is not up to the mark. In Assam in case of the higher education we see different issues, challenges etc. Lots of changes are done in higher education with the advent of time. So in this research paper an attempt is made to study on the higher education of Assam, its present scenario and other related issues etc.

**Keywords:** Higher Education, Present Scenario, Issues, Remedial Measures.

**Introduction**

Education is the most important instrument in the development of human resource. In present, education is considered as basic and or fundamental need. Without education we cannot even imagine a better life. Development of a country always depends upon the quality of the education from the very beginning to the higher level of education. The field of higher education is undergoing rapid changes and has experienced innovative developments during the second half of twentieth century. There is no alternative to restricting the conventional and colonial model and priorities. The higher education structure must change to cope up with the challenges of providing quality and relevant higher education with more access to growing number of work-oriented learners. In today's fast changing socio economic content, higher education system should be exposed to greater pressure for expansion. It becomes the duty of higher education to accumulate, to consolidate and disseminate the newly developed information in the other levels of education system. Today's higher education in India specially

in North East region of India has to face a stiff and un equal changes with the other parts of the world.

Higher education is the top most level of the educational ladder in every country. It is the richest and creamiest part of the whole process of education. Higher education is meant for the most superior part of the student community. Among the various levels of education, higher education has a persive and influence impact on development. Higher education empowers the individual with necessary skills and competence for achieving important personal and social goals and thereby contributing to the social development. Higher education is indeed a vital tool for intellectual, cultural and aesthetic development and a means for achieving wider social as privation.

### **Objectives of the study**

- I. To study about the present scenario of higher education in Assam.
- II. To study about the problems and challenges of higher education in Assam.
- III. To study about the solution or remedial measures of higher education of Assam.

### **Methodology**

The descriptive study method has been adopted in social science research as this method provides real life information of current situation. Due to the nature of this article the author used descriptive study method.

Data collection: The author used secondary source for collection of data.

### **Discussion**

#### **Present scenario of higher education in Assam.**

Higher education has come lately in North East, especially in Assam as compared to the other states of India. Cotton College was the first ever higher educational institute in Assam which was established in 1901. Before 1901, Assam did not have a higher education institution. In the last seven decades after independence, higher educational institution in Assam has increased quite substantially. After Independence, both central and state governments have given importance in the field of higher education sector for achieving the developmental goal. Various committees and commissions were formed by the Government of India to look into the challenges of educational reforms specially the higher education sector. Some of the agencies for the modification and reformation of higher education of Assam such as RUSA, AICTE, NAAC etc. all the agencies are centrally sponsored which are implemented and executed all over the country. For the qualitative development of higher education, infrastructure development, rectification of evaluation system of higher education this agencies work in a tremendous way. Assam, the most developed state in the north-east, has a comparatively well developed and diversified educational infrastructure as compared to other states in the north east region. According to 2011 census, literacy rate of Assam is 73.18% with male literacy rate 78.81%, which is lower than the national rate of 74.04% and male literacy rate 82.14% respectively. The female literacy rate with 67.27% is above the national rate of 65.46%. In the field of higher education, the state has 2 Central universities, 7 institutes of National importance, 2 deemed universities, 18 state universities, 6 private universities, 9 medical colleges, 26 law colleges, 3 Dental colleges, 12 Research institutes, 21 engineering colleges

and technical institutions, 3 architecture colleges, 6 hotel management institutions, 21 management institutes, 143 science, commerce and arts colleges.( institutions including both private and government)

Although the state has the above mentioned institutions, Assam is still in a developing stage in higher education. There is still requirement of higher educational institutions as the existing institutions cannot enroll all the desiring candidates and many of them have to travel outside the state to fulfill their educational requirements.

### **Problems of Higher education in Assam**

After independence higher education has expanded steadily but there are still some hurdles which act as barriers in the growth of higher education in Assam.

**I) Economic Problem:** In Assam due to the poor economic condition of the parents, most of the students although having the eligibilities, remain deprived from higher education. This is because higher education cost a huge amount of money.

**II) Poor Infrastructure:** In many higher educational institutions of Assam, there is lack of proper infrastructure. Due to this, education cannot be imparted properly. There is lack of proper laboratory, ICT classroom, and smart classroom for students to acquire education.

**III) Fees hike:** In the Higher education of Assam, regular fees hike creates many problems for the students, as most of the parents are from the lower economic background. Most of the students, after having interest in higher education remain deprived from it because of fees hike.

**IV) Lack of job assurance:** In the Higher education of Assam there is lack of hundred per cent job guarantee. The students after completing higher education are unable to engage themselves in the deserving jobs.

**V) Defective evaluation system:** - In most of the times, it has been observed that the evaluation system is not satisfactory. It brings anxiety and stress upon the students as many of the aspects and qualities remained unevaluated.

**VI) Mechanical Curriculum:** - In the higher education of Assam the curriculum is too much mechanical in nature. Instead of learning the subjects in details, priority is given on completing the syllabus in time. As a result the students are unable to learn and understand the contents of their syllabus.

**VII) Lack of Proper and Adequate research:** - In the higher education of Assam, very limited research is conducted. Higher education is a stage of education which should involve lots of on field and off field research. Alas, unfortunately, very limited research studies are observed in higher education system in the state.

**VIII) Lack of Skilled teachers :-** In the higher education institutions of Assam it is being observed that most of the teachers are neither skilled nor properly trained to use the modern technologies and equipment such as LCD projector, Power point presentation, ICT and many other. It brings a major problem in the teaching - leaning process. As a result of it, there arises a gap between the teachers and students.

**IX) Lack of diversified curriculum:** - In the higher education curriculum of Assam, there is lack of diversified and multidimensional aspects. The curriculum is unable to create excitement

in students towards higher education. Most of the times, students feel the monotony and as a result of it students become less attracted towards higher education.

### **Solution or remedial measures of higher education of Assam.**

Some remedial measures has been given I below

I) Provision should make for better development of the infrastructure in the higher educational institution, so that education can impart to the students properly.

II) The teachers should be properly trained for the use and access of the technological aids, equipment.

III) In case of the fees hike proper initiative should take so that every students who want to take higher education can avail it. An affordable fees structure should be followed.

IV) The curriculum should make flexible and diversified so that students can get attracted towards higher education. It should be able to make a proper co-ordination with the needs, interests etc. of the students.

V) Proper and adequate research should conduct in higher education so that the problems and drawbacks can understand in grass root level. It will also be helpful in making reformation in higher education. A research is that activity which helps in understanding and solving the difficulties.

VI) More vocational or job oriented subjects should be included in the curriculum of higher education, so that students can engage immediately after completing education. It will helpful in eradicating the rate of educated unemployment of our society.

### **Conclusion**

Although in Assam higher education still not in a satisfactory stage but cannot deny the significance of it. With the rapid advent of time the higher education sector of Assam also in developing stage. if proper policies modification reformation etc. can be made in higher education of Assam. Although government is trying to make reformation in higher education but more have to be done in this area. If the drawbacks can be removed or minimize in a proper way then higher education will be great way of making revolution in our society.

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