



## PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MANIPUR

Voice of Research  
Vol. 2 Issue 2,  
September 2013  
ISSN No. 2277-7733

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### Abstract

*Education is must to all from cradle to grave in the life of a man. Due the importance of it, Government of India has already launched universalization of primary education throughout the nation for the children between the ages of 6 to 14 years under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the article-21(A) of constitution of India. However, only primary education can't prepare the job of an individual for livelihood. So, universalisation of secondary education is also launched as one of the national missions under the scheme of Rashtriya Midhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan. On other hand, the secondary education could not fulfill the needs of an individual as well as society. So, there is need of universalisation higher education throughout nation for a knowledge based society. On basis of its mission, many universities and colleges have been establishing at different locations of different states. But, by the simply establishments of colleges and universities, the dream of nation that knowledge based society could not be fulfilled without the internal quality control management system of institutions. The article tries to find out, not only the problems faced by the colleges and department concerned, but, also the prospects to be taken up by the college as well as the Department of Education (U), in order to improve Higher Education in Manipur under vision of the quality higher education to be reached at the global standard.*

**Keywords:** Education, higher education, problems and prospects, Manipur higher education

Education is as old as the human race. It is a never-ending process of inner growth and development and its period stretches from the cradle to the grave. Education, in real sense, is to humanize humanity, and to make life progressive, cultured, and civilized. It is very important for the progress of Individual and society. It is through Education that man develops his thinking and reasoning, problem solving and creativity, intelligence and aptitude, positive sentiments and skills and good values and attitudes. It is through Education that the Individual is become a well balanced personality, aesthetically rich, culturally sound, emotionally stable, mentally alert, morally upright, physically strong and healthy, socially efficient, spiritually enlightened, vocationally self sufficient and internationally liberal. The entire life is Education as it is continuous and dynamic process for ever-growing man and society.

Now, due to the importance of primary education in the life of a man, Government of India has declared "The right to the free and compulsory primary education under article: 21(A) of the constitution of India as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as one of the central sponsored schemes for all children of India in the age group of 6 to 14 years". But, only primary education could not help to solve day to day problems in the life of a child. The government of India has also launched the universalisation of secondary education as one of the National missions under the Rashtriya Midhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan. Secondary education helps the students to meet the needs of their different aptitudes in the view of the future job preparation in the life. The real job is not possible without the higher education.

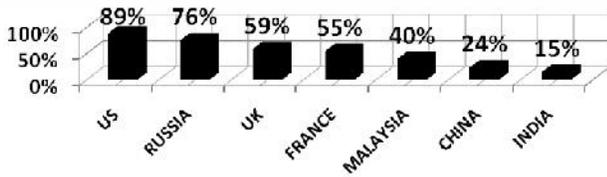
So, there is the significantly importance of Higher Education in the life of a man in regards to job preparation. The society can be changed by the facilities and benefits given by the higher education like research work, vocationalisation, professionalization, skill development etc. Sam Pitroda, Chairman, The National Knowledge Commission: " Higher education has made a significant contribution to economic development, social progress and political democracy in independent India". The universalization of Higher education may come up in the India in near future. Because of it, many private universities, many deemed universities, central universities and colleges are set up very recently in India. And, many more will be setup too under the vision of knowledge based society as far as National knowledge Commission. The higher education system in India nearly has 480 university level institutions and over 20,000 colleges, both publicly and privately funded, catering to 12.5 million students India currently has a demographic advantage as about 70% of the population is below the age of 35 years. To realize the advantage it is necessary to expand opportunities for the youth on a massive scale by using education as the foundation for building the potential of the youth. The requirement is to achieve expansion, inclusion and rapid improvement in quality of higher and technical education system by enhancing public spending, encouraging private initiatives and initiating major institutional and policy reforms by the Government.

The long term goal included in the Government's plan for 2007-2012 is to ensure that good quality higher education is accessible to all, irrespective of their paying capacity. India's gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education of

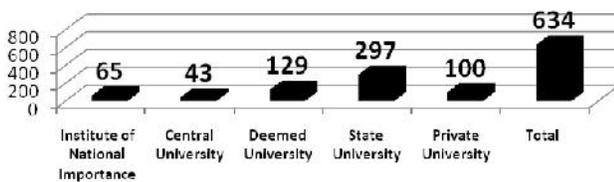


around 14% in 2009 is lower than the world average of 23.2% as well as lower than the average of 22% for Asian countries. The Government's aim is to increase the GER to 25% by end of 2015-16 and 30% by 2020. For this purpose, enrolments in universities and colleges need to be raised at an annual rate of 8.9% to reach 21 million by 2011-12.

Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education- International Comparison-2012



Position of higher educational Institutions in India-2012:



For achieving **inclusiveness in higher education**, 35 universities have been created particularly for socially excluded groups and model colleges are proposed to be set up in educationally backward districts. The central Government proposes to establish 14 innovation universities meeting world standards, with the objective of making India a global knowledge hub and setting benchmarks for excellence for other universities at the Central and the State Government level. Emphasis is proposed to be placed on maintaining quality and excellence of research, dealing with practical problems through an inter-disciplinary approach, promoting desired levels of autonomy along with accountability, ensuring requisite availability of infrastructure and attracting best teaching professionals.

Central Government has taken special initiatives to enhance access and equity in higher education through distance learning mode, particularly to persons from disadvantaged groups and those living in remote areas. The Indira Gandhi National Open University determines standards for open learning and distance education, and provides innovative and need-based general and continuing education through an integrated strategy consisting of print material, audio-video programmes, teleconferencing and personal counseling. The University conducts a variety of programmes ranging from purely academic to technical, professional and vocational courses, leading to award of certificates, diplomas and degrees.

The Government of India has already initiated several reforms in the higher education sector which encompass not only governance reforms in the institutions but also in the regulatory structures of the higher education system.

The NAAC is an autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in 1994 with its headquarters at Bangalore, to facilitate the volunteering institutions to assess their performance vis-a-vis set parameters through introspection and a process that provides space for participation of the institution on both quantity (increased access) and quality (relevance and excellence of academic programmes offered) of higher education. It is an outcome of the recommendations of the National Policy in Education (1986): "To address the issues of quality of higher education by the establishment of an independent national accreditation body."

Objectives of Higher Education by Radha Krishnan Commission (1948-49):

In the changing political social and economic condition providing healthy representation in politics, administration, professions, industry and commerce. In the universities, developing an intellectual attitude towards things and encouraging growth of knowledge among the youth. Emphasizing social reform through the creation of fore sighted, intelligent and courageous leadership. Encouraging universities to play their part as organs culture and the intellectual leaders on civilization. Making an endeavour for the success of democracy. Discovering the innate qualities of individuals and developing them through suitable training. Promoting social emancipation. Creating the sentiments of national discipline, international awareness, intellectual development, justice, freedom, equality and brotherhood.

**Higher Education in Manipur:** The Directorate of University and Higher Education is headed by a Director (now Commissioner, Hr. Education as ex-officio Director) who is assisted by an Additional Director, 1 (one) Joint Director and 5 (five) officers on Special Duty (including one OSD Legal). It is a very small team of officers, who are always over burdened in terms of administration and supervision of Higher Education in Manipur.

**NAAC Accredited Colleges in Manipur**

There are only 12 colleges are accredited by NAAC up to 2012-13. Those are given below:

1. Modern College : Status-Grade(B),
2. D.M. College of Science : Status-Grade(B),
3. United College, Chandel : Status-Grade(B),
4. G.P. Women's College : Status-Grade(B),
5. Manipur College : Status-Grade(B+),
6. D.M. College of Arts : Status-Grade(B+)
7. R.K. Sanatombi Devi College of Teacher Education: Status-Grade(B+).
8. Imphal College: Grade(B),
9. Oriental College: Status-Grade(B),
10. Moirang College: Status-Grade(B),



11. Don Bosco, Mao Maram, Status-Grade(B)
12. S. K. Women College: Status-Grade(A). and
13. Lamka College, Churachandpur- Status-Grade(C).
14. M. B. College, Palace Gate-Grade(B)

SL	Type of the college in State	Total No. of colleges	NAAC accredited colleges in the state	% of accredited colleges in the state
1	Government colleges	28	11	39.29%
2	Private Colleges	31	03	09.68 %
3	Aided Colleges	08	00	00.00%
4	Other Technical Institutions	05	00	00.00%
Total % of accredited colleges		72	14	19.44%

**Source:** College Development Council, Manipur University.

**Note:** In Manipur, the total number of NAAC accredited colleges is 14 (19.44 %) out of 72 colleges. It is very low percentage of NAAC accreditation as compared to other states, which may creates the problem of quality in higher education in the state.

**Problems of Higher Education in Manipur**

**Problems of admission:** The admission process of undergraduate and graduate of colleges under Manipur University is not uniform as colleges are having separate system of admission process based on either mark or written examination basis. The exact seat capacity of each college is also not same. Most of the colleges are facing the problem of shortage of students. The student’s strength of some colleges is over populated.

**Problems of Curriculum:** The curriculum of under graduate, graduate and PG courses of the colleges in the state is not updated for every three/five years as per UGC directions and norms. Most of the courses, which are opened in the colleges under Manipur University, are the non-professional courses. Moreover, most of the colleges do not have Postgraduate, M.Phil, Ph.D courses with full hostel facility. And the student enrollment rate is also low. Many colleges in Manipur located in the remote areas are functioning with very less number of student’s enrollment. If IGNOU has opened the study centres for distance education system at the different colleges in Manipur, offering under graduate and post-graduate courses. Even though, the enrollment rate is not improved. As far as the private colleges concerned, it is not possible to run the colleges without the students population as the collected fee from students will be the means/source to run the colleges.

**Problem of infrastructures:** With the launching of semester system of education at the different colleges under Manipur University, there is a big crisis of shortage of infrastructures. More books, reading rooms of library, class rooms, hostel rooms for both male and female students, uninterrupted power supply, Internet facility, sports equipments, playground, transports facility, adequate teaching aids of ICT, etc. are required as many

students of different semesters got admitted in the colleges. As far as the government colleges concerned, it will take much time to fulfill the above shortages of minimum requirement of institutional infrastructures as per NAAC norms. Even private college also can’t fulfill easily due to financial problem.

**Problem of Examination and Result:** Examination is the most important aspect of education, through which the quality of student will be decided. Most of the questions of different examinations conducted by Manipur University are sub-standard as there is no blue print system and answer key too. Therefore, subjective evaluation is found among the examiners. The examinations results of university are not declared in time. If declared, the result is not uploaded in the university website on time. The detail marks obtained by the examinees are also not displayed in the website of the university.

**Problem of administration by In-charge principals:** As per the norms of NAAC, normally the head of institution should be on regular fulltime. However, no full time principal is found in any college either government or aided colleges in the state. The In-charge principal can’t exercise the full powers for the smooth functioning of institution, which makes the handicapped principal in terms of administration and supervision.

**Problem of inadequate qualified teachers & staffs:** Most of the colleges in the state of Manipur, particularly the government colleges, there is the shortage of regular teachers and also non-teaching staffs, which affects the academic functioning of colleges. It reduces the quality of college education given in Manipur at the great extend. As per NAAC norms, those guest/part-time teachers are not counted as the number of teachers working in the college. However, at present, there are 432 part time and 46 guest teachers under the department. With the launching of semester system of education at the colleges, there is also a big shortage of teachers as more teachers are needed for the different batches of different semesters. Due to shortage of man powers, teachers are discharging overload duty during normal class, examination, and other activities. On other hand, many teachers are there, who could not complete research work due to financial problems or unable to get admission for Ph.D. work at Manipur University. If the department tries to depute some college teachers on phase wise manner for Ph.D on some reserved seats at the University level, more numbers of teachers will posses Ph.D. for the career advancement. And such additional qualification will enhance the quality of the college too. Now, total number of teachers required for Government colleges as per M.U. pattern is 1918, whereas, the total number of sectioned posts of Education department (U) is 1264. There is the difference of 654 posts



of teachers between the department and Manipur University. The total number of existing posts of government colleges as on 05-03-2011 is 1027. So, the total number of shortaged teachers is (a) 891 as per MU pattern and (b) 237 as per the department of education (U). In any case, it is proved that there is the shortage of teachers in the government colleges. And, total number of sanctioned posts for non-teaching staff under Education (U) is 956, whereas, the total number of existing posts for non-teaching staff as on 05-03-2011 is 705. So, the total shortage of Non-Teaching staffs for the government colleges is 251. There is also problem of documentation of the college records by the non-teaching staffs as such non-teaching staffs are not computer literate at all. So, on the above reasons, it is proved that there is also the shortage of well qualified Non-Teaching staffs in the government colleges. On the other hand, there are also 31 vacancies of different posts in the Government aided colleges as on 5-3-2011 and no notification has been served by the department to public to fill up the said vacancies.

**Problem of accountability and professional ethics among the teachers:** We witnessed some of the phenomenon in our society that shows the status of teachers in the state is not in a good position as compare to last decade. Some teachers are found that they are involved with construction works, coaching, politics, business etc.

**Problem of transfer and posting of teachers and staffs:** There is no exact transfer and posting policy of the department. At any time at any place teachers are transferred, which also creates the problems in the proper functioning of academic atmosphere of the colleges. Some teachers are transferred frequently, but, other is not. Because of it, there will be low level of job satisfaction among the college teachers. This is also another problem of government colleges in Manipur.

**Problem of Non implementation of UGC schemes in Too:** Teachers are happy to teach and to do any college welfare activity with sincerity and dedication, if the service condition of the teacher is too good and attractive. Till yet UGC scheme is not implemented in toto as SCA and TA of the pay is paid yet. This is one of the drawbacks of department towards the quality of higher education.

**Problems of guest/part-time teachers:** It is a big problem to bring the quality education in the colleges of Manipur. The most of principals have the difficulty to assign and to fix the duties and responsibility to those Part-time/Guest teachers in the government colleges like as the fulltime teacher. The exact shortage of teachers in government colleges could not be filled up by the appointment of guest/part time teachers. There may be low level of job satisfaction among the Contract/Guest/Part-time teachers as their service condition is not good. Now there are 432

part time and 46 guest teachers under the department.

**Problem in the construction activities:** It is also a critical problem to make the infrastructural development within the campus of college as the state is under the Arms Conflict Zone. Because of it, there is the difficulty for the quality construction.

#### **Prospects of Higher Education in Manipur**

**Prospects of admission:** If there is common entrance examination for the admission to graduate and under graduate course to be conducted by the Directorate of University and Higher Education, Govt. of Manipur. So that, the uniform number of students may be distributed among the colleges subject to ranking/merit basis to solve poor student population in the some colleges.

**Prospects of Curriculum:** University concerned must try to implement the latest norms of UGC as far as curriculum for the development of Higher Education in Manipur. Many colleges can upgrade to Post Graduate College, Deemed University and State University under the financial assistance of HRD, Govt. of India under the vision of National Knowledge Commission. Many job-oriented, professional, PG, M.Phil, Ph.D courses can be opened at all colleges with full hostel facility, which will solve the shortage of Ph.D seat capacity at Manipur University. And, there will be no shortage students in the colleges as many numbers of students will come at colleges. The vision of India for knowledge based society will be realized soon.

**Prospects of infrastructures :** For the smooth functioning of an institute is possible, when there is human resources and materials resources are available adequately at the institution. At present all necessary infrastructures must be provided by the concerned authority at the colleges at the earliest to meet the needs of many students, who got admitted for different courses under different semesters. Some of the infrastructures are: more number of books, reading rooms in library, classrooms, hostel rooms for both male and female students, uninterrupted power supply, Internet facility, sports equipments, playground, transports facility, adequate teaching aids of ICT, etc. Updating is also needed as per NAAC and UGC norms with financial assistance of the Central and State government.

**Prospects of Examination and Result:** The question pattern of different examinations conducted by Manipur University must be reformed by the forming the special academic committee to formulate blue print system and answer key too. Therefore, subjective evaluation will not be there among the examiners. The examinations results of university should be declared as per the rule of university (45 to 90 days). The examination result should be uploaded in the university website on time by showing detail marks



obtained by the examinees like that of CBSE examination result.

**Prospects of administration by In-charge principals:** As per the norms of NAAC, normally the head of institution should be on regular full time basis not In-Charge basis. The In-charge principal can't exercise the full powers for the smooth functioning of institution, which makes the handicapped principal in terms of administration and supervision. It must be at the earliest possible through Manipur Public Service Commission. There is also need of Director to be appointed from teaching community on the basis of promotion, who is well acquainted to the problems and prospects of Higher education in Manipur.

**Prospects of shortage of teachers & non-teaching staffs:** The government of Manipur needs urgently to fill up all the vacancies of teachers and non-teaching staff arising with the launching of semester system of education at the colleges. In addition to it, there will be requirement of the creation of teaching and non-teaching staff vacancy for the concerned colleges in order to upgrade in to PG College, Deemed University and State University in the state, in the view of Quality higher education in Manipur. On other hand, those teachers, the department of Higher Education will try to depute some college teachers on phase wise manner for Ph.D courses on some reserved seats at the University level. So that, more numbers of teachers will possess Ph.D. for the career advancement. And such additional qualification will enhance the quality of the college too for the upgradation of higher level of learning Institutes.

**Prospects of accountability and professional ethics among the teachers:** Quality education comes from quality teachers who are well qualified, well equipped with research and training and devoted to duty. They are the educational workers, who would impart education to the learners, who would play their respective role in the next generation as the social engineers. In order to have more accountability among the teachers, there is also urgently needed to give awards for those college teachers, who are so dedicated to the teaching profession like that of school education on the day of teacher day celebration at state and national level. Teachers need extension works for the welfare of public. More research works and publication are needed in the life of teachers, so that people will not forget that there is teacher, who is source of knowledge and discipline. Some system must be developed to monitor the teacher attendance with GPRS system whether the teacher or staff concerned is discharging the duty at the work place.

**Prospects of transfer and posting of teachers and staffs:** There is urgently needed the exact transfer and posting policy of the department for teachers and staffs too for smooth academic functioning of the college. So that the

transfer order will issue reasonably in the scientific manner as there will be no strike and agitation, when transfer order of the concerned employee is out.

**Prospects of UGC schemes:** Teachers will teach happily and to do any college welfare activity with sincerity and dedication, if the service condition of the teacher is **too good and attractive as per UGC norms in terms of Promotion and revision of salary**. It is mandatory the implementation of UGC scheme in the state too for the betterment of state as well as nation.

**Prospects of Peace in the Academic Environment:** The peace is must in the Academic Environment. The human resource development is possible within the healthy and peaceful academic atmosphere. Learning and teaching are possible only in the peaceful academic environment. Therefore, maximum cooperation from public towards the colleges is must for peaceful environment in the college campus. The better relationships should be established by the college and concerned authority between the institution and society.

**Prospects of guest/part-time teachers:** The exact shortage of teachers in government colleges could not be filled up by the appointment of guest/part time teachers. However, they are suffering more than a decade. There may be low level of job satisfaction among the Contract/Guest/Part-time teachers as their service condition is not good. Now there are 432 part time and 46 guest teachers under the department. It is right time to do something for them. They are also part of Higher education system. They are also responsible to improve the quality of higher education in Manipur.

**Prospects in the construction activities:** The government should plan something in the interest of public like political dialogue to normalize the law and order problem in the state. So that, there will be quality control at the time of construction within the campus of college.

**Conclusion:** Higher Education is must in a society, which has made a significant contribution to economic development, social progress and political democracy in state and National levels. Assessment and Accreditation of institutions of higher education by NAAC is mandatory. It is also a great help to know strength and weakness of an institution for future improvement. Assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher education will certainly enhance quality of higher education in Manipur. Strengthening of The State Level Quality Co- ordination Committee (SLQACC) and Quality Assurance Cell (QAC) of the state is the key factor to improve the quality of Higher education in Manipur. However, before the starting of actual process to be prepared by the college for NAAC accreditation, the higher authority and university needs to make the proper inspection and supervision, so that, the college concerned the high quality status from NAAC as



the problems of college will be solved first. So, to save and improve higher education in Manipur is must for the bright future of State and nation to become one of the super power countries in near future.

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Two day national seminar on post accreditation strategies for quality substance in colleges Organized by The Oriental College, Imphal.