THE PROBLEM

NEED FOR THE STUDY

It is a well known fact that the Union Territory of Puducherry (UTP) is unique due to the fact that it was ruled by French Government prior to its merger with Union of India. Another uniqueness of this territory is its spread across the enclaves of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, besides Puducherry town. In the independent Puducherry Union Territory just a few colleges existed under the Territory Government. Later colleges were established by registered societies for which grant was sanctioned by the Territory Government. Due to the paucity of resources in general and financial resource in particular, private bodies were permitted to run the colleges on their own resources without fund from the Government.

These colleges, which are Self-financing are popularly known as Private Colleges in PUT unlike the Nomenclature Self-financing or Unaided Colleges’ as prevalent in other States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Having given the recognition to these private colleges without funding, but affiliated to the Puducherry Central University, these colleges also are expected to serve the society as that of the Government and Society Colleges. Since no systematic and scientific attempt has been made to assess the impact of the Self-financing Colleges by anybody till date, the need for the conduct of the present study.
BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

The present investigator, who is a native person of Puducherry town is a master’s and M.Phil. degree holder in Education. But he had to undergo all his higher education programmes in the State of Tamil Nadu for want of opportunities in Puducherry. Out of his personal life experiences in getting the siblings educated, he could realize the importance of the golden opportunity of establishment of Self-financing colleges thrown open to private bodies by the Territory Government. The personal interest in this system made him to think of the conduct of the present study which is entitled “IMPACT OF SELF-FINANCING SYSTEM IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN PUDUCHERRY UNION TERRITORY”.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

IMPACT – refers to

1. Establishment of more number of Self-financing (Private) Colleges.

2. Offering of varieties of Arts, Science and Professional Courses at UG, PG and M.Phil., levels.

3. Students Gain Strength.
SELF - FINANCING SYSTEM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- refers to the establishment and management of Colleges by Private Bodies from its own resources as permission granted by the Territory Government and affiliation granted by Puducherry Central University.

PUDUCHERRY UNION TERRITORY – refers to one of the Union Territories of India located in South India.

VARIABLES OF THE STUDY

The variables of the study are as follows:

DEPENDENT VARIABLE

Students Strength in Self - financing (Private) Colleges

INDEPENDENT/POPULATION VARIABLES

1. Sex
2. Marital Status
3. Year of Study
4. College Kind
5. College Locality
6. Study Residence
7. Citizenship
8. Native State
9. Native Place
10. Mother Tongue
11. Religion
12. Community
13. Mother’s Educational Status
14. Father’s Educational Status
15. Mother’s Occupation
16. Father’s Occupation
17. Family Income

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The four hypotheses formulated for verification in this investigation are as follows:

HYPOTHESIS I

UG Students Strength in Government, Society and Private Arts and Science Colleges is dependent upon the select seventeen Population Variables.

HYPOTHESIS II

B.Ed. Students Strength in Society and Private Colleges is dependent upon the select sixteen Population Variables.
HYPOTHESIS III

UG Engineering Students Strength in Society and Private Colleges is dependent upon the select sixteen Population Variables.

HYPOTHESIS IV

UG Paramedical Students Strength in Society and Private Colleges is dependent upon the select fifteen Population Variables.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To trace the Higher Education Sectors in which Self-financing Colleges got established in PUT during the thirteen year span of 1997 – 98 to 2009 – 10.

2. To identify the varieties of Courses provided at UG, PG and M.Phil. levels in Arts and Science, Education, Engineering and Medical and Paramedical Colleges in PUT during the thirteen year span.

3. To compute the Students Gain Strength in UG and PG Courses of all varieties of Self-financing Colleges in PUT during 2007 – 2008.

METHODOLOGY-IN-BRIEF

Method : Normative

Technique : Survey
Secondary Data Sources: Puducherry Union Territory Higher Education Department Documents and College Prospectuses.

Primary Data

1. Data Collected from thirty Principals using the Questionnaire structured by the Investigator.

2. Data collected from 2640 Arts and Science College Students, 1168 B.Ed. Students, 2358 Engineering College Students and 606 Paramedical Students using the Questionnaire structured by the Investigator.

Statistical Treatments:

1. Percentage Analysis

2. Chi-square test of Hypothesis of Dependence

DELIMITATION, LIMITATION AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present investigation has been carried out with a view to trace the number of Self-financing Colleges established and varieties of courses being offered from 1997 – 98 through 2009 – 2010 and students gain strength during 2007-2008, in Self-financing Colleges. The phenomena like faculty excellence, students academic performance, co-curricular excellance, sports and game performance, students welfare services, material resource management, academic management,
personnel management, organizational climate and social services are not involved in this study. This is a delimitation of the study.

The study has not covered the principals and medical students of medical colleges in data collection for want of co-operation and permission from the authorities, inspite of the strenuous efforts taken by the investigator. This is a limitation of the study.

Yet, the original contribution of this study is ensured in the form of data adduced from valid Governmental Documents as Secondary Data Sources as well as Primary Data Collected from 6772 first and last year students of UG Courses in Arts and Science Colleges, Colleges of Education, Engineering Colleges and Paramedical Colleges, and analysis of the same by appropriate statistical treatments. Further it is hoped that the grey areas identified and notified in this report would be of immense use for the Policy Decision Makers in Education of Puducherry Union Territory Government.