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RESEARCH ARTICLE

PROBLEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Higher Education has become the backbone of economic success in our rapidly developing countries. The higher Education is firmly entrenched in the wider social network and is reciprocally to other social institutions and has influence on all other elements, shaping the quality of society. There has been enormous expansion in the number of colleges and universities. However, in the state of Arunachal Pradesh several colleges, innumerable government as well as private degree colleges, B.Ed colleges have been established, the huge institutional growth turns bleak when the question of quality is raised. The present paper tries to analyze the strengths, weakness and opportunities associated with bettering our educational system in hopes of having a pre-developed workforce for the 21st century and beyond.

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INTRODUCTION

Higher education means an education which is of higher standard than the general education. In Arunachal Pradesh formal education started after independence. Till 1947 there was no higher education institution in the state. The literacy rate of the state was below 1 percent. However, with the attainment of independence the new era of educational progress and development started. The development of higher education started after it was made union territory in 1972. Col.K.A.A. Raja laid the foundation of higher education in the state. There has been a rapid increase in the enrolment of the students at the higher level in Arunachal Pradesh but the quality and relevance of education is serious concerns. Today the average students abound in number but there is no denying of the fact that there is a lower trend. However, as regards the fall of standard in higher education people holds variant views. There is an urgent need to address these problems and introduce new vision in higher education. The present paper tries to analyses some of the existing lacuna of higher education of Arunachal Pradesh which needs immediate attention.

Statement of the problem

The present study is entitled as "Problems of Higher Education in Arunachal Pradesh: A Critical Analysis"

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Objectives of the study

1. To study the status of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. To determine the problems of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh.
3. To study the attitude of teachers, community members and students towards higher education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Hyphotheses

1. There is no significant difference in the status of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. There is no significant difference between the attitude of teachers, community members and students towards higher education in Arunachal Pradesh.

Sample

A total of 13 higher education institution and a number of 50 teachers, 50 community members and 50 students formed the sample of this study. The sample was selected using the stratified random sampling technique.

Tools used

Observation, interview schedule and questionnaire were used to collect the data.

The above tools were self prepared by the investigator.

Methodology

As per the nature of the study the researcher will adopt descriptive cum normative survey method of educational research.

Delimitation of the study

The present study was delimited to

1. Higher education of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Nine Degree colleges, one Central university, one Law College and Two Teacher Education of Arunachal Pradesh.

Expansion of higher education in arunachal pradesh

Table 1. Distribution of universities/ colleges at state level (in Arunachal Pradesh)

Type of university	Total numbers
Central University	1
Degree Colleges	14
Horticulture College	1
Homeopathy college	1
Law college	1
Institution of Science and Technology	1
NIT	1
Teacher Education	5

At present there is 1 central university, 15 Degree colleges, 1 Horticulture college, 1 Homeopathy college, 1 Law college, 1 Institute of Science and Technology, 1 NIT and 5 college for Teacher Education in the state.

Quality and excellence of higher education (Arunachal Pradesh)

Table 2. Grade wise analysis of NAAC Accredited (in Arunachal Pradesh)

State	Universities			Colleges		
	NAAC Grades					
	A	B	C	A	B	C
Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	0	0	1	0

Standard of education is symptomatic of a condition of a state of relatively as: the standard of higher education of state 'A' is better or worse than higher education of state 'B'. It is important to note that of the total colleges and universities accredited by NAAC in Arunachal Pradesh till date were 'B' and remaining are not in the position to grade them. More alarming is serious shortage of faculty, unequal access to the instauration, non availability of textbooks and students who are ill equipped to handle the rigorous of college education.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Through the following few points, an attempt has been made to analyze the problems of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh:

1. Wrong policy of admitting students in higher education

No doubt everyone should get an opportunity to receive education up to the higher secondary stage. This stage of

education may be make compulsory. But it is not a proper idea to admit everyone in a degree or university. The educational standard goes down if everyone is given higher education and also increases the number of unemployed persons. There is huge wastage of money also. These days in Arunachal Pradesh, the number of students in higher education is increasing every year. If this speed of progress continues then we shall be having more than one lakh university students. Therefore we shall have to put a check to the growth of number of students in higher education if the standard of higher education has to be raised.

We should adopt such an admission policy that only the deserving ones get admission in educational institutions. Caste, creed and sex differences must not intervene in matters that concern education. The number to be admitted should be decided according to the facilities available in the institution. Rules should be framed regarding the minimum qualification required for admission. An admission test should be taken and on the basis of marks in the test they should be taken admission.

2. The unfavorable condition of faculty in higher education

The expansion of higher education system has considerable impact on the quality of education. One of the most important issues imparting is 'Teacher Quality'. The quality of education is primarily determined by the competencies, skills, abilities and motivation of teachers. It is mandatory for school teacher to have a degree in education through professional colleges (BE.D). However in higher education there is no such professional qualification requirement for teachers except the NET/SLET and ph.D.

Teacher needs constant latest knowledge in their discipline and other related areas. Reading of books articles, paper presentation and publication is necessary for teachers. But in Arunachal Pradesh teachers are overburdened. The number of present faculty is very small when compare to the states of the country. The teachers have very limited opportunity because of the reasons like: there is no environment in the college for research activities, second because of lack of financing as state Government is not in the position to bear expenses for attending seminar of all college teacher, finally time constraint, teacher are busy finishing their courses as banned calls and other students activities are very common in the state which often suspend classes.

3. Insufficient infrastructure in higher education

Day by day, there is an expansion in the number of higher education on the other hand the quality of infrastructure is deteriorating day by day, which is the biggest problem in Arunachal Pradesh today. Most of the Government colleges do not even have permanent site to construct college buildings. Temporary arrangements are made for running classes in either rented building or in some unused Government building. All the colleges/university of the region is functioning without proper staff, building, hostels, libraries, laboratories and staff quarters. The enrolment at undergraduate and university level is increasing every year but there is no improvement in the numbers and quality of infrastructures. It is still insufficient

and of very low quality. The main reason is the problem of finance and control.

The state should first, increase the educational budget and second, control over the expansion of unplanned higher education. Before independence there was no higher education institution in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. But, today we have a good number of higher education institutions in the state. The situation is alarming shocking. There is a great need of planning before opening a new college. No doubt, there is a high demand of higher institution in the state, but government has to first identify the locations, accessibility and population of the areas/district before establishing colleges. The University Grant Commission should make special efforts to raise the standard of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh.

4. Inappropriateness of teaching methods

In all schools and colleges of Arunachal Pradesh, the methods of teaching, too has led to the fall of standards in education. Generally traditional lecture method is still followed. In this system, the teachers are over active and the students remain as passive listeners. They do not get opportunity of 'learning by doing' or 'learning by experiencing'. There is no class interaction between the teachers and the students. Thus the teaching always remains as one way traffic. The students do not develop a power of expression, their curiosity does not develop and their creative instinct too remain under develop. Most of the teachers are so much overburden with their work that they also lack psychological approaches in their methods of work and behavior with students. Education has become book centered and not child centered.

All the teachers should be given training in psychological methods of teaching. There is no doubt that teachers of schools are trained with professional courses like B.Ed but the teachers of degree colleges and universities are generally untrained. Therefore in-service training programme, refresher courses should be started for acquainting teachers with the latest developments in teaching methods.

5. Problem of making the curriculum update, uniform and practical oriented

At present, rapid progress is being made in every field of knowledge therefore, it is necessary to update the course of higher education accordingly. At present in other state, there is great variation in the curricula of different universities/colleges and they keep on introducing new curriculum every year but on the other hand in Arunachal Pradesh, universities/colleges are still running the age old curriculums. There has been hardly one or two times change in the curriculum since it has been introduced. The curriculum are outdated, theoretical, traditional, idealistic, subjective etc and the course of some subjects are so extensive that they cannot be completed within the stipulated time period. Most universities are reluctant to implement the model curriculums prepared by UGC. The curriculum prepared by UGC is more idealistic, attention has not been paid to prepare them on the ground of reality. This makes it difficult to maintain the standard of higher education. Curriculum construction is a continuous process and with the change of aims it should also undergo change. Moreover the

present age is the age of knowledge explosion. Therefore the change in the curriculum becomes necessary. The curriculum of every subject of universities/colleges should be reviewed and updated in every 5 years. As far as the question of making the course practical oriented, no one is against it, but its framework needs apriori preparation.

6. Huge size of classes and students unrest

Due to expansion of education, in some colleges the number of students in a class goes even up to 200 to 250. This makes the personal contact between the teachers and taught impossible. The problem of students remains unsolved. There are no sufficient chairs and tables for the students in any class. Toilet arrangement is extremely very poor. Certain teaching office rooms in university and colleges happen to be situated near toilet rooms which are seldom cleaned properly. It is difficult to pass by the side of such rooms. Evidently, even sweepers are not under control. No one can make them to perform their duties. In most of the institution, at present, students do not follow the rules of the institution, frequently bunk classes, misbehave with their teachers in the classes and resort to eve-teasing. Very often they take recourse to demonstration, hunger strike, strike and bandh. Very often violent incidents occur at the time of election of student union. Most of the students with background in arts, humanities and law get actively involved in political activities, they are one of the most powerful and influential group in the state, they have free access with the highest political leaders. There is free flow of money in student's politics. All these deplorable condition create indiscipline problem which have vitiated the whole educational atmosphere of the state.

Suitable teachers should be appointed in large number according to the strength of the students in the class. No class should consist of more than 50 students. Tutorial system should be encouraged. Every institution should have suitable building, library, laboratory work and play ground and necessary equipment for games and sports. Every educational centre should have a guidance bureau for giving the necessary educational and vocational guidance to students.

7. Problem of reform in the examination and evaluation system

In Arunachal Pradesh, the present system of conducting examination and evaluation is not at all appropriate. In university there is semester system but in colleges till 2013, there was annual system of examination but recently in 2014 semester system was introduced in all degree colleges. It is subjective in nature. Question papers contain mostly essay-type questions and 50% choice is given to the students. Therefore they are neither valid nor reliable. The mode of conduction of these examinations is also defective. Students mostly resorts to unfair means in their examinations. A physical assault, threatening etc to the teaching staff by the students during examination is a common phenomenon now a day. Favoritism takes place openly in those subjects where oral and practical examinations are held. Answer books are checked carelessly because of the examiners has to evaluate a large number of answer books in less time. This is the reason, after the declaration of result many students go for re-evaluation.

Only the brilliant, able and laborious students should be given admission in higher education institutions. If the number of students is restricted and the admission of anti-social elements is prevented then the problem of using unfair means in examination will be automatically be solved. Essay type, short answer type and objective questions should be asked in the written examinations of every subject. Oral and practical examinations should be conducted honestly and steps should be taken to stop favoritism and partiality. In the evaluation of answer books, central evaluation has proved effective. The first two question papers should be evaluated by the teachers whereas the third question paper should be evaluated by computer.

Conclusion

Higher Education is meant to increase the resolving power of human mind, to inculcate the basic tenets of independent thinking and to enliven the indomitable character of the human mind to the young and talented students (Kumar Singh 2008). Higher education plays important role for national development. It provides opportunities to reflect on social, economic, cultural and moral issues facing humanity. In introspect it may be said that many problems exist in higher education of Arunachal Pradesh. There are many issues likes – problems of infrastructures, outdated curriculum, faulty methods of examination, no faculty development programme etc. which needs to be address immediately. Some of them have already been solved to some extent but some of its problem still needs to be solved. A change is needed in infrastructure facilities, making curriculum up to date by introducing more job oriented subjects, introducing new methods of examination, creating more opportunities of research activities and faculty development programme etc. first of all, we should solve these problems in the field of higher education because of which it has become meaningless.

Two types of resources are needed to solve any problem, namely – financial resources and the honesty and integrity of working people. If the Government arranges sufficient financial resources for the proper organization of higher education and the people related to higher education work with honesty and integrity, the problem will automatically get solved.

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