CHAPTER VII
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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

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CHAPTER-VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

7.1 Summary:

In the era of Globalization, products and services of the nation are facing more competitions at the national and international level. It ultimately brings more responsibility to the higher educational institutions. Without a sound functioning of higher education system, proper human resource development will not be possible. Higher education in India is characterized by massive public investment. Due to the expansion of the institutions of higher learning and the increased recurring expenditures of the institutions, the demand for funds has ballooned over time.

As the Government acts as entrepreneur, promoter and planner for all round progress of the nation; so, how the government play its role for the promotion of higher education is a matter of great concern. Particularly, local governance requires exercising a more crucial role.

The State Governments are facing severe financial crisis due to increased amount of non development expenditures. In Assam, the state government incurred more amounts for law & order situation and huge interest burden. But the financial resources and its utilization for the higher educational institutions assume
paramount importance for the prospect of the state. Therefore, a thorough investigation of the financial plan of the state government and its implementation for higher education is an urgent necessity. The economic state of the majority people of the province necessitates the growth of higher educational institutions under state patronage. Thus, the present study undertaken has been justified and entitled as "STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION OF ASSAM (1999-2009) - A STUDY".

In Chapter I, the historical development of higher education, development of higher education in Assam, sources of fund for higher education and the current developments in financing higher education in India had been elaborately stated. On the basis of objectives formulated for the study, hypotheses/research questions had been framed. The objectives of the study were:

1. To study the state government budgetary provision for Higher education of Assam.
2. To examine the nature of state government expenditure for higher education of Assam.
3. To study the trend of state government expenditures for higher education.
4. To compare the state government finance on higher education with investment of other agencies like UGC.
5. (a) To examine the extent of resource crunch on the part of the higher educational institutions of Assam.

5. (b) To study the potential of resource generation on the part of the higher educational institutions of Assam.

6. To study the nature of expenditures of the Provincialised Colleges of Assam.

7. To analyze the basic infrastructural facilities of higher educational institutions against state government fund.

8. To examine the level of satisfaction of the students and teachers regarding the basic facilities.

9. To study the unit cost per student in Arts, Science and Commerce streams.

10. To examine the linkage between academic performance and financial health of the higher educational institutions.

A good number of related literatures had been reviewed for the present study & given in the Chapter II. Altogether 18 International studies 35national and 19 regional studies were reviewed.
In the present research work descriptive as well as normative survey method were followed. Three types of sample had been drawn from the selected provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup District.

- **Sample (I):** Entire universe of the study had been divided as urban and rural. On the basis of stratified random sampling method 5 urban and 5 rural colleges had been selected. The researcher applied the Table of random numbers while selecting the colleges. Principals of these 10 selected colleges (5 from urban and 5 from rural area) had been enquired about the administration and expenditure details of the colleges.

- **Sample (II):** 100 teachers from the three streams (i.e Arts, Science and Commerce) of the select provincialised colleges had been chosen through the stratified random sampling technique. From each select college 10 teachers have been selected randomly. The representation of Science, Arts & Commerce streams in the sample was based on the proportion of number of teacher of each stream.

- **Sample (III):** A sample of 500 students from the Arts, Science and Commerce streams of the select provincialised colleges was drawn.
through the stratified random sampling technique. For this purpose 50 students from each college had been selected, where representation of the students was ensured through the proportion of total number of students of each stream.

The study had been based on both the primary and secondary sources of data. The sources of primary data were as follows:

- **Primary sources of data:**
  
  (a) One set of self structured questionnaire for the Principal.
  
  (b) One set of structured questionnaire for students.
  
  (c) One set of self structured questionnaire for teachers.

- **Secondary sources of data:**
  
  The secondary sources of data were-
  
  
  
  
  
  
  f. Union Government Budgets.
  
For the analysis of data following statistical techniques were employed -

1. Ratio proportion.
2. Percentage.
3. Trend analysis.
4. Coefficient of correlation.
5. Regression Analysis.
6. Chi-square Test.

A brief account of the state of Assam and a district profile had been presented in Chapter IV.

The findings related to different objectives of the study were given below-

**State government budgetary provision for Higher education of Assam:**

The state government budgetary grant for higher education has been increased in the period 1999-2000 to 2008-2009. During the study period grant for higher education was increased more than 2.5 times. The trend of the budgetary grant for higher education was fluctuating throughout the study period. The percentage of budgetary grant for higher education out of the total grant was reducing very drastically. It has found that the Capital Head of Accounts for
'higher education' was not given adequate importance by the state government while allocating fund. The percentage of budgetary allocation for revenue expenditures under higher education out of the total budgetary grant was more than 99% in 1999-2000 to 2008-09, but for capital expenditures, it was only 0.01%.

Nature of state government expenditure for higher education of Assam:

It has been found that state government of Assam spent major part of resources of higher education mainly in three head of accounts i.e Assistance to University, Assistance to Government Colleges & institution and Assistance to non Government Colleges.

The trend of state government expenditures for higher education:

It has been found that in most of the cases the actual utilization has been less than the budgetary allocation. Under the head "Assistance to Universities", budgetary allocation was not sufficiently utilized in majority years of the study period.
Comparison of state government finance on higher education with investment of other agencies:

A comparison of the sources of finance reveals that the provincialised colleges of Assam mainly rely on the state government for meeting their expenses. It has been found that 76% to 90% of the total funds received from various sources have been contributed from state government sources. For development grants, the general colleges depend mostly on U.G.C. and other sources viz. DST, ASTEC, etc. From the present study it has been found that the fund received from U.G.C and other sources was very nominal. It ranges from 2% to 10% only. Hence dependence on tuition fee was at an increasing end and it ranges from 7% to 19% during the study period.

Extent of resource crunch on the part of the higher educational institutions of Assam:

From the study it has been found that in the entire study period, the extent of resource crunch was more than 20%. The degree of resource crunch was more in the urban colleges than in the rural colleges. In the selected urban colleges the range of resource crunch was 15% to 52% of the total expenditure. In rural colleges, in the rural colleges the same was 7% to 31%.
Potential of resource generation on the part of the higher educational institutions of Assam:

From the investigation it has been found that urban colleges were more efficient in internal resource generation. Tuition fee is an essential means of internal resource generation in the select colleges. An amount of 16% to 19% income has been generated out of tuition fee. It signifies that the tuition fee act as a significant means of resource generation to meet the expenditures of the colleges.

Nature of Expenditures of the Provincialised Colleges:

The nature of expenditures of colleges were in the category of Salary related expenditures, Library, Student Welfare, Examination, NSS, NCC, Festival, Maintenance, Printing, Magazine, Examination, NSS, NCC, Festival, Library, student welfare, etc. Salary related expenditures. It has been found that the salary related expenditures amounts for the highest amount out of the total expenditure both in the rural and urban colleges.

Basic infrastructural facilities of higher educational institutions from state government fund:

The study reveals that on an average both the select urban and rural colleges of Assam have faculty strength on average 18% and 21% respectively. With regard to the number of classroom facilities, urban colleges were better than the rural colleges. The average number of classrooms in urban
colleges was 72 and that of the rural colleges was 31. Substantive correlation was found between number of teachers and state government fund. It has also been found that government fund has a very low correlation with library and computer facilities (i.e. $r=0.43$ and $r=0.31$ respectively).

**Level of satisfaction of the students and teachers regarding basic facilities:**

It has been found that a major group of students was dissatisfied with the educational standard and basic facilities of the colleges. Level of satisfaction level was more in urban colleges than in the rural colleges. A large number of teachers expressed their dissatisfaction on basic facilities. They mentioned students complained about lack of proper infrastructural facilities like libraries, laboratories and administrative lacunas etc.

**Unit cost per student in Arts, Science and Commerce streams:**

Average cost per student for science stream was much lower as compared to the Arts and Commerce streams. Cost per student of rural college was more than the cost per student of the urban colleges.
Linkage between academic performance and financial resources of higher educational institutions:

From the result of correlation it has been found that the state may not always ensure increased facilities. It has been found that the financial state of the colleges don’t have significant relationship with the performance of the colleges.

7.2 Conclusion:

Global economic trends of the 21st century necessitate present human resource, capable enough to give dynamic leadership in all sectors of present era, is therefore challenging for upgradation of higher academic institutions. Moreover due to the phenomena of exodus there is an urgent need of improving the higher educational institutions of the state. From the study it is found that the college education in Assam is not adequate to meet the demands of globalised world. Looking at the present qualitative standard of higher educational institutions of the state, there is scope for improvement in the structural development, administrative reform, further financial accountability of the workforce.

From the study it has been found that the Public colleges of Assam face severe resource crunch leading to disinvestment...
facilities. Unfortunately, the state government could not provide sufficient weightage for higher education of Assam in its Annual Financial Plan.

UGC's assistance is also not regular and depends on a small percentage of funds. Therefore there is increased level of the discontentment in students and teachers. Further it has been learned that the state governments now encourages an expansion of higher education on the way of increasing GER reaching 15% by the end of Eleventh Plan period. Private investment in higher education has been given over the past two decades. But it should be remembered that private investors do not concentrate on the least non-market oriented courses in higher education. Further, it is also feared that non-market jeopardizes the participation of meritorious students and disadvantageous groups, women and minorities.

It is worth mentioning that the foundation including higher education rests on the continued and proportion of their budgets & national income on education. Therefore it is important that in order to compete in the emerging knowledge society, public resources to higher education should be enhanced.