



DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH.

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the development of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh. From the finding, it is found that, at the time of independence of our country, there were only 3 primary schools with an enrolment of 35 students in the state. When the first ever census was conducted in the state in year 1961, the literacy rate was recorded as 7.23 percent as against 28.30 percent of the country. The history of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh started with the vision of Dr. Daying Ering to have a college during the then North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) and the premier institution of higher learning in the state was established in July 1964 at Pasighat in East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh. At present, there are 62 higher educational institutions with a breakup of 30 private and 32 government institutions of in the state. The total enrolment in the academic session 2020 - 21 was recorded 39196, of which 21723 were boys and 17473 were girls. The enrolment of students in ODL was 7737, of which 3386 were boys and rests 4351 were girls. The strength of teachers were recorded 1983 of which 1188 were male teachers and the rest 795 were female teachers. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of higher education in the state within the age group of 18 – 23 years is 35.4 (overall) with male GER 36.5 and 34.4 for female GER as compare to the National 27.1 overall GER.

Keywords: Higher Education, Government Degree College, Rastriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, Gross Enrolment Ratio.

INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the most important aspects in life. It helps in personal development as well as social and economic development of the nation. It also helps in understanding social justice, rights, and laws of an individual. Education has always been a powerful tool for socialization. It is the process of learning beliefs, values, patterns, and societal roles and cultures. Higher education provides people with an opportunity to reflect on critical social, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. It contributes to national development through dissemination of specialized knowledge and skills. Higher education in India begins after secondary education in learning institutions. The completion of higher education results in degree, diploma or certificate. India's higher education system is the third largest in the world after the United States and China. The main governing body at the tertiary level in India is the University Grants Commission (UGC), which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between the Centre and the State. The higher education sector of India, in recent decades, has witnessed a tremendous growth in many aspects such as its institutional capacity, enrolment, and teacher-student ratio, etc.

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

The state of Arunachal Pradesh is the largest state of North- East India in terms of territorial extent. It is surrounded by Bhutan to the west, Tibet and China to the north, Myanmar to the east, Assam and Nagaland to the south, the area of the state estimated nearly 2.5 percent of the geographical area of the country. According to 2011 census, the state has recorded 17 persons per sq.km with the total population of around 14 lakhs. This is about 0.1 percent of the present population of the country. The state is the homeland of around 26 major tribes and 110 sub-tribes preserving and practicing their own different dialects, culture, and traditions. The formal education system in Arunachal Pradesh started after Independence. At the time of independence of the country, the official record reveals that there were only three primary schools with an enrolment of 35 students. When the first ever census was conducted in the state in 1961, the literacy rate was recorded at 7.23 percent against 28.30 percent of all India. As

per the latest census 2011 report the state has achieved the literacy rate of 66.95% but it is still below than the national literacy rate of 74.04%.

There are many research studies conducted in the field of Higher Education such as: Begi, J. (2007) conducted a study on education in Arunachal Pradesh since 1947 and the findings reveals that the formal education in the state started before 1947 by missionaries but could not function properly. Practically, the formal education system began after independence with the appointment of Mrs. Indira Mili as Education Officer in 1947. Benal, BL (1987) conducted a study on development of Higher Education in the state of Karnataka during six five year plans with a special reference to Karnataka University and found that there was a considerable quantitative growth of institutions during the plan period, the receipt and expenditures had significantly increased due to the developmental programs initiated and implemented and the library of Karnataka University had expanded considerably and it was believed to be the second largest in Asia. Nayak, PK (2002) conducted a study on higher education in Arunachal Pradesh and found that the initiative from the government has been phenomenal with regard to the expansion of education in the state. Taba, R (2004) Conducted a study on development of education in Arunachal Pradesh since independence and found that there were only 1 (one) college till 1971 and by 2003, there was 1 (one) university and 7 (seven) colleges in the state.

From the above studies, it is quite clear that none of the study has been conducted on the development of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh. Therefore, the present study has been taken up on the development of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh. It is expected that the findings of the study will be useful for the administrators, policy makers and teachers to get clear picture about the background and development of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh. The study is also very significant for effective implementation of centrally sponsored scheme particularly RUSA in the state and finally it will fill up the research gap in this area.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study confines with the development of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh, therefore, the Historical and Descriptive Method of Educational Research was employed. Data were collected from books, journals, and official records of Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

FINDINGS

Development of Higher Education in Arunachal Pradesh

Higher education in Arunachal Pradesh refers to all types of education – Academic, Professional, Technological, Vocational, Teacher Education, Medical, Law, Engineering and Polytechnics that provides in different institutions such as universities and colleges for which students needs to complete their secondary school education. The history of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh stated with the vision of Dr. Daying Ering to have a college during the then North East Frontier Agency (NEFA). Dr. Daying Ering was the pioneer leader in the field of higher education in the state. When he became the member of the parliament (MP), he took up the work for the establishment of a college in the state which was agreed at higher level. Thereafter, the premier institution of higher learning in the state was established in July, 1964 at Pasighat in East Siang district Arunachal Pradesh. The college is named after the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. The college started functioning with 42 students and 8 (eight) lecturers. The college offered degree courses in Geography, Assamese, English, Economics, History, Political Science, Hindi, Education, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Mathematics. The post graduation section in history and political science was opened in 1981 and the college was upgraded to a PG college. In 1979, one more college, Government College Itanagar was established at Itanagar to meet the requirement of students and to produce human resource for development in the state. JN College, Pasighat and Government College, Itanagar were affiliated to Guwahati University since their inception. Accordingly, they had to follow the ordinances of the Guwahati University regarding academic activities, such as admission, curriculum, examination and evaluation. but, a lot of inconvenience were faced in the normal functioning of these colleges due to various regions. Therefore, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh approached the Government of India to transfer the affiliation of these colleges to any other universities. As a result, in 1980 these colleges were affiliated to the Punjab University in Chandigarh. Finally, the Arunachal University Bill 1983 was moved by the Chief Minister and passed in Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh on 3rd February, 1984. On 4th February, 1984, the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone of the Arunachal University (now Rajiv Gandhi University) at Rono hills near Doimukh. The university was actually setup on 1st April 1985.

The third college of the state namely Indira Gandhi Government College at Tezu in Lohit district was established in 1986. The college was granted affiliation for undergraduate courses in History, Economics, Hindi, Geography, Political Science, and English. The Government Degree College, Bomdila was started during the session 1988-89 in West Kameng. The college was granted affiliation for undergraduate courses in History, Economics, Hindi, Geography, Political Science and English.

The higher education in Arunachal Pradesh had rapidly expanded in the last two decades to meet human resources needs in all disciplines and professions. At present, the state has 62 higher educational institutions with a breakup of 30 private and 32

government institutions in the state, including; a Central University, a Deemed to be University and a National Institute of Technology. The total enrolment of the students in the higher and technical educational institutions of the state was 46933 (both regular - 39196 and ODL - 7737) in the academic session 2020-2021, as per official record available in Directorate Higher and Technical Education (DH & TE) Itanagar. The overall students - teachers ratio is 1: 19 and the ratio of that of government colleges alone is 1: 31 and government polytechnics is 1: 10 against the UGC laid norms of 1: 25 for science, 1: 15 for honors course and 1: 30 for pass course respectively. As per the Rastriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme's laid norms the ratio should be 1: 20 in all perspective. As such, there is acute shortage of teachers in the colleges. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) within the age group of 18-24 years is 20: 27 against the national average of 26: 30 in (2018-19) and Gross Enrolment Ratio of male and female were recorded at 21: 73 and 18:79 in the state respectively.

Table No. 1: Showing the number of higher educational institutions in Arunachal Pradesh as on 1st January, 2020.

SL. No.	TYPE OF INSTITUTIONS	NUMBER OF INSTITUTION
1	Central University	01
2	National Institute of Technology	01
3	Regional Institute (Deemed University)	01
4	National Open University (IGNOU)	01
5	Private Universities	09
6	Other Central Institutions	03
7	Government Degree and Model Colleges	18
8	Govt. Law College	01
9	Private Degree Colleges	08
10	Private Professional Colleges	03
11	Teacher Training and Education (B.Ed) Colleges	09
12	Govt. Polytechnic	06
13	Private Polytechnics	01
	TOTAL	62

Source: Records of DH&TE, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.

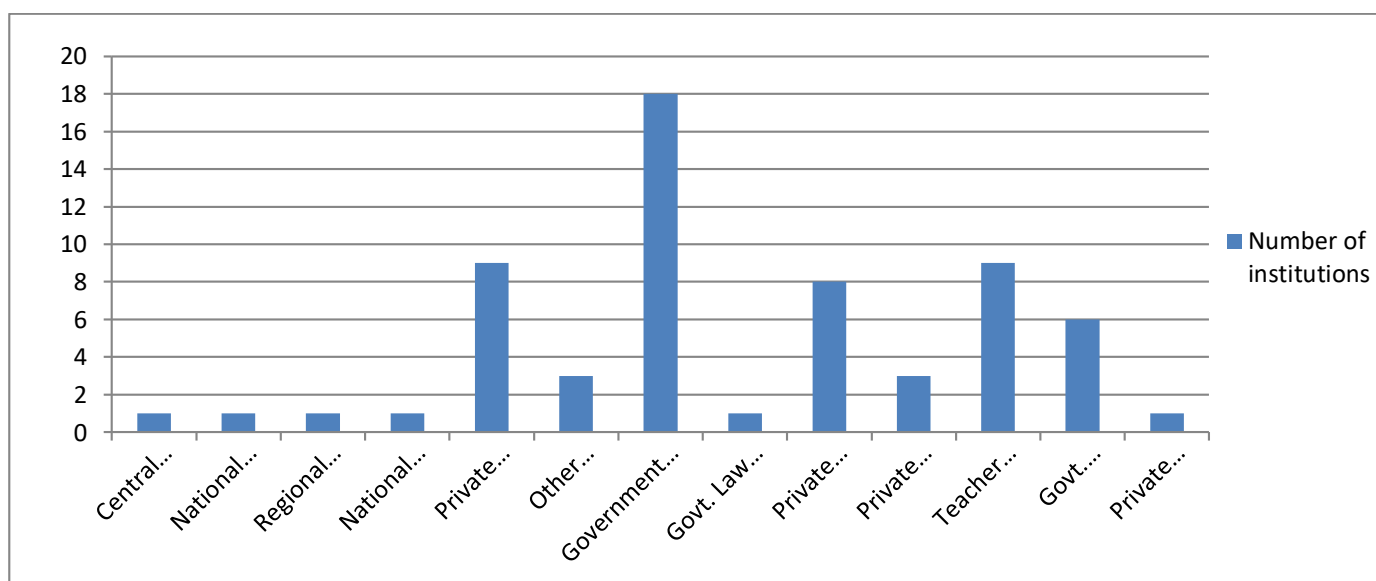


Fig. No. 1: Showing number of higher educational institutions in Arunachal Pradesh as on 1st January 2020.

Table No. 2: Showing year wise growth of higher educational institutions in Arunachal Pradesh as on 1st January 2020.

SL. No.	YEARS	NUMBER OF INSTITUTION
1	2012	07
2	2013	06
3	2014	10
4	2015	03
5	2016	02
6	2017	01
7	2018	02
8	2019	01
	TOTAL	32

Source: Records of DH&TE, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.

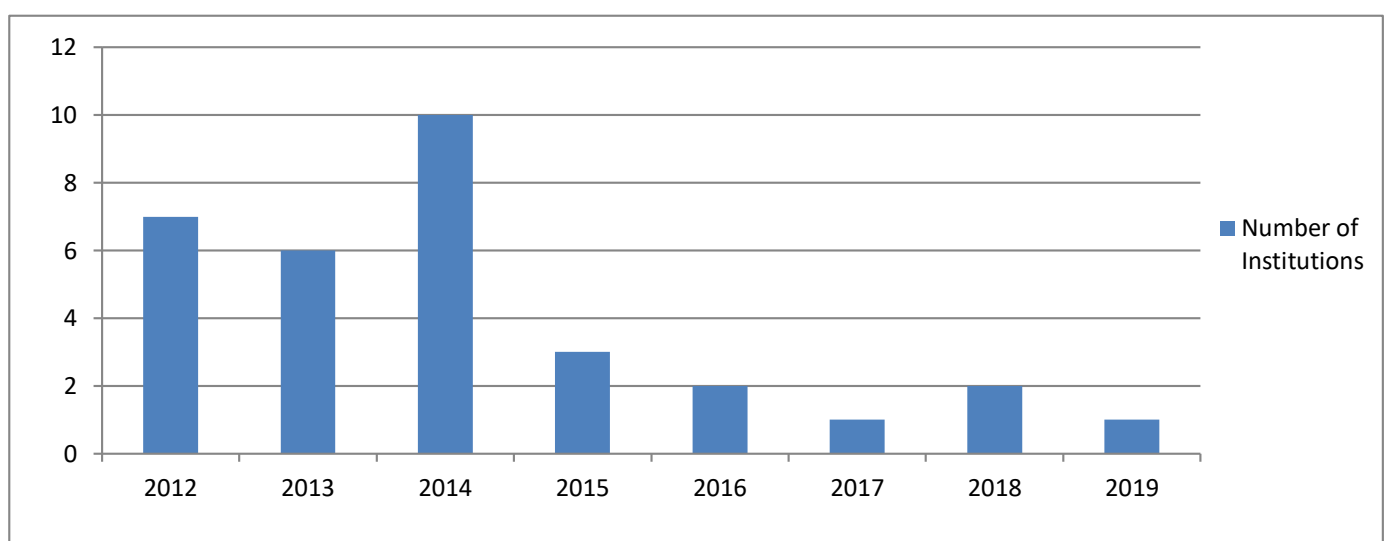
**Fig. No. 2: Showing year wise growth of higher educational institutions in Arunachal Pradesh as on 1st January 2020.**

Table No. 1 and 2 and Figure No. 1 and 2 reveals that since 2011 to 2020 the number of higher educational institutions has recorded with an increased number of 32 (thirty two) different levels of institutions with a break up of; 1 Central University (RGU), 1 National Institute of Technology (NIT), 1 Regional Institute (Deemed University) (NERIST), 1 National Open University (IGNOU), 9 Private Universities, 3 Other Central Institutions, 18 Government Degree and Model Degree Colleges, 1 Govt. Law College, 8 Private Degree Colleges, 3 Private Professional Colleges, 9 Teacher Training and Education (B.Ed) Colleges, 6 Govt. Polytechnic, 1 Private Polytechnics. It is to mention that all the nine numbers of university level institutions are established by private individuals and some are providing degrees through regular and distance mode. After 2015, the state government had established 8 Government Degree Colleges in which 6 are Government Model Degree Colleges under RUSA scheme. While 3 numbers of private Degree Colleges were also started in the state. In the field of teacher education; 9 numbers of private Colleges for teacher education were established throughout the state. The state government also established five polytechnic institutions to meet the need of polytechnic in the state.

CONCLUSION

Education is a process by which a person's body, mind and character are formed and strengthened. It is bringing of head, heart and mind together and thus enabling a person to develop an all round personality identifying the best in human being. There was no formal education before independence; the state has expanded very rapidly in higher education after independence. After the state attained its statehood, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh initiated to establish many colleges to cater the needs of students in the state.

The state has made rapid expansion in higher education since 2011 and recorded increased in the number of higher educational institution in the state under the both government and private sectors which is very positive sign for the development of the state in terms of producing quality human resource in various fields. The contribution of private sector in the field of

education is also quite encouraging. However, with more focus on access and equality, maintaining quality higher education is a challenge for the state like Arunachal Pradesh.

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