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AN ANALYSIS OF ENROLMENT TREND IN HIGHER EDUCATION OF ASSAM



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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

Education is a birthright of every citizen in a democratic society. Its potential has been realized in the context of socio-economic and political development in the society. In general sense, education is viewed as a lifelong process of growth, and as an activity which brings about changes in the social environment. Education is a process that makes a complete individual for being the resource of a nation as no nation can survive in the new millennium without developing its own intellectual base. The Human Development Report (1999) makes a reference to the global race for knowledge. It says: "writing computer programmes and revealing genetic codes have replaced the search for gold". It goes

on to say that "knowledge is the new asset and the global gap between the know and know-not is widening" According to World Bank "If knowledge is electricity of the new informational international economy, then institutions of higher education are the power source on which new development process must rely" (World Bank 1993).

KEYWORDS

Working Capital Management , Co-Operative Agricultural Society , financial health .

INTRODUCTION

Men and women should be able to form a judgment of their own role on economical or political issues as social individuals and it is possible only through education as education has a far-reaching influence on the nation's economic headway. In this respect, our universities will have to initiate the process and make themselves the change agents because, except universities, no other institution or organization can ignite the process of change in any country.

Assam has one of the most widespread networks of higher educational institutions in the north-eastern region of India. The establishment of two central universities, one Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is the right step taken by the government for providing higher education to the young population in the state. At present, Assam state has 7 Government universities (2 Central and 5 States), two institutes of national importance, a few private universities and several reputed professional institutions. In addition to this, there are several colleges and institutions like, science and commerce (337), engineering, technology and architecture (7), medical (7), teacher training (40), and other colleges (153) for degree programmes and 13 polytechnic institutions. The state has recently made strides in setting up several high standard institutions to provide enrolment opportunity for imparting education in all professional areas. However, the Post Graduate level students' enrolment in the state in comparison to the All India P.G. students' enrolment record can be cited in the following table-

Table No.1
Table showing the P.G. Students' Enrolment Record of India and Assam in 2013

INDIA			ASSAM		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1841695	1539304	3380999	19331	21697	41028

Despite all these developments in higher education sector in the state, during 2009, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education (18-23 years) of the state was lower (8.3%) in comparison to national level (13.8%). The GER of male (10.7%) and female (5.7%) in higher education of the state was also lower in comparison to national level male (16.1%) and female (11.3%) (Source: MHRD, 2011). In spite of lots of reforms and initiatives, in the year 2013 also, Assam has fared poorly in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education. As per the recent Annual Status of Higher Education in States and Union Territories 2013 (ASHE) prepared in Partnership with the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Assam is at 28th place in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio. "The Gross Enrolment Ratio for males (13.3) is almost equal to females (13.4) resulting in the gender parity index of just 1.01 (compared to 0.86 at all India levels). However in terms of overall GER, Assam ranks 28th among all states and union territories in India" it said. The All India GER is 19.4 percent compared to that of 13.35 in Assam. The GER for females 13.4 in Assam is also lower than the national average of 17.9. However, the gender parity with regard to enrolment in Assam is better than the All India Average. In terms of gender, enrolment is almost equal with 51.6% comprising males, and 48.4% comprising females. In this backdrop an attempt has been made to analyse the enrolment trend in Higher Education of the state of Assam

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Under the purview of such above mentioned observations, the problem has been stated as- "An

analysis of the Enrolment Trend in Higher Education of Assam”

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The higher education sector holds the key to harness the full potential of the nation's most important resources-- the human resources. The need for change in this sector is, therefore, crucial. Today, in terms of enrolment, India has the third largest higher education system in the world (after China and the USA); and it has also the largest higher education system in the world in terms of number of institutions. University Grants Commission (UGC) - the apex regulator for higher education in India has come out with a report in 2012 and sent it to all the universities in the country stating present scenario of higher education in India. The report, 'Higher Education in India at a Glance' prepared by the Chairman, Ved Praksah and other senior UGC members, states the vital statistics pertaining to higher education in the country in terms of number of institutions, type of degree awarding institutions and the enrolment ratio etc in past 61 years (1950 to 2011). The report highlights encouraging figures in the growth in number of institutions and enrolment ratio but it also shows that this growth is more in professional streams. It also portrays a dismal picture on the research and development front.

While talking about the growth in student enrolment the report states that in 1950 the total number of students enrolled in higher education institutions was 3, 97, 000. The growth witnessed is steady till 2001 and stood at 83, 99, 000, but got an unprecedented surge in next 10 years. In 2011 it stands for 1, 69, 75, 000; a figure that has almost doubled in the last decade. Representing the enrolment of girls during the same period, the report states in 1950 the figure was 43, 000 and in 2001, it stood at 33, 06, 000 while in 2010-11 it reached 70, 49, 000. On the much debatable topic of research, the report paints a dismal picture stating that the student enrollment in this area is not encouraging. Talking about enrolment by stages, the report says that 86 per cent students complete their Graduation, while only 12 per cent opt for Post-Graduate programmes. The report goes in detail and states that maximum numbers of students from both the sexes choose Humanities stream, followed by engineering and science while management and commerce stream is still in the third preference. But it is to be emphasized that education among women is the most powerful tool of attaining and utilization of power in the society. Educated women are more politically active and better informed about their legal rights and how to exercise them. Therefore, an attempt has been undertaken to carry out a study on the topic "An analysis of the enrolment trend in Higher Education of Assam".

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are-

- (i) To study the enrolment trend of girls in comparison to boys in the discipline of social science and humanities.
- (ii) To study the enrolment trend of girls in comparison to boys in the discipline of Management and Commerce
- (iii) To compare the enrolment trend of girls and boys in the discipline of Science and Technology

DELIMITATION

The study has delimited to two regular mode state universities of Assam – Gauhati University and Dibrugarh University.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

- Nath, S. (2014) in his paper “Higher Education and Women Participation in India” tried to delineate the present picture of higher education in India and women participation in it. The author also discussed about the necessity and responsible factors for women participation in higher education.
- Taxak, P. (2013) in her paper “Women Empowerment through Higher Education” highlighted on access, equity and quality of women student’s enrolment in various faculties in India.
- Chanana, K. (2004) prepared a paper on “Gender and Disciplinary Choices: Women in Higher Education in India” for UNESCO colloquium on Research and Higher Education Policy, Knowledge, Access and Governance Strategies for change. This paper focused on the access and participation of women students in higher education in India in the pre and post- economic liberalization phase.

METHODOLOGY

Two oldest universities of Assam, Gauhati and Dibrugarh universities were selected purposively as sample of the study. The investigator used the analytical and Descriptive method according to the purpose of the problem. All the data were collected from the administrative office with the help of an Institutional Data Schedule prepared by the Investigator.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Objective -1

Data Related to Social Science and Humanities Discipline

SESSION	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS
2007-2008	1165	(32.45) 378	(67.55) 787
2008-2009	1185	(26.83) 318	(73.17) 867
2009-2010	1308	(27.83) 364	(72.17) 944
2010-2011	1448	(27.62) 400	(72.38) 1048
2011-2012	1512	(27.31) 413	(72.68) 1099

Data within Parenthesis indicate % of enrolment

In State Universities, Girls’ enrolment trend in Social Science & Humanities discipline is found as 67.55% in 2007-08, 73.17% in 2008-09, 72.17% in 2009-10, 72.38% in 2010-11 and, 72.68% in 2011-12 which is better than Boys’ enrolment found as 32.45% in 2007-08, 26.83% in 2008-09, 27.83% in 2009-10, 27.62% in 2010-11 and 27.31% in 2011-12.

It is also observed that in all the years, Girls’ enrolment shows an increasing trend in this

discipline of Social Science and Humanities in State Universities, whereas Boys' enrolment shows the opposite picture of decreasing trend.

Objective -2

Data related to Management and Commerce Discipline

Sessions	Total	Boys	Girls
2007-2008	263	(60.07) 158	(39.92) 105
2008-2009	302	(53.31) 161	(46.68) 141
2009-2010	396	(50.25) 199	(49.75) 197
2010-2011	322	(58.07) 187	(41.93) 135
2011-2012	349	(51.86) 181	(48.13) 168

Data within parenthesis indicate % of Enrolment

Boys' enrolment trend in the discipline of Management and Commerce in State Universities is observed as 60.07% in 2007-08, 53.31% in 2008-09, 50.25% in 2009-10, 58.07% in 2010-11 and 51.86% in 2011-12 whereas Girls enrolment position stands for 39.92% in 2007-08, 46.68% in 2008-09, 49.75% in 2009-10, 41.93% in 2010-11 and 48.13% in 2011-12 academic year

It is observed that in the discipline of Management and Commerce in State Universities, Boys enrolment trend is better than Girls enrolment trend in every academic year starting from 2007-08 up to 2011-12.

Objective -3

Data related to Science and Technology Discipline Enrolment of Students

Sessions	Total	Boys	Girls
2007-2008	627	(51.83) 325	(48.16) 302
2008-2009	610	(46.39) 283	(53.61) 327
2009-2010	678	(37.17) 252	(62.83) 426
2010-2011	733	(38.33) 281	(61.67) 452
2011-2012	756	(40.87) 309	(59.13) 447

Data within parenthesis indicate %

Girls' enrolment is observed as 48.14% in 2007-08, 53.61% in 2008-09, 62.83% in 2009-10, 61.67% in 2010-11 and 59.13% in 2011-12 whereas Boys' enrolment rate is found as 51.83% in 2007-08, 46.39% in 2008-09, 37.17% in 2009-10, 38.33% in 2010-11 and 40.87% in the year 2011-12.

It is evident that in Science & Technology discipline in state universities, Girls' enrolment rate is more than boys, almost in all the years except the session 2007-08.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

After analysis and interpretation of collected data, following findings are drawn of the study-

(i) In State Universities, in the discipline of Social Science and Humanities, human resource development of Girls is increasing through their highest admission trend whereas Boys enrolment trend for human resource development is decreasing during the years.

(ii) In Management & Commerce discipline in State Universities, Human Resource Development through of Boys' enrolment in all the years is in better position than Girls' enrolment. But the trend of increasing students' numbers is observed as almost equal.

(iii) In the discipline of Science & Technology in State Universities, girls' enrolment for Human Resource Development is increasing starting from 48.16% in 2007-08 to 59.13% in 2011-12 whereas a decreasing trend of Human Resource Development through boys' enrolment is found starting from 51.83% in 2007-08 to 40.87% in 2011-12.

(iv) All the universities of Assam have been playing their role in human resource development by increasing girls' enrolment every year as just the opposite picture of decreasing trend of boys' enrolment as a whole in all the disciplines.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

(i) This study will help everybody to understand that gender specific treatment in higher education sector in Assam to girl's students is not necessary.

(ii) This study will help parents, public, administrators, educational agencies to give a fresh attention to the higher education of boys especially in enrolment dimension in the universities of Assam.

(iii) Present study has implication for University authority to achieve higher enrolment ratio by adopting the cost effective higher education system in the state.

CONCLUSION

It is the level of higher education at which teachers, teacher-trainers, administrators, scientists, technologists, political thinkers and policy makers are produced. In this process of developing human resources, the role of higher educational institutions is indispensable more particularly for women. In Conclusion, it can be said that providing access to higher education with equity in focus is not just a matter of opening higher educational institutions, it demands a change in the mindsets of the stakeholders for empowering women through education.

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