



# THE RESEARCH AND INSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES OF TINSUKIA AND DIBRUGARH DISTRICTS OF ASSAM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY.

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## ABSTRACT

Higher education implies dissemination of knowledge at higher level in the area of teaching, research, and extension programmes. Higher education has three levels, under graduate, post- graduate and post-doctoral education. In India the colleges have taken a big responsibility of higher education to discharge information, knowledge, skills, and wisdom to the people. Colleges as integral part of higher education, plays crucial role in human resource development and social transformation from traditional to modern one. In terms of status and statutory mandates different nomenclatures are used with the name of a college as such the Autonomous colleges, constituent colleges and affiliated colleges, Government and provincialized colleges. There are several types of higher educational institutions for research such as central universities, state universities, institutions for national importance, deemed universities, autonomous institutions etc. in our country. Central Universities came into existence after the creation of UGC in 1956. There were 46 central universities, majority of them were created in 2009.

**Key Words:** Higher education, Research, Statutory mandates, Institutional status, Undergraduate College.

## INTRODUCTION:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of expansion of higher education in India started from 2001 and continued to 2010, with a record of the establishment of 26 new central universities. There was a quantum of jump even in the financial allocation from Rs. 3294 crores during the Tenth plan to Rs. 44,449 crores in the eleventh plan. Indian higher education crossed the threshold of 15% GER, the country moved from an 'elite' to a 'massive' stage of higher education system.

The share of Ph.D. enrolment in 46 central universities were high (20%) as compare to their percentage share in post graduate (11%) and under graduate (6%) study programmes. But the low enrolment in research programmes implied a shortage in qualified faculty which may impact the future expansion of higher education. The analysis of the above data indicate that central universities, although have a low proportion of enrolment as compared to state universities, the nature of central universities has an

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orientation towards a research eco-culture as the bulk of research is being undertaken at the central universities. Teaching and research is interconnected and complementary to each other. Which matters more- teaching or research? Most academicians agreed that teaching and research were inseparable aspects of higher education. Basil Fletcher (1968) has rightly stated that teaching divorced from the excitement of research soon becomes dull and reactionary, and research that is divorced from teaching is in danger of becoming esoteric and unreal. Research practices are rare, and hardly any college or university teacher conducts experiments with new teaching methods and other innovative practices. An average teacher has no genuine interest in research except for pursuing PhD for earning advance incentive increments or for securing promotions. In fact, research is not considered as an integral part of his regular duties, and whether research he conducts for financial or promotional gains is substandard in quality. Acquisition of highest order of Knowledge in any area including research is the major objective of higher education.

### **RESEARCH SCENARIO IN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT:**

Research and development is interlinked and the purpose of them is problem solving. Research gives the base and strong foundation for development. Research is an important component of higher education. The research scenario at collegiate level of education is at dearth position.

XIth plan guidelines of UGC stated, “Traditionally, universities have been the centers of research. Therefore, university and college teachers need to be supported to meet this requirement. In India the affiliated colleges share only 9% of the total enrolment of research students as against 91% enrolled in the university department. Indian higher educational Institutions are yet to make their mark globally as research quality is concerned. It is a fact that very few teachers actively involved in research, development and publication. Due to this crucial reason more stress has been given on M.phil, Ph.D. and MRPs in NAAC accreditation. High quality institution as recognize by NAAC had more Ph.D. degree holders and more research projects were undertaken by their faculty members.

In India number of researchers are few compared to USA, Canada, Japan, French, Germany, UK, Australia, China and Russia. There were 12 researchers per 100000 populations in India where as in Japan it was 529, in USA it was 448. The quality research in Indian higher education institutions are not very much in the agenda. In 2010 the number of researcher in India was 154,827, on the contrary in China it was 1118,700, Japan with 704,949 researchers. Business India (2010), reported that India’s current position is 9th and earlier it was 13th position. Chandrasekhar, M (2011) reported that Research requires attractive funds, proper planning and skilled manpower to carry out research activities. Relevant research findings and suggestions should get proper attention while planning and executing it. Research gives an orientation to academician more meaningfully. Quality research is another issue that contributes significantly to a great extent in the output of education system. New theories and frameworks have for long been the output of painstaking research, advancing the frontiers of new knowledge and disciplines. The quantum of peer review research published in high impact Journals is an important benchmark in the

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academic excellence of Institutions, leaving an effect on the quality of education and Instruction. This in turn contributes to the prestige and standing of the academic institutions.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Research and higher education are complementary to each other. A well developed and equitable system of higher education which promotes quality learning as a consequence of both teaching and research is central for success in the knowledge economy (Ved Prakash, 2007). It is paramount to conduct research on enrolment and drop-out problems and

to locate disparities and imbalances between male and female, urban population and rural population, backward caste and communities to adopt strategies to improve the situation. Bray (2007) stated, “The international researchers were interested in explaining how and why education relates and what forces form its context is continuously in practice- how to improve national education system, by the addition of models, practices, innovations and the like borrowed or transferred from other national systems”.

1. Higher education in India suffers in terms of quality and quantity. The quality parameters are not shining. Future prospect of higher education in term of quality is impossible unless defects are found out through research investigations and to look alternatives.

2. The College teacher involvement in major and minor research project work is very negligible in Assam as well as in the entire north-eastern states. It is also observed that even in some university departments the major research projects were not found among the faculty members. A large number of college teachers are satisfied with class room teaching and forgotten that research and extension activities.

3. Good library and academic infrastructures all together have high impact for human resource development. This study will help to know the nature of existing infrastructure of higher education under Tinsukia and Dibrugarh district.

4. The current study may help to understand the gender status of male and female enrolment in Ph.D in collegiate education.

5. Educational institution comes under service sector. College teachers are inseparable part of higher education to perform that responsibility. This study may share the research findings through publications.

#### **PROJECT TITLE:**

The research and institutional status of teaching faculties of undergraduate colleges of Assam - A comparative study

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To examine institutional status on the basis of strength of faculty members.
2. To know the status of college teachers in terms of Ph.D. qualification.
3. To know about journals subscribed by college libraries.

#### **DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:**

The research study carried out by the investigators, have some limitations as follows:

- 1) The study is confined with the undergraduate colleges.
- 2) It is limited to 13 Number of Colleges of two district- namely, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts of Assam.
- 3) The study is delimited to examine institutional status on the basis of faculty strength and research.
- 4) The study is delimited to two districts namely, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts of upper Assam.

#### **PLAN AND PROCEDURE:**

**Survey method:** The survey method gathers data from a relatively large number of cases at a particular time. It is essentially cross sectional. Surveys are also used in describe research studies in assessment and evaluation studies or causal comparative studies. Descriptive research also involves events that have already taken place and may be related to a present condition. It involves a clearly define problem and definite objectives. It requires expert and imaginative planning, careful analysis and interpretation of the data gathered, and logical and skilful reporting of the findings. Best, J. W. ( 2004) Research in Education, pp. 106-108.

This is an educational research based on several academic areas and issues like enrolment and drop out, institutional status, academic and physical infrastructure of collegiate education etc. It is a sample survey covering arts, commerce and science colleges of the area covered under the area. It is a diagnostic, analytical and fact finding type of



research whose purpose is to identify problem area of higher education, to locate the status in terms of enrolment, dropout, institutional status, academic infrastructure, and physical infrastructure in arts, commerce, and science Colleges-their relative strength and weakness.

### Population and Sample:

Thirteen colleges had been selected as sample for the study. Except Lahowal College all other Colleges were provincialized under Assam Govt. Registration Act.

Population of the study was affiliated and provincialized colleges under Tinsukia and Dibrugarh district of Assam. The sources of data and information were primary. The office of the principal and vice principal, the Librarians, the upper Divisional clerks of selected colleges had been chosen as vital source of the study who were the providers of data in this case study. These authorities have the knowledge and information on the above areas as they deal the issues in their own colleges in terms of management. The following colleges were under the coverage of the study.

### Sampling Technique:

Non-probability sampling technique i.e. Purposive or convenience sampling were used for the proposed research study.

### Research Tools used:

#### Questionnaire:

Constructing a questionnaire is a difficult and time consuming task. A well developed questionnaire is more likely to elicit good response. During the process of construction of questionnaire, numerous revisions were made by the researcher in order to eliminate ambiguous or unnecessary items. Questions that are similar in content had been grouped together. While constructing the questionnaire, it was kept in mind so that the questions are within the content areas. The questions are set orderly and sequentially. The researcher had used different types of closed questions like multiple choices, yes/no, and fills in the blank.

Self-developed questionnaire was constructed and standardized after which it were used for the study.

**Data Collection:** The sources and nature of data was first hand information. The researcher himself visited the colleges that had been taken as sample for the survey.

**Statistical Techniques:** Percentages and ratios, has been used in data analysis.

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

### Status of Faculty Members:

The study expressed that the total faculty members in 13 selected colleges were 611. The highest teaching faculty members are in HS Kanoi College (15.88%) and lowest is in Tinsukia Commerce college (1.47%).The figures in other colleges are Tinsukia College, 73 (11.95%), Digboi college 66 (10.80%), Margherita college 65 (10.64%) Lahowal college 57(9.33%) Duliajan and MDK Girls college had 46 (7.53%), faculty members each, Doomdooma College 39 ( 6.38%) Sadiya college, 36 (5.89%) Chabua College and Tinsukia Women's college had 26 (5.89%) faculty members each and Tinsukia commerce college had 09 (1.47%) faculty members.

**Table:- 1. Teaching Faculty in colleges**

Sl. No	Name of College	No. of faculty members	Percentage
1	Chabua College	26	4.26%
2	Doomdooma College	39	6.38%
3	Digboi College	66	10.80%

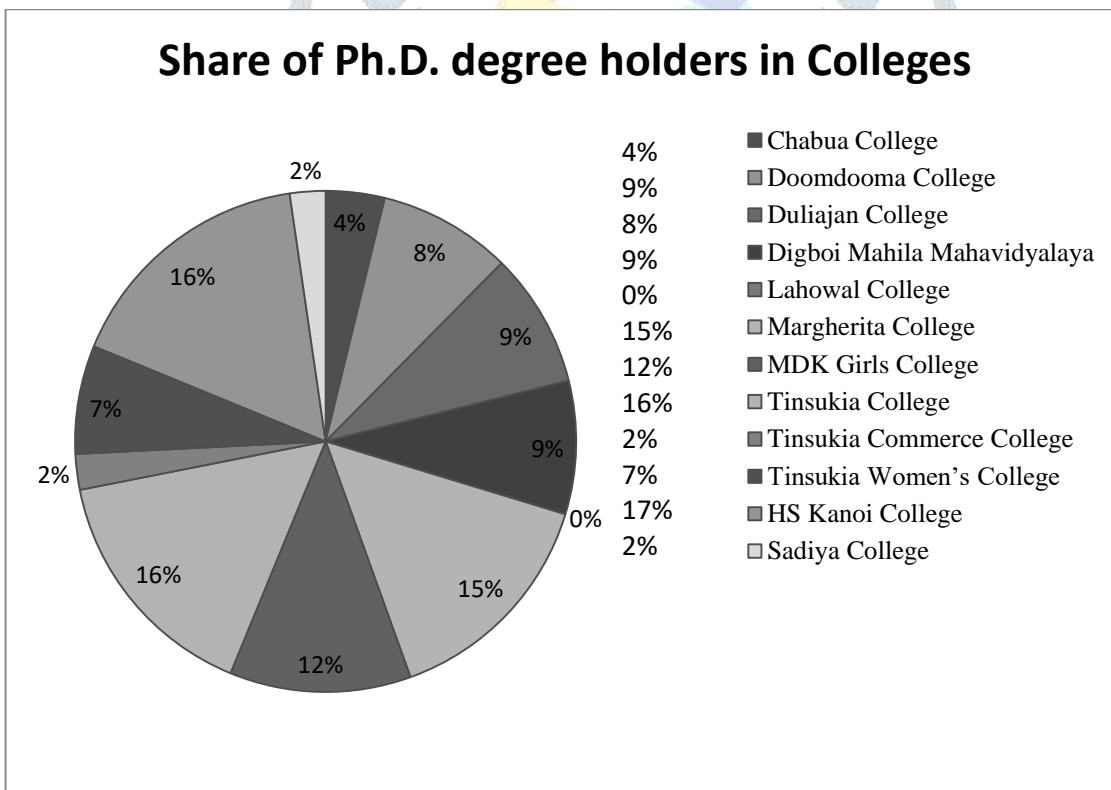
4	Duliajan College	46	7.53%
5	Digboi Mahila Mahavidyalaya	25	4.09%
6	Lahowal College	57	9.33%
7	Margherita College	65	10.64%
8	MDK Girls College	46	7.53%
9	Tinsukia College	73	11.95%
10	Tinsukia Commerce College	09	1.47%
11	Tinsukia Women’s College	26	4.26%
12	HS Kanoi College	97	15.88%
13	Sadiya College	36	5.89%
Total	No. of colleges=13	611	100%

**Research ( Ph.D.) degree holders**

The sample selected for this study was 13 colleges under Dibrugarh University to know the quality of higher education in terms of Ph.D. degree holders in colleges. This study revealed that there are 147 Ph.D. degree holders in the 13 colleges. These colleges come under Provincialisation Act, of the Govt. of Assam.

One College had no Ph.D. degree holders. This college of course, had not yet been listed under Assam Govt. Provincialisation Act, 2009. The highest numbers of Ph.D. holder were found in HS Kanoi College 21(16.54%) and the lowest is 03 (2.36%) each in Sadiya and Tinsukia Commerce College. The share of percentage of Ph.D. holders has been shown through a Pi-diagram in the following table:

Table:- 2. Pi-diagram percentage of share of Ph.D. degree.



## Under going Research (Ph.D) in colleges

The undergoing Ph.D. in 15 selected colleges was 31. The male number was 16 and the female number was only 15. The number Ph.D. in the colleges was as follows:

Chabua College (1), Doomdooma College (2), Digboi College (6), Duliajan College (2), Digboi Mahila Mahavidyalaya (1), Lahowal College (3), Margherita College (5), MDK Girls College (5), Tinsukia College (1), Tinsukia Commerce College (1), Tinsukia Women's College (4), HS Kanoi College (3), Sadiya College (00).

## Research journals in library

The Quality and quantity of research journals in colleges are poor in reality.

International journals are rare and hardly found in colleges. Only few colleges has subscribed the following journals: Rock Pebbles -- International Literary Bulletin of Pure & Applied Science ((Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Math and Statistics), Indian Literary Research, Asian Journal of Microbiology, Bio-technology & Environmental Science, International Journal of Education and Research etc. only few colleges has subscribed the following journals and the subscription is also not on regular basis. More over the research culture is also poor.

## IMPLICATIONS:

**Education and Research:** Educational development and research are relative. What type of problem exists in higher education system or in the institutions, why a particular problem arises, what are the probable solutions? The answer may be searched or investigate by research. The research status of college teachers ranges from 2% to 17% which is much lower than the requirements. Why the college teachers are less interested in research activities? Or what are the interrupting factors on the way of research of college teachers may be investigated by the research agencies, or by the Govt. or NGOs.

**Planning and policy making:** The result of this study will give important information about the status of higher education in terms of faculty status and research. Proper dissemination and documentation of the findings of investigations should get proper attention in Govt. policy making process. This is important in two reasons:

1. The research findings might have some utility or implications.
2. To prevent the wastage of money and time spent for the investigation.

## For quality enhancement of higher education:

For quality enhancement the institutions have to develop the system within. Research can improve the quality of higher education. Richness of input and the process of a system really matters for output. If the input is rich and the process is poor the output is poor. If the input is poor and the process is rich the result may or may not be good.

**Comparative analysis:** Comparative research may find out the relative standing of institutions in terms of quality and quantity and to take necessary steps for improvement..

## SUGGESTIONS:

1. Higher education in India suffers in terms of quality and quantity. The quality parameters are not shining. Future prospect of higher education in term of quality is impossible unless defects are found out through research investigations and to look alternatives.
2. The College teacher involvement in major and minor research project work is very negligible in Assam as well as in the entire north-eastern states. It is also observed that even in some university departments the major research projects were not found among the faculty members. A large number of college teachers are satisfied with class room teaching and forgotten that research and extension activities.

3. Good library and academic infrastructures all together have high impact for human resource development. This study will help to know the nature of existing infrastructure of higher education in Tinsukia district.

4. The current study may help to understand the gender status of male and female enrollment in Ph.D in collegiate education.

5. Educational institution comes under service sector. College teachers are inseparable part of higher education to perform that responsibility. This study may share the research findings through publications.

## CONCLUSION:

For maintenance of high quality of in under graduate colleges the status of teaching faculties requires to improve professionally and continuous study and investigation to enrich the academic environment. Under graduate colleges may create suitable research environment that includes physical and infrastructure for researchers. The researchers should be provided facilities under the UGC guidelines, university rules and also the college principal need to be leniency to adjust time for data collection.

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