



ESSENCE, SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SIKKIM STATE UNIVERSITY IN CONSOLIDATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF SIKKIM; A FUTURISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract: This paper analyses the scope and arena of the Sikkim State University in consolidation of higher educational institutions of the state of Sikkim with reviews on contents of the Principal Act and its Amendments. The description method of study has been adopted with data collection from secondary sources. The Principal Act towards establishment of one of its kind as State Public University was passed in the year 2003 thereby making existence of the Sikkim State University as an Artificial Legal Person but the university became operational only since the year 2018. In this context, this study suggests for holistic intervention of stakeholder in furtherance of university in consolidation and monitoring of the higher educational institutions of the state of Sikkim basically owned by the state.

Keywords: *Sikkim State University, higher education, .*

Introduction: the demand of a state owned university has been there in Sikkim since the formation of SDF government as contained in the memorandum dated: 25.08.1995 (item no. 10 'establishing a university' as contained in the box below) submitted to the office of the Prime Minister of India of tion as in the memorandum

A committee was constituted by the government of Sikkim vide notification

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Sikkim, a land of peace and tranquillity situated in lap of the Himalayan region guarded by third highest peak of world Mt. Kanchenjunga (worshipped as a local guardian deity) having declared as '*the first organic state in the country*' on January 19, 2016 by the Prime Minister of India had mostly garnered popularity with its stories of organic farming across the globe. However, the state of Sikkim have been making headlines in educational sector since last two decades on account of her efforts having recognized at the national level awards. In the year 2004, Sikkim bagged the first rank in India Today Awards in the field of education under smaller states category and on 6th August 2005, Sikkim was adjudged as best small state for investment, environment and education during the 'State of States' conclave of Chief Ministers held in Delhi. In the field of primary education, Sikkim ranked top amongst Small States of India in the sixth 'State of States' report 2008. All these were possible as the Government of Sikkim has accorded highest priority to the education sector by allocating almost 20% of the state's total budget outlay.

In case of the higher education system, it is most awaited and commendable initiative of the Government Sikkim to pass an Act in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly towards establishment of a State Public University, one of its kind through an Act No. 3 of 2003 named The Sikkim University Act, 2003 thereby making existence of the Sikkim State University as an Artificial Legal Person since

a "Sikkim State University", which goes to consolidate and monitor the higher educational institutions of the state of Sikkim basically owned by the state under one umbrella in one hand and cater to needs for indigenous research and resolve several academic issues on other hand. Whereas, having exists as an Artificial Legal Person, its establishment in physical form comprising human resources, fixed assets and operational items necessitate allocation of budget and creation of demand. Whereas, pending the submission of the Budget Proposals by the official concerned (VC) of the

University (upon recruitment), the Govt of Sikkim may have allocated an adhoc budget with creation of demand as appropriate.

According to census reports, the literacy rate of state has phenomenally increased from 68.81% of the year 2001 to 88.71% in the year 2011.

Table-1: Statistical profile of Sikkim

Area	7096 Km (2740 sq m)
Capital	Gangtok
Statehood	16 th May, 1975
Seats in Legislatures	State: 31 Legislative Assembly Parliament: 1 each in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
Districts	04 (East, West, South, North)
Census 2011 record on state's demography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population: 6,10,577 (Male: 323,070 and Female: 287,507) Rural: 456999 and Urban: 153578 District wise:- North: 43709, West: 136435, South: 146850, East: 283583 Density: 76 per square kilometre Sex Ratio: 890 females per 1000 males Literacy rate: 88.71% (Males: 92.35% & Females: 84.70 %)
	Major towns and population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mangan (North District):- 4,644 (Males: 2,456 & Females: 2,188) Gyalshing (West District):- 4,013 (Males: 2,054 & Females: 1,959) Nayabazar (West District):- 1,235 (Males: 656 & Females: 579) Namchi (South District):- 12,190 (Males: 6,166 & Females: 6,024) Jorthang (South District):- 9,009 (Males: 4,656 & Females: 4,353) Gangtok (East District):- 1,00,286 (Males: 52,459 & Females: 47,827) Singtam (East District):- 5,868 (Males: 3,097 & Females: 2,771) Rangpo (East District):- 10,450 (Males: 5,555 & Females: 4,895) Rhenock (East District):- 5,883 (Males: 3,174 & Females: 2,709)
Languages spoken	English, Nepali, Hindi, Bhutia, Lepcha, Limboo, Rai, Gurung, Manger, Sherpa, Tamang and Bhujel

Source: www.sikkim.gov.in and District Census Handbook, Sikkim 2011

Higher education, also called post-secondary education, third-level or tertiary education, is an optional final stage of formal learning that occurs after completion of secondary education. It is delivered at universities, academies, colleges, seminaries, conservatories, and institutes of technology, and through certain college-level institutions, including vocational schools, trade schools, and other career colleges that award degrees. Tertiary education at non-degree level is sometimes referred to as further education or continuing education as distinct from higher education.

With more than 1500 government schools, 471 private schools and 12 colleges that impart good professional education, is a viable option for residents and non residents

1.1 A review on current scenario of higher learning in Sikkim

- Higher Education in Sikkim: Until, 1994, there were three colleges in the State namely - Sikkim Government College, Tadong, Sikkim Government Law College, Burtuk and Sikkim Institute of Nyingma Higher Studies at Deorali. Now the State can boast of one Central University, 10 Government Colleges, 4 Private Universities and 5 Private Colleges.
- Educational Research & Training: The Human Resource Development Department (HRDD), Government of Sikkim in order to strengthen the teacher education in the State upgraded the then TTI to District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Gangtok in 2003. This was later followed by establishment of District Resource Centers (DRCs) in Namchi and Geyzing during 2010. These two DRCs have now been upgraded as DIET from 2015.
- The State Institute of Education (SIE) established in the year 1978 was upgraded to the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). Teacher's Training
- The State has seven institutes which conducts courses to prepare school teachers of both primary and secondary levels. They are:

12. Technical Education in Sikkim

1. Advance Technical Training Center (ATTC), Barding

ATTC currently runs 6 AICTE approved three years diploma courses, namely Diploma in Mechatronics (DM), Mechanical Engineering (DME), Tool & Die making (DTDM), Manufacturing Technology (DMT), Computer Engineering (DCE) and

Civil Engineering (DCVE) and has an intake capacity of 45 students per trade. ATTC has also started with a brand new course of Diploma in Civil Engineering which was approved by AICTE in the year 2016.

2. Center for Computers and Communication technology (CCCT), Chisopani, South Sikkim

It offers Diploma Engineering courses which are approved by AICTE, Govt. of India since 1998 and is affiliated to State Board of Technical Education (SBTE), Government of Sikkim. It offers 3 years Diploma in:

a. Computer Science and Technology.

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<https://sikkim.gov.in/departments/human-resource-development-department/technical-education-in-sikkim> 2/3

b. Electrical and Electronics Engineering. c. Electronics and Communication Engineering. d. Civil Engineering.

3. New Polytechnics

Two new polytechnics are coming up at Mangshila, North Sikkim and Yangthang, West Sikkim. A new Engineering College funded by Rashtrya Uttcharat Siksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is coming up at CCCT Complex in near future.

Professional Study Opportunities in Sikkim Sikkim is better known for its professional study courses than for its general study courses. There are a number of colleges in Sikkim which offer world class professional degrees, thus giving students practical knowledge and preparing the students to take on the job market in India and abroad. These professional courses also attract a number of foreign students and non residents of Sikkim. The Sikkim Manipal University has become one of the most popular study centers for professional courses in India.

13. Percentage distribution of State Quota Seats for Higher Education

Sl.no. State Quota Seats Percentage

1. Scheduled Tribes 13%

2. Scheduled Casts 7%

3. Bhua & Lepcha 20%

4. OBC (State List) 20%

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<https://sikkim.gov.in/departments/human-resource-development-department/state-quota-reservation-policy-for-college-admission> 2/3

5. OBC (Central List) 20%

6. Primitive Tribe 5%

7. Others 5%

8. Merit 10%

Sl.no. Name of Institute

1. District Institute of Education and Training – East District

2. District Institute of Education and Training – South District, Namchi

3. District Institute of Education and Training – West District, Geyzing

4. Carmel Teacher Training, Institute – East District, Pakyong

5. Loyola College of Education – East District, Pakyong

6. Harka Maya College of Education

7. Sikkim Government B.Ed. College, Soreng, West District

No of schools

No of colleges

Knowledge commission report

1.1 Institutions of higher education in Sikkim

There are five universities in Sikkim comprising one Central University and four State Private Universities. The Sikkim University was established by Parliament of India in 2007 as Central University in the state whereas Private Universities established by Sikkim Legislative Assembly comprise of Sikkim Manipal University (estb. 1995), The ICFAI University, Sikkim (estb. 2004), Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University (estb 2008) and SRM University Sikkim (2014). All these five universities are presently located in the Gangtok Sub-division of East District. The National Institute of Technology, Sikkim was established by Government of India in 2010.

List of institutions of higher education in Sikkim

Sr	Name and address	District	Ownership type	Year of estab.	Programme offered
I. Universities					
1	Sikkim Manipal University (formerly known as <i>Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences</i>)	East	Private		
2	VMSU	East	Private		
3	ELLIM	South	Private		
4	SRM U	East	Private		
5	SU	East	Central Govt.		
6	ICFAI	East	Private		
7	IGNOU	East	Central Govt.		
8	SSU	East	State Govt.		
II. Arts, Commerce and Science Colleges/Institutions					
1	Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College (formerly known as <i>Sikkim Government College, Tadong</i>)	East	State Govt.	1972	B.A/B.Sc/B.Com
2	Sikkim Institute of Higher Nyingma Studies (SHEDA)	East	State Govt.	1983	Shastri, Acharya
3	Damber Singh Degree College	East	Private	1994	B.A
4	Namchi Government College	South	State Govt.	1996	B.A
5	Government Sanskrit College	West	State Govt.	1997	Shastri
6	Pakim Palatine College	East	Private	2004	B.A
7	Rhenock Government College	East	State Govt.	2005	BA
8	Sikkim Government Degree College	West	State Govt.	2011	B.A
9	Sikkim Government College	East	State Govt.	2012	B.A
10	Sikkim Govt. Vocational College	West	State Govt.	2015	B.A.
11	Sikkim Government Science College	West	State Govt.	2016	B.Sc
III. Law College/Institution					
1	Sikkim Government Law College	East	State Govt.	1980	LLB, LLM
IV. Tourism and Hospitality College/Institution					
1	Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition	East	State Govt.	2001	B.Sc (Hospitality & Hotel Admn)
V. Medical, Pharmacy, Nursing and Paramedical Colleges/Institutions					
1	GNM Training School, STNM	East	State Govt.	1983	ANM, GNM
2	Himalayan Pharmacy Institute	East	Private	1990	D. Pharm, B. Pharm
3	Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences	East	Private	2001	M.B.B.S
4	Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing	East	Private	2001	B.Sc-Nursing
5	Sikkim Manipal College of Physiotherapy	East	Private	2001	B. Physiotherapy
6	School of Basic & Applied Sciences	East	Private	2001	BS-Engb/B.Sc (IT)
VI. Teacher's Training Colleges/Institutions					
1	District Institute of Education & Training (DIET) Burtuk	East	State Govt.	1989	D.El.Ed
2	Loyala College of Education	South	Private	1997	B.Ed
3	Harkamaya College of Education	East	Private	2003	B.Ed
4	Sikkim Government B.Ed. College	West	State Govt.	2009	B.Ed
5	District Institute of Education & Training (DIET) Gyalshing	West	State Govt.	2010	D.El.Ed
6	District Institute of Education & Training (DIET) Namchi	South	State Govt.	2010	D.El.Ed
VII. Engineering, Agricultural and Polytechnic Colleges/Institutions					
1	Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Rangpo	East	State Govt.	1976	Certificate
2	Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology	East	Private	1997	B.E/B.Tech

3	Centre for Computers and Communication Technology	South	State Govt.	1999	Diploma
4	Advanced Technical Training Centre	East	State Govt.	1999	Diploma
5	College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology	East	Central Govt.	2006	B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering)
6	Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Namchi	South	State Govt.	2008	Certificate
7	Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Geysing	West	State Govt.	2010	Certificate

2 A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT ON THE SIKKIM STATE UNIVERSITY

PERSPECTIVE (Understanding social, cultural, intellectual and emotional settings that shaped people's lives and action in past) HOW WAS SIKKIM STATE UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED IN SIKKIM?

On the historic day 12-6-2003, the Sikkim Legislative Assembly tabled "The Sikkim University Bill, 2003" introduced on..... was passed on immediate next day. Consequent upon the assent of the Governor of Sikkim on..... the Sikkim University came into existence as an artificial legal person in the state of Sikkim. Though the Sikkim Legislative Assembly in its past years approved and passed two bills for establishment of private universities viz ICFAI, ELLIM, it is the first of its kind for establishment of a State Public University, an autonomous institution under the aegis of Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim.

Act 2017 change of name....

14. The Sikkim State University established as a lone and only State University by the Government of Sikkim under aegis of its Human Resource Development Department through Act No. 5 of 2003 passed by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, published in official Gazette Notification no. 195 dated: 24-06-2003 has been functional with effect from 6th July 2018 upon joining by the Founding Vice Chancellor, Prof. Gopal Kumar Niroula Chhetry. The university is recognized under Section 2(f) and 22 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 vide UGC letter no. F.No. 9-19/2018 (CPP-I/PU) dated: 01.01.2019 thereby empowering University to award degrees by conducting courses through its own department, its constituent colleges and/or through its affiliated colleges under regular mode in compliance to UGC Regulations.
 15.
 - a.
 16. The Sikkim State University (SSU) has been established vide the Sikkim State University Act, 2003 amended in 2017 as a lone State University under the aegis of Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim and has commenced its operation upon joining of the Founder Vice Chancellor with effect from 6th July 2018.
 17. Immediately upon enactment of the Act, the University stands as an Artificial Legal Person liable to comply with several statutory requirements and compliance thereof.
- (1) The Sikkim State University is a lone and only STATE UNIVERSITY established by Govt. of Sikkim under the aegis of its Human Resource Development Department through an Act no. 5 of 2003 passed by Sikkim Legislative Assembly, published in official Gazette vide Notification no. 195 dated: 24-06-2003. The University commenced its operation since 6th July 2018 upon joining of its Founding Vice Chancellor, Prof. Gopal Kumar Niroula Chhetry.
 - (2) The University received recognition u/s 2(f) & 22 of UGC Act, 1956 vide their letter no. F.No. 9-19/2018/CPP-I/PU dated: 01-01-2019, copy attached as *Annexure-I*.
 - (3) Whereas, the membership under your esteemed association (AIU) is requested for necessary help and support to facilitate in furtherance of this newly established university.

It gives great pleasure to inform that Sikkim State University, a lone and only STATE UNIVERSITY established by Government of Sikkim under the aegis of its Human Resource Development Department through Act no. 5 of 2003 passed by Sikkim Legislative Assembly, published in official Gazette vide Notification no. 195 dated: 24-06-2003, have commenced its operation since 6th July 2018 upon joining of its Founding Vice Chancellor, Prof. G.K.N. Chhetry.

The Sikkim State University also got recognition u/s 2(f) & 22 of UGC Act, 1956 vide their letter no. F.No. 9-19/2018/CPP-I/PU dated: 01-01-2019, a copy attached for your ready reference.

1. The Sikkim State University is functional with running of two PG Departments viz Nepali department and Sanskrit from academic session of 2018-2019.
2. The University got recognition u/s 2 (f) and 22 of UGC Act, 1956 thereby empowered to start departments, affiliate colleges and award degrees.

3. The 1st Executive Council Meetings of Sikkim State University held on 9th May 2019 has also approved for opening of non-lab based post graduate departments. Accordingly, the University is going to open 10 more departments with intake capacity of 20 seats each. These new PG departments comprises of 5 PG departments already being run at as an Extension Counter of under Sikkim University at NBBDC, Tadong.
 4. Established as a lone and only State University by the Government of Sikkim under aegis of its Human Resource Development Department through Act No. 5 of 2003 passed by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly & published in official Gazette vide Notification no. 195 dated: 24-06-2003.
 5. Its activity and functioning commenced with effect from 6th July 2018 upon joining by the Founding Vice Chancellor, Prof. Gopal Kumar Niroula Chhetry.
 6. Recognized under Section 2(f) and 22 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 vide UGC letter no. F.No. 9-19/2018 (CPP-I/PU) dated: 01.01.2019 thereby empowering University to award degrees by conducting courses through its own department, its constituent colleges and/or through its affiliated colleges under regular mode in compliance to UGC Regulations.
 7. His Excellency, the Governor of Sikkim as Chancellor approved the First Executive Council of the University.
- Task ahead for Sikkim State University
 - (a) Establishment of University Office (Manpower, equipment and infrastructure)
 - (b) Consolidation of higher education of Sikkim
 - (c) Affiliation of all colleges wholly funded by the Government of Sikkim
 - (d) Curriculum development for degree (UG/PG), diploma, certificate courses etc,
 - Whereas, for the purpose of affiliation of all Government Colleges from the Academic Session 2019-20, course curriculum is necessary for admission to first batch of undergraduate students and also for post graduate students in 10 more proposed disciplines. For the purpose of availing benefits from UGC, it is inevitable to develop and adopt curriculum under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS).

Govt. of India's New Education Policy targets

- *"To bring equity, Efficiency, Academic excellence in National Higher Education System" with innovation and improvement in course-curricula, introduction of paradigm shift in learning and teaching pedagogy, examination and education system.*
- *Redesign education system by introducing innovations with development of learner centric approach in the entire education delivery mechanisms and globally followed evaluation system.*

Choice based credit system:-

- *Internationally acknowledged system, offers opportunities and avenues to learn core subjects but also exploring additional avenues of learning beyond the core subjects for holistic development of an individual.*
- *A shift from marks or percentage based to credit based evaluation system.*
- *Allow flexibility to study subjects or courses of the choice and facilitate mobility to different institutions.*

Advantages of CBCS

- *Shift in focus from teacher centric to student centric education.*
- *Allow student to choose inter-disciplinary, intra-disciplinary courses, skill oriented papers (even from other disciplines according to their learning needs, interest and aptitude).*
- *Student can take credits by combining unique combinations eg Physics (Honors) can take Economics, and Microbiology (Honors) with Chemistry or Environmental science.*
- *Offer student with flexibility to study at different times and at different institutions to complete one course (ease mobility). Credit earned at one institution can be transferred to other.*
- *Makes education broad-based and at par with global standards.*

Practical aspect of CBCS

- *Students can choose course from the prescribed courses comprising core, electives or skill based courses.*
- *Evaluation by following uniform grading system and computation of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) based on students performance in examination as per UGC guidelines.*

AIU membership wef 1st April 2019

Important dates in establishment of Sikkim State University

Sr	Events	Date
1	Act Passed on	
2	Governors Assent / Legal Existence	
3	UGC recognition	1 st January 2018
4	AIU recognition	

News on affiliation of Govt college gyalising with Vinayaka Mission university

News on B.Ed college

SICB Tie up with IVET and VMSU

Similar news on

Sr.	Name of University	Address (District of its location)	Type	Date/Year of Notification/ Establishment
1	Sikkim Manipal University (SMU)	5th Mile, PO.Tadong, Gangtok Sikkim-737 102. (EAST)	Private University	11.10.1995
2	The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University (ICFAI)	Ranka Road, Lower Sichey, Gangtok, Sikkim-737 102. (EAST)	Private University	04.10.2004
3	Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University (VMSU)	Middle Tadong, PO Daragaorn, Tadong, Sikkim-737 102. (EAST)	Private University	30.07.2008
4	Sikkim University (SU)	6th Mile, Samdur, PO Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim -737102. (EAST)	Central University	2007
5	Shri Ramasamy Memorial University (SRMU)	5th Mile, Tadong, Ranipool PO, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737 102. (EAST)	Private University	16.01.2014
6	Sikkim State University (SSU)	Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim -737102. (EAST)	State University	19.04.2017

Source: UGC (<https://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/Consolidated%20list%20of%20All%20Universities.pdf>)

2 RESEARCH PROBLEM/ STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE YEAR 2003 BUT FUNCTIONAL SINCE 2018 AND FUNCTIONING WITH ONLY TWO DEPARTMENTS, ACCORDINLGY, IT IS DESIRED TO ANALYS ITS SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE IN CONSOLIDATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SIKKIM.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the present study is to explore scope and significance of Sikkim State University in consolidation of higher education in Sikkim with following objectives:

To determine the extent to which

To compare

To verify

To calculate

To describe

To establish.

- a) **To analyse basic objectives and reasons on establishment of a State Public University in the state of Sikkim.**
 - NBU as only university to affiliate till 2000 but with territorial jurisdiction and administrative reason it was necessary to establish a state university, explain situation of that time
 - Knowledge commission objective of establishing higher education in India
 - Sikkim knowledge commission recommendations?
 - Find out reason from notification which constituted a committee and how did it got established?
 - Enrolment of students passing out from government schools which is taken in government colleges (no of govt sr. Sec. School and annual student output) and percentage of admission in government college (capacity). Link between student passout and admission capacity
 - UG to PG: requirements for PG students needs to go NBU that time
- b) **To identify / expose scope for affiliation of higher educational institutions of Sikkim under Sikkim State University.**
 - State no of government colleges (higher education) and scope
- c) **To find out reason for consolidation of higher education in Sikkim**
 - 10 colleges affiliated under Sikkim University
 - 2 colleges affiliated under Sampurnanand University
 - 1 hotel institute under IGNOU
 - Certification of SICB livelihood courses under IGNOU or private university
- d) **To identify scope for incorporation of studies on regional and indigenous issues of Sikkim under Sikkim State University.**
 - Teaching of Languages in Sikkim
 - In Sikkim, English in the medium of instruction in Government schools and is treated as the first/primary language. Presently there are eleven (11) regional languages recognized by the Government of Sikkim as State

languages. Besides these eleven languages the Directorate of Languages also monitors the development of three more languages viz. Hindi, Sanskrit and Tibetan. Till date the Government has appointed 1568 regular and 457 ad-hoc language teachers. With the persistent effort of the Government four more State Languages viz. Rai, Gurung, Sherpa and Tamang were affiliated by the CBSE in 2015. The students studying these languages will appear in the CBSE Board Exams in 2017. The case of affiliation of Mangar, Newari & Mukhia is under progress.

-Introduction of Master Degree Courses in indigenous languages Bhutia, Lepcha and Limboo Languages

-Due to the persistent efforts of the State Government, ministry of Human resource Development and University Grant Commission (UGC) approved the proposal of the introduction of Masters Courses in Bhutia, Lepcha and Limboo languages in Sikkim University from 2016 academic session.

- streamlining vocational education (creat syllabus at UG and PG level for vocational studies undertaken at school level) and skill enhancement courses (livelihood schools)

Vocationalisation of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education

1. Year 2004-2010: Vocational Education was initiated with following 8 streams in 40 Government Senior Secondary Schools.

Sl.No. Stream

1. Automobile Tech.

2. Dairying

3. Hotel Management & Catering Tech.

4. Horiculture

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<https://sikkim.gov.in/departments/human-resource-development-department/vocationalisation-of-secondary-higher-secondary-education-2/3>

5. IT Applicaon

6. Travel & Tourism

7. Poultry

8. Office Management

2. Year 2010-2013: Revamp of vocational education programme with 10 streams in all 44 Government Senior Secondary Schools.

3. Year 2014-2015: The centrally sponsored scheme "Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education" is being implemented in 52 Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools and offered in three trades' viz. information technology, travel & tourism and retail trade.

4. Year 2015-2016: Twelve new Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools were approved under the scheme "Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education" making the total nos. of Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools to 64 Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools, wherein information technology, travel & tourism and retail trade were implemented.

e) **To use the findings to recommend and suggest measures towards establishment of Sikkim State University.**

- Establishment of university in its physical form

- Autonomous status

- Budget provisions

4 METHODOLOGY

The current study is exploratory and descriptive with an attempt to examine and understand on scope, essence and signification of a state public university in consolidation of higher education in Sikkim. The fact findings and analysis has been undertaken with data collected from the secondary sources mainly with the government reports published by Census of India, Election Commission of India and Chief Electoral Officers of the states, websites of the Parliament of India, etc. and research articles published in the journals, books, etc.

6 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

6.1 Scope for affiliation of colleges of Sikkim

Box-1 Aims and objectives of the Sikkim State University

- (1) To disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in any branches of learning.
- (2) To organized Post -graduate programmes in various mountain specific and areas with a view to produce high quality personnel.
- (3) To organize under-graduate/post-graduate courses of study in the affiliated Institution and centers of the University.
- (4) To accord affiliation and provide academic support and guidance to colleges/institutions within the jurisdiction of the University.
- (5) To create awareness in key areas like environmental issue, conservation of bio resources, use of information technology bio technology, horticulture, entrepreneurship, capacity building, history, language and cultural developments etc.

- (6) To educate and train manpower for the development of the state of Sikkim as well as the Himalayan regions.
- (7) To pay special attention towards improvement of the social and economic condition and welfare of people of the State, their intellectual, academic and cultural development.
- (8) To evolve a curriculum to absorb the repeatedly expending new knowledge.

Source: The Sikkim University Act, 2003

Box-2 Powers of the Sikkim State University

- (1) To provide instruction and teaching leading to Bachelor, Master and the Doctoral degrees in basic applied science, technology, humanities, social science, management and in such other branches of knowledge as the University may deem fit.
- (2) To establish Center, Schools, Departments, Campuses or Institutes of advance study and research in different branches of knowledge.
- (3) To prescribe courses of study for Bachelor, Master, Doctoral degrees and diploma in different branches of learning;
 - (4) to accord affiliation to colleges and institutions in different branches of learning;
 - (5) to hold examinations and publish results of such examination for different courses of study and research in the manner prescribed;
 - (6) to confer degrees and other academic distinctions or recognitions on persons who have pursued successfully the courses of study of the University or conducted research creditable in the manner to be prescribed;
 - (7) to provide for the inspection of, or investigation into, the affairs of colleges or institutions affiliated tot it and to exercise general supervision over them including monitoring of academic performances;
 - (8) to prescribe the procedure of admission to different courses of study in the University and also in the affiliated colleges and institutions;
 - (9) to confer honorary degrees or other distinctions in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations;
 - (10) to institute professorships, associate professorship, lectureships and other teachings posts necessary for imparting instruction or for preparing educational material or conducting other academic activities, including providing guidance to the students, designing and delivering of courses and evaluation of the work done by the students and to appoint persons to such professorship, associate professorship, lectureship and other teaching posts, either on full-time or part-time basis or on contract;
 - (11) to enter into partnership with any organization to establish to fulfill its objectives;
 - (12) to institute and award fellowships, scholarships, and prizes and such other awards for recognition of meant as the University may deem in;

- (13) to organize and conduct refresh courses, workshops, seminars and other programmes for teachers , evaluator and other academic, administrative and technical staff of the University and other institutions and also for the members of the general public;
- (14) to recognize examinations or periods of study (whether in full or in part) at other Universities, institutions or other places of higher learning as equivalent to examinations of or periods of study in the University and to withdraw such recognition at any time;
- (15) to create administrative, ministerial and other necessary posts and to make appointment thereto, either on full-time basis or on contract;
- (16) to receive benefactions, donations, grants, subscriptions or gifts for the purpose of the University, consistent with the objects for which the University is established;
- (17) to acquire, purchase, take on lease, or dispose of any property, movable or immovable, for the purpose of the University;
- (18) to draw and accept, to make and endorse, to discount and negotiate Government of India and other promissory notes, bills of exchange, cheques or other negotiable instruments;
- (19) to execute conveyances, transfers, re-conveyances, mortgages, leases, licenses and agreements in respect of properties, movable or immovable, including Government securities belonging to the University or to be acquired for the purpose of the University;
- (20) to enter into agreement with the Government of India, the State Government the Government of other State in India, The University Grants Commission, the All India Council for Technical Education, or other authorities industries or professional organizations and international organizations or agencies and foreign universities for receiving grants;
- (21) to enter into, carry out, vary, or cancel contracts;
- (22) to fix, demand, and receive such fees and other charges as may be decided by the Executive Council for time to time
- (23) to regulate the expenditure and manage the accounts of the University ;
- (24) to control and to enforce discipline among the students and all categories of employees and to prescribe by regulations the conditions of service and the code of conduct of such employees;
- (25) to recognize any institution of higher learning or studies for such purposes as the University may determine and to withdraw such recognition,
- (26) to appoint either on contract or otherwise, visiting Professor,

Emeritus,
 Professor, Consultants, Scientists, fellows, Scholars and such other persons
 as
 may contribute to the advancement of the objects of University;
 (27) to collaborate and interact with the other Universities and educational
 or
 research institutions, organizations and authorities within the country
 and
 abroad, in such manner and for such purposes as the University may
 determine;
 (28) to offer education through the distance mode;
 (29) to do all such acts as may be necessary for ,or incidental to the
 conductive
 or any of the powers of the University and as may be conducive to the
 (4) promotion of all or any of the objects of the University

Source: The Sikkim University Act, 2003

Box-3 Jurisdiction of the Sikkim State University

- (1) The of the University shall extend to the whole of the State of Sikkim.
- (2) Colleges in the State of Sikkim, which are affiliated to any other university, may be deemed to be affiliated to the University with effect from such date as the State Government may notify in consultation with the concerned university and college.
- (3)The University shall have power to after or withdraw the affiliation deemed to have been granted under this section, if the affiliated institution does not comply with all the terms and conditions of such affiliation.
- (4) College or institutions to be established in the state of Sikkim shall be affiliated to the University, subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the University.

Source: The Sikkim University Act, 2003

6.2 Scope for coverage of courses under SICB and livelihood schools

Box-4 Jurisdiction of the Sikkim State University

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- (4) College or institutions to be established in the state of Sikkim shall be affiliated to the University, subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the

University.

Source: The Sikkim University Act, 2003

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- (4) College or institutions to be established in the state of Sikkim shall be affiliated to the University, subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the University.

Source: The Sikkim University Act, 2003

Box-5 Teaching of the Sikkim State University

- (1) All recognized teaching in connection with the degrees, diplomas and certificates of University shall be conducted by the teachers of the University or any affiliated Institution, as the case may be under the general control of the University Court and Immediate control of Executive Council and the Academic Council.
- (2) The courses of study, the curricula and the authorities responsible for organizing such Teaching shall be such as may be prescribed by the University.

Source: The Sikkim University Act, 2003

How to manage funding SSU:

Campus years are treasured by graduates long after they leave the hallowed portals of their universities. Not only does that time shape their thinking, this phase allows young minds to open up, to understand the path they want to take, and sometimes, more importantly, the road they don't want to follow.

With that at the very core, the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan, a centrally sponsored programme, aims to work with **300-plus** state universities and its affiliated colleges to raise the bar of campus life.

Launched in 2013, the RUSA aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions. The central funding (in the ratio of 60:40 for general category states, 90:10 for special category states and 100% for union territories) is based on norms and is outcome dependent.

Funds flow from the central ministry through the state governments/union territories to the State Higher Education Councils before reaching the identified institutions. Funding to states would be made on the basis of the critical appraisal of State Higher Education Plans, which would enlist each state's strategy to address issues of equity, access and excellence in higher education.

RUSA places greater emphasis on the improvement of the quality of teaching-learning processes in order to produce employable and competitive graduates, post-graduates and PhDs. Spread across two plan periods (XII and XIII), the programme focuses on state higher educational institutions and draws upon the best practices from colleges and universities across the nation.

In short, RUSA isn't a touch-up tint of paint. It is the central government's plan to develop every state university to its most exemplary version

Cranking Up The Old Machine: Why RUSA was born?

RUSA was born out of a dream and a passion to allow state to thrive in an ecosystem that isn't stuck in time. In fact, experts, vice chancellors, professors and industry, had often derided higher education of not being worthwhile. Lofty promises of an education that would work had crumbled. The archaic systems and regulations that govern universities hence needed to be redrawn. Without bringing about reforms in the existing governance and regulatory systems, it was not be possible to unleash the potential of state universities. The reforms initiated under the RUSA aim to build a self-sustaining momentum that will push for greater accountability and autonomy of state institutions and impress upon them the need to improve the quality of education and infrastructure.

Source: <http://rusa.nic.in/about-us/overview/>

Box-6 Objectives of RUSA



Objectives

The key objectives of RUSA are to improve access, equity and quality in higher education through planned development of higher education at the state level. Objectives include creating new academic institutions, expanding and upgrading the existing ones, developing institutions that are self-reliant in terms of quality education, professionally managed, and characterized by greater inclination towards research and provide students with education that is relevant to them as well the nation as a whole.

The **salient objectives** of RUSA are:

- Improve the overall quality of state institutions by ensuring conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adopt accreditation as a mandatory quality assurance framework.
- Usher transformative reforms in the state higher education system by creating a facilitative institutional structure for planning and monitoring at the state level, promoting autonomy in State Universities and improving governance in institutions.
- Ensure reforms in the affiliation, academic and examination systems.
- Ensure adequate availability of quality faculty in all higher educational institutions and promote capacity building at all levels of employment.
- Create an enabling atmosphere in the higher educational institutions to promote research and innovation.
- Expand institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establish new institutions, to achieve higher enrolment.
- Correct the regional imbalances in terms of access to higher education by setting up institutions in un-served and underserved areas of the country.
- Improve equity in higher education by providing adequate opportunities of higher education to SC/STs and socially and educationally backward classes; promote inclusion of women, minorities, and differently abled persons.

Source: <http://rusa.nic.in/about-us/objectives/>

Box-7 Objectives of RUSA

Components

The overarching commitment of the RUSA is the consolidation of the universities and their component colleges.

RUSA aims to create new universities through upgradation of existing autonomous colleges and by conversion of colleges to a cluster. It will create new model degree colleges, new professional colleges and provide infrastructural support to universities and colleges. Faculty recruitment support, faculty improvements programmes and leadership development of educational administrators is also an important part of the scheme. In order to enhance skill development the existing central scheme of Polytechnics has been subsumed within RUSA.

A separate component to synergise vocational education with higher education has also been included in RUSA. Besides these, RUSA also supports reforming, restructuring and building capacity of institutions in participating states.

The following are the primary components of RUSA that capture the key action and funding areas that must be pursued for the fulfilment of the targets:

- Creation of Universities by conversion of colleges in a cluster
- Creation of Universities by upgradation of existing Autonomous College
- Enhancing Quality and Excellence in select Autonomous Colleges
- Equity Initiatives
- Faculty Improvement
- Faculty Recruitment Support
- Infrastructure grants to colleges
- Infrastructure grants to Universities

Source: <http://rusa.nic.in/about-us/components/>

Box-8 Guiding Principles of RUSA



Guiding Principles

- I. **Focus on Quality and Research:** The RUSA focuses on better quality of state higher education institutions. The aim is to achieve mass access to higher education with high quality standards. States must ensure that all their institutions adopt NAAC accreditation as the mandatory quality assurance framework, and simultaneously seek to upgrade the overall academic quality by implementing reforms. They will be encouraged to promote research and innovation in their institutions. Since research focus can be judged both from input efforts and outcome indicators, the SHEPS are expected to have a balanced appreciation of both aspects. States and institutions are expected to honestly declare their present status in this area and outline specific strategies for improvement, including the use of information and communications technologies (ICT). There is a need to improve resource allocation for universities to enable good quality research and innovation. Criteria such as the number of research publications, impact factors of journals in which papers are published, citations, the amount of research funding attracted, etc., should be considered for faculty promotions.
- II. **Norm-based and Outcome-dependent Funding** The cornerstone around which RUSA is designed is that funding under it is norm based and future grants are outcome dependent. The central funding is strategic and based on SHEPs, which serve as a benchmark against which the performance of a state and its institutions is graded. Future funding is decided on the basis of past achievements and utilization of funds submitted to MHRD.
- III. **Incentivizing and Disincentivizing:** RUSA incentivizes and disincentivizes state actions. Not only is compliance to rules, regulations and fulfilment of norms supported by incentives, but non-performance or non-fulfilment of prerequisites and norms invites reduced allocations for states and institutions. This is intended to make the scheme not only demand driven, but also competitive. States and institutions are encouraged to compete with each other in order to reap the benefits of competition-based formulaic grants.
- IV. **Apolitical Decision Making:** Another basic tenet of RUSA is that the decision making is done in an unbiased, apolitical and professional manner, on the basis of the SHEPs and the performance of the states on the predefined parameters. The process of decision making and its result are transparent and the methods impartial. It is expected that the states would also be as unbiased, apolitical and professional while planning and ushering governance reforms at their level. In order to effectively implement these reforms, the selection of leadership positions in state universities should take into account the imperatives of merit and performance
- V. **Autonomy:** Autonomy is an indispensable condition for quality and accountability. RUSA envisages greater autonomy for institutions in terms of decision making. The institutions will have full liberty to plan specific interventions depending on their special needs and requirements. Some key concerns in enforcement of university autonomy are as follows:
 - **Revisiting the acts:** There is a need to revisit the acts of various state universities to see if there are some clauses detrimental to their autonomy.
 - **Streamlining the recruitment process:** Universities must have the autonomy to recruit the most competent faculty as per laid-down procedures and purely on the basis of merit.
 - **Membership of governing bodies:** A university is administered by its senior functionaries under the guidance of its statutory bodies such as the executive committee, syndicate, senate, etc. The persons to be nominated to these bodies must have specialized knowledge in the relevant disciplines and should not have conflict of interests in so far as decision making in the university is concerned. These bodies should predominantly consist of members from academic background.

- **Institutional leadership:** It is the duty of the Vice Chancellor to safeguard the autonomy of the university. The increasing trend of appointing civil servants as heads of educational institutions needs to be reviewed. Special RUSA orientation programmes or conferences on the management of universities should be organized to enable the Vice Chancellors, Directors, Pro-Vice Chancellors, Deans and Heads of Departments to hone their management skills.

VI. Disclosure-based Governance: Disclosure based governance must be followed by institutions with regard to their decisions and outcomes. RUSA envisages greater participation of all stakeholders, where the institutions are responsible for their quality not just to the regulatory authorities but also to the students, parents and the society. A policy of full disclosure and clean governance is the first step towards establishing such a system of higher education.

VII. Equity-based development: Equity – based development initiatives must form an essential part of any development or expansion plans, both at the state and institution levels. Any growth in the higher education sector must create equal opportunities for women, disadvantaged classes and the differently abled. Also, development must have a greater focus on serving the rural and tribal areas. The plan appraisal process would take this aspect into account while deciding the allocations. Well-calibrated equity strategies must be built into the entire state planning process.

Source: <http://rusa.nic.in/about-us/guiding-principles/>

Box-9 Institutional Hierarchy of RUSA

National Level : National Mission Authority (NMA), Project Approval Board (PAB), National Project Directorate (NPD), Technical Support Group (TSG)

State Level: State Higher Education Council (SHEC), State Project Directorate (SPD), Technical Support Group (TSG)

Source: <http://rusa.nic.in/about-us/institutional-hierarchy/>

What to do to get fundings: preparation for NAAC Accreditation

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

National Assessment and Accreditation Council, an autonomous body, has been established by the University Grants Commission in 1994 in pursuance of the recommendations made by the National Policy of Education, 1986 and the Programme of Action (POA), 1992 which lay special emphasis on evaluating the quality of higher education in India. The prime mandate of NAAC, as envisaged in its Memorandum of Association (MoA), is to assess and accredit institutions of higher learning, universities and colleges or one or more of their units, i.e., departments, schools, institutions, programmes, etc. The NAAC functions through its General Council and Executive Committee where educational administrators, policy makers and senior academicians from a cross-section of system of higher education are represented.

Under the new methodology introduced by NAAC w.e.f. 1st April, 2007, the higher education institutions are assessed and accredited by a two-step approach. In the first step, the institution is required to seek 'Institutional Eligibility for Quality Assessment (IEQA)' and the second step is the assessment and accreditation of the institute under the grades 'A', 'B', 'C' for accredited institutions; and 'D' for those which are not accredited. NAAC has identified seven criteria- i. Curricular aspects, ii. Teaching-learning and evaluation, iii. Research, Consultancy and extension, iv. Infrastructure and learning resources, v. Student support and progression, vi. Governance and leadership and vii. Innovative practices as the basis for its assessment procedure.

Source: <https://mhrd.gov.in/university-and-higher-education-1>

<https://sikkim.gov.in/departments/human-resource-development-department/higher-education-in-sikkim#:~:targetText=Higher Education in Sikkim,Nyin... 2>

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DILIP KUMAR DARJEE presently working as Assistant Controller of Examinations at Sikkim State University (A State Public University established by the Government of Sikkim) is also a Ph.D research scholar at SRM University Sikkim. An undergraduate alumni of Sikkim Government College, Tadong has earned three post graduations viz. MBA in Marketing & Finance, MSC in Ecology & Environment and M.Phil in Management. He has nineteen years of experiences in finance, accounts and administration of the university system having served earlier as Section Officer at Indira Gandhi National Open University (Central University) and as middle executive at Sikkim Manipal University (State Private University).

His notable volunteering in NGOs comprise of Honorary State Treasurer at Sikkim State Bharat Scouts and Guides (1998-2007), Charter Member and Treasurer (2004-05) & Director-Vocational Services (2005-06) at Rotary Club of Tadong (3240) and Treasurer at Ecotourism Conservation Society of Sikkim (2011-2015). He attended/participated at several professional training programme, seminars, workshops and conferences.

therewith devoted practices and merits of organic farming in its school curriculum. A section of curriculum in school text books will be devoted to highlighting the practices and merits of organic farming.

