



## An Outline Of The Degree Colleges In Lakhimpur District, Assam, India

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### Abstract:

*A field survey was undertaken by the author during the period of 2003-06 along with his PhD. Research work on the profile of degree colleges in Lakhimpur district, Assam. On the basis of the information gathered during that period here an attempt has been made to present an outline of the degree colleges functioning in the District. At present there are 12 provincialized colleges in Lakhimpur district. Out of these 12 colleges, only 1 College i.e. Nowboicha college providing higher education exclusively for Degree Course and the remaining 11 colleges are imparting education in Higher Secondary Course along with Degree Course. However, the present study deals with only the degree level courses offered by all 12 colleges.*

**Keywords:** Provincialized College, First institution, Staff Quarter, Students' Insurance.

### INTRODUCTION:

College and Universities are playing an important role for development of higher education in our society. One of the most important features of higher education in India is the education through colleges, which may be professional or general in nature. These colleges may be private or government which may also include provincialized colleges. A provincialized college means those colleges which come under the purview of the Assam College Provincialization Act, 2005.

In case of Lakhimpur District, which is our study area, only 12 provincialized colleges are functioning under the affiliation of Dibrugarh University. Lakhimpur District is situated in the North Bank of the river Brahmaputra with a total geographical area of 2,277 sq. kilometer and population of 8,89,325 as per census of 2001. For convenience of administrative work, the District is divided into two sub-divisions, viz., North Lakhimpur and Dhakuakhana and 9 nos. of Community Development Blocks with 81 villages panchayats.

### SIGNIFICANCE:

As one of the educational institutions, colleges have been playing a very significant role for spreading the knowledge of higher education in Assam in particular and the nation in general. The State Government as well as the various agencies including the UGC has been providing huge financial assistance to the colleges

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for meeting their recurring expenditure and development of infrastructure. So, there is a need to make a detailed study of the development of degree colleges in Lakhimpur District, Assam.

**SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS:**

The present study was conducted on 12 colleges functioning under deficit grants-in-aid system in Lakhimpur district, Assam. However, for the conveniences of the study, junior and private colleges were excluded.

**OBJECTIVES:**

The following are the major objectives of the study:

- To know the history of Degree colleges in Lakhimpur District;
- To make a detailed study of the development of Degree colleges since independence;
- To focus the present status of Degree colleges in Lakhimpur District;

**METHODOLOGY:**

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. For this purpose, the researchers have searched the materials from different books, journals, District Gazetteer and prospectus of different colleges in Lakhimpur District. Further, face to face and telephonic interviews were also conducted with the teaching and non-teaching staff of different Colleges of the District.

**NORTH LAKHIMPUR COLLEGE**

North Lakhimpur College is the first institution of higher education of present Lakhimpur district which was established in the year 1952 with Arts and Science stream. The college is initially affiliated to Gauhati University. But in the year 1965 the affiliation was shifted to Dibrugarh University after its establishment. The college is managed by a duly constituted Governing Body and the institution is located at Khelmati within the town area of North Lakhimpur. In 2001-02 there were 71 teachers and 924 students in the college. During the same year the pass performance of students in BA and B.Sc. examination were 47.23 per cent and 85.98 per cent respectively in this college. The college has constructed a beautiful library building with the financial assistance of UGC. The library has one students' reading room. The number of books in the library is about 33064 as on 2001-02.

It celebrated Golden Jubilee in the year 2002 by taking up some envious schemes in physical and academic fields highlighting its contribution towards the socio-economic development of the region during the last half a century. The college has received the deficit grants-in-aid from the State Government in August, 1962 and came under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956 in the year 1973 and 1986 respectively.

**NORTH BANK COLLEGE**

The second oldest institution of higher education in Lakhimpur district is North Bank College which was established in 1961 at Ghilamora for imparting Arts education. As the college is located in the north side of two rivers, i.e. Brahmaputra and Subansiri, so it was named as North Bank College. The college is situated in an excellent location just near Gilamora Tiniali, the commercial and communication centre of the entire area.

Initially, it was affiliated to Gauhati University as a co-educational institution. But, in the year 1965 the affiliation was shifted to Dibrugarh University. The college received the deficit grants-in-aid from the State Government in 1972 and introduced Science stream in 1996. In the year 1988 it received its affiliation under section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956. In the year 2001-02 there were 36 teachers and 226 students in the both streams of the college. This is the only institution of higher education in the Lakhimpur district which has provided staff quarter facilities to its teachers within the college campus. At present, there are eight teachers' quarters and one girls' hostel in the college. The college has 12 teaching departments viz. Assamese, English, Economics, Political Science, Education, Sociology, History, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology



**MADHABDEV COLLEGE**

Madhabdev College is the third institution of higher education in the district, which was established in 1964 at Narayanpur and affiliated to Dibrugarh University. It is located at Narayanpur, the birth place of Great Vaishnavite Saint, Sri Sri Madhabdev. The College is well connected with all important places of the State by road and railway. It offers higher education in Arts and Science stream with the help of 14 full fledged teaching departments. The Arts and Science stream of the college received deficit grants-in-aid from the State Government in 1974 and 1986 respectively.

The college stands on about 18.94 acres of high land with RCC and Assam type class rooms, two storied RCC administrative building (newly constructed) along with a magnificent auditorium, library and reading room. It has two separate hostels for boys and girls with provisions of comfortable boarding. An attractive campus with a sizeable play ground and an outdoor stadium are the proud possession of the college.

From the session 1999-2000, the college has introduced vocational course in Industrial Fish and Fisheries under the financial assistance of the University Grants Commission.

**DHAKUAKHANA COLLEGE**

The fourth institution of higher education in the district was established in 1966 by the people of Dhakuakhana region and named as Dhakuakhana College. It is situated at the heart of a beautiful landscape in the rural flood hit sub-division of Lakhimpur district. The college has been working for promoting academic and socio-cultural environment amongst the people belonging to different caste and creed of Dhakuakhana.

The establishment of Dhakuakhana College was a bold and positive step towards the spread of higher education in Dhakuakhana sub-division. It is a co-educational institution imparting higher education in both Arts and Science stream with major in a good number of subjects viz. English, Assamese, Economics, Political Science, History, Sociology and Mathematics, etc. The college has a well equipped library, a spacious campus with playground, a Boys' Hostel and a Girls' Hostel in the campus.

It celebrated its Silver Jubilee in the year 1992. This forward looking college believes in opening new courses to equip the students in the changing scenario of Modern Education. Introduction of vocational course in sericulture in the college is an example of its recent effort. There were 48 numbers of teachers as against 756 numbers of students in the college as on 2001-02. The Arts and Science stream of the college was brought under deficit grants-in-aid system of the State Government in 1975 and 1998 respectively.

**Lakhimpur Girls' College**

Lakhimpur Girls' College was established in 1972 at district head quarter. This institution imparts higher education in Arts and Science stream exclusively to the women. It has been maintaining high academic standard since its inception and its output has excelled in various fields. The Arts stream of the college has received deficit grants-in-aid from the State Government in 1979 and the science stream introduced in 1990-91 came under the deficit grants-in-aid system in 1998. The college was recognized by the UGC under Section 2(f) and 12(B) in 1978 and 1984 respectively. Apart from BA and B.Sc. courses under Dibrugarh University a special study Centre (only for women) of Indira Gandhi National Open University has been functioning at the college since July 2001 with various certificate, Diploma and Bachelors Degree programmes viz. Certificate in Disaster Management (CDM), Certificate in Environmental Studies (CES), Certificate in Food and Nutrition (CFN), Certificate in Labour Development (CLD), Certificate in Nutrition and Child Care (CNCC), Certificate in Participatory Forest Management (CPFM), Certificate in the Teaching of English (CTE), Certificate in Empowering Women Self Help Groups (CWDU) Certificate in Women's Empowerment and Development (CWED), Bachelor in Tourism Studies (BTS) and Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management (PGDT).

There is a beautiful library in the college with 24852 numbers of books. The college has a girls' hostel with a capacity to accommodate 150 students.

**LAKHIMPUR COMMERCE COLLEGE**

Lakhimpur Commerce College was established at North Lakhimpur in 1972. It was the pioneer institution of Commerce education in the entire North Bank region of the Brahmaputra. The college has attained the rare distinction of being the only institution of commerce education on the North Bank of Brahmaputra under Dibrugarh University till the year 1992. The objective of establishing Lakhimpur Commerce College was to impart the knowledge of much needed Commerce Education, so that the institution can cope with the ever increasing demand for qualified and competent personnel in the field of business and commerce.



In 1993, the college has also introduced Arts stream to meet the demand of the public in general and students in particular. It has offered major (Honours) in Accountancy, Business Management and Banking in B.Com and Sociology, Political Science, Education, Economics and Assamese in B.A. course.

The Commerce stream of the college received deficit grants-in-aid from the Government in 1979. The college has also a study centre of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for providing various degrees, diploma and certificate course. The college is located in the heart of Lakhimpur town, surrounded by scenic beauty. It has 2 RCC buildings measuring 15,000 sq.ft. and 2,400 sq.ft. Of floor area respectively with 2 Assam Type buildings. A multi storied students Day Home is also under construction under the financial assistance of MP's Local Area Development Fund. The college has a well equipped library with an excellent collection of books which are kept in a spacious hall of the second floor area. It has about 14514 numbers of books. A reading room is also attached to the library providing separate sitting provision for boys, girls and teachers.

#### **BIHPURIA COLLEGE**

Bihpuria College was established in 1973 at Bihpuria town by the local people with the mission of producing at least one graduate from each family. Initially, this college was imparting education in Arts stream only. But, in 1982, it introduced Commerce along with Arts stream. The Arts and Commerce stream of the college received the deficit grants-in-aid from the Government in 1985 and 1996 respectively. The college has been recognized by the UGC in 1990 under section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956.

Bihpuria College offers 11 subjects in the Arts stream. These are Assamese, English, Economics, Education, History, Home Science, Geography, Philosophy, Political Science, Mathematics and Sociology. Home Science subject is offered only to girl students of the college. The Commerce stream offers the conventional commerce subjects at pass level and major in 2 subjects, viz. Accountancy and Business Management. In addition to the major and elective subjects, Assamese as Modern Indian Language and English are compulsory for both Arts and Commerce students. The college has 558 students and 50 numbers of teachers during the year 2001-02 including Arts and Commerce Stream.

The campus of Bihpuria college measures 11.43 acres of land situated about 10 KM. away from N.H. 52. It has an administrative block, 3 building for classrooms, one of which has a multipurpose hall serving as an auditorium. Apart from these, it has a library building, a teachers' common room and a boys' and girls' common room separately. Two hostels for boys and girls are within the campus. The college has a playground that has been used to outdoor games. However, large areas of the campus are low land and get waterlogged in the rainy season.

#### **LAKHIMPUR TELAHI KAMALABARIA COLLEGE**

Lakhimpur Telahi Kamalabaria College was established in 1977 at the conjoining point of Lakhimpur, Telahi and Kamalabaria Mouzas and named accordingly as L.T.K. College. Initially, this college was started with Arts stream only. But in the year 1996 it has started the Science education in Degree Courses along with Arts stream. The Arts stream of the college received the deficit grants-in-aid from the State Government in 1987 while science stream yet to be brought. The college authority has been paying a lump sum amount to the Science teachers from its own fund.

L.T.K. College offers 11 subjects in the Arts Stream. These are Assamese, English, Economics, History, Education, Sociology, Political Science, Philosophy, Geography, Mathematics and Home Science (only for Girls). The Science Stream offers 8 subjects viz. Physics, chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Mathematics, Geography, Home Science and Industrial Fish and Fishery. Here it should be mentioned that Mathematics, Geography and Home Science subjects are common to the both streams. The Industrial Fish and Fishery is a vocational subject of B.Sc. course which was introduced from 1998-99 under the scheme of UGC.

The College has 229 numbers of students as against 50 numbers of teachers as on 2001-02. The enrolment of students is very poor in this college. Out of 50 posts of teachers, 18 posts are non-sanctioned. The College offers major in 6 subjects of Arts Stream i.e. Assamese, Economics, History, Sociology, Education and Political Science.

#### **SANKARDEV MAHAVIDYALAYA**

Sankardev Mahavidyalaya was established in 1982 at Pthalipahar under Kherajkhat Mouza of Lakhimpur district by the Public of the locality under the guidance of Late Bhabendra Kumar Saikia, a social worker and Industrialist. The college is located on the hill top side of N.H. 52 at the border area of Assam and



Arunachal Pradesh near Banderdewa. It is a co-educational Arts College.

Sankardev College has 10 teaching departments viz. Assamese, English, Political Science, Geography, History, Sociology, Education, Hindi, Philosophy and Economics. But it offers major in 7 subjects only i.e. Assamese, Economics, Geography, Political Science, History, Sociology and Education. This college has one girls' hostel with a capacity of 50 students. It has a resourceful library named as Bhabendra Kumar Saikia Memorial Library, where some ancient books (i.e. Sasipatia Puthi) are also preserved along with other text and reference books. There is a Tribal Study Centre in the college for the development and preservation of rich cultural and traditional heritage of the tribal communities.

The college received deficit grants-in-aid from the State Government in 1988 and came under section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956 in the year 1990 and 1991 respectively.

#### **PANIGAON O.P.D. COLLEGE**

Panigaon O.P.D. College was established at Bakal Chapari Grazing, Panigaon in the year 1984 which is just 12 Km from North Lakhimpur town. It is one of the premier educational institution with Arts Stream only in an economically backward and flood affected area under Telahi and Kamalaboria Mouza of Lakhimpur district. The entire college building was donated by Om Prakash Dinodiya a prominent Businessman of Lakhimpur. The college was named as Om Prakash Dinodiya (OPD) College after passing a resolution in the general meeting of the college by the public of that locality to recognize the contribution of the prominent businessman. It received deficit grants-in-aid from the Government in 1996. The college has been recognized by the UGC in 1998 and 2000 under section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956.

Like all the 11 other sample colleges the college is administered by a Governing Body within the rules and norms of the state Government and affiliating university. Apart from representatives of teachers and non-teaching staff, the rest of the members of the Governing Body are nominated by the State Government and the affiliating university.

The College offers eight subjects to its students. These are English, Assamese, Economics, Education, History, Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science. Besides these, it also introduced one vocational subject i.e. Tourism and Travel Management. A student may opt for major in any one of the Arts subjects except English and Tourism and Travel Management. 1

The college has an area of 7.50 acres land. It has 42 number of staff in total, of which 26 are teachers.

#### **NOWBOICHA COLLEGE**

Nowboicha College was established at Nowboicha in 1985 as a co-educational college with Arts Stream only. It is the only institution of higher education in Nowboicha Assembly Constituency. Nowboicha College is situated in the South side of N.H.52 at a distance of 11 KM from North Lakhimpur town. In the year 1998 the college received deficit grants -in -aid from the State Government.

The college has a campus area of about 16.67 acres of land. Out of 29 posts of teachers at the college, 26 are sanctioned and the remaining 3 are non-sanctioned as on 2001-02. The college has 394 students in the degree course in the same year. The pass rate of B.A. examination is 69.38 per cent in the year 2001-02.

The college offers 10 subjects in the Arts Stream. These are Assamese, Economics, Philosophy, Education, Sociology, English, Political Science, History, Mathematics and Geography. A student may opt for any one subject except Geography and Mathematics at the major level. However, all the departments hold pre major tests to decide on the suitability of the candidates for the major courses.

Nowboicha College has two Assam type buildings, which are used as classrooms, library, teachers' common room and office etc. One RCC building is under construction for administrative work. At present there is no hostel facility for the students in the College.

#### **LAKHIMPUR KENDRIYA MAHAVIDYALAYA**

Lakhimpur Kendriya Mahavidyalaya started its function from 1992 at Lakhimpur Post Graduate Training College, Lakhimpur and it has been shifted to its own building in the year 1996 which is located at Borbocha village (near Keshahal) of Lakhimpur district at a distance of about 3Km from North Lakhimpur town. Lakhimpur Kendriya Mahavidyalaya is a co-educational Arts college. This college has 9 teaching departments viz. Assamese, English, Economics, Political Science, History, Sociology, Philosophy, Education and Mathematics. It offers major in all subjects. Each major subject has 20 numbers of seats.

The college has about 14.83 acres of land with 2 Assam type buildings used as class room, office





room, teachers' common room and library. There are 32 numbers of teachers as against 243 numbers of students as on 2001-02 in the college. It has one small library with 908 numbers of books.

An important feature of this college is that it bears the responsibility for providing insurance facility to all its bonafied students under National Insurance Company Ltd. If sudden accidental death of a student occurs then his/her parents or family members may be benefited by this scheme. Here, it should be mentioned that recently a family was benefited by this scheme due to unfortunate death of one student of this college.

The Government has taken the college under deficit grants-in-aid system in 1998 and recognized by the UGC under section 2(f) and 12(B) in the year 2000.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

##### **The survey reveals the following facts:**

- The development of college (higher) education in Lakhimpur District is a post independence affair.
- The North Lakhimpur College is the first institution of higher education of present Lakhimpur district which was established in 1952.
- At present there are only 12 provincialized colleges functioning under the affiliation of Dibrugarh University in this district.
- Out of these 12 colleges, 4 colleges are situated in the urban area and other 8 colleges are situated in the rural areas of the district.
- Out of these 8 rural colleges, 4 colleges impart education in Arts stream and the remaining 4 colleges impart education in both Arts and Science stream.
- Out of 4 urban colleges, 2 colleges impart education both in Science and Arts stream and remaining 2 colleges impart education both in Arts and Commerce.

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

From the above study it can be conclude that at present there is neither any Government college nor any private college for imparting degree level education in the District. Moreover, it is observed that the colleges located in rural areas have taken a leading role for spreading the knowledge of Arts education rather than Science and Commerce education. However, the colleges located in urban areas have given the weight age for imparting the knowledge not only in Arts but also in Science and Commerce education in the District.

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