Chapter-VII

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.0 Conclusion

The beginning of higher education in Upper Assam was initiated at Jorhat in the district of undivided Sibsagar in 1930 with the establishment of Jagannath Barooah College which was affiliated to Calcutta University. For about 17 years this college served the need of collegiate education to the people of Upper Assam. The post-independence period witnessed rapid growth of colleges and till 2012 a total of 117 colleges having affiliation to Dibrugarh University were established under the initiatives of the local people. These colleges have massive student enrolments and cater to the need of the people in the region.

Dibrugarh University, the first university of the area, was established in 1965. This university is a teaching, affiliating and residential university. It has a total of 117 affiliated colleges apart from having 17 teaching departments and 21 centres of studies. The result of analysis of the university departments and centres of studies from 2003-04 to 2011-12 reveals that the highest number of students were enrolled in the session 2011-12. This is a good sign for the state of Assam as the number of students coming for higher studies is on the rise. Similarly, the number of teachers is also increasing in various departments and centres of studies.

Assam Agricultural University was established on April 1, 1969 in Jorhat. It has four faculties viz. Faculty of Agriculture at Jorhat, Faculty of Veterinary Science at Khanapara, Faculty of Home Science at Jorhat and Faculty of Fisheries at Raha, Nagaon. These four faculties all together produced 11621 graduates and post graduates, out of which 8460 are graduates, 379 are Masters and 379 PhD holders till 2009-10. Assam Agricultural University has a total of 472 faculty members out of which
302 are involved in teaching and 170 are engaged in research work (till 2013).

It is also seen that both the universities i.e. DU and AAU are contributing towards research and extension activities. Both the universities have undertaken various research and extension activities and they are contributing a lot towards the society in this regard. Moreover, Assam Agricultural University have collaboration with various national and international universities.

From the study, it is clear that the both the universities do not have major problems with regard to academic, infrastructure, administration, management as well as in the examination system. So, we can conclude that the universities of Upper Assam are running smoothly and they are trying to produce quality human resources in the area.

7.1 Recommendations for the colleges and universities of Upper Assam

Here, the researcher tried to give certain recommendations that can be taken up by the stakeholders such as Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Central and State Government, Directorate of Higher Education and Technical Education, College Principals etc. so that effectiveness of the system can be enhanced. In the light of the findings regarding higher education in Upper Assam following recommendations are made:

Colleges:

1. As compared to general colleges, professional colleges are fewer in number in the area. The first professional college i.e. Assam Medical College was established in the year 1947. Though the importance of professional education was felt at that time, the progress was not as encouraging in Upper Assam because only 31 professional colleges were there in the area till 2012. Majority of these colleges were private in nature. This study makes it clear that professional colleges of Upper
Assam have faced problem due to dearth of teachers. This apart, some of the colleges have limited intake capacity. The government should look into such problems apart from setting up more professional colleges in the area keeping in view of the needs of society.

2. The intake capacity of the professional colleges should be increased. Moreover, the government should upgrade the professional colleges to government colleges.

3. There is the need to provide adequate infrastructure, quality human resources, as well as trained manpower so that quality of these educational institutions can improve to the utmost level possible. The Government of Assam has recently tried to bring quality to these educational institutions by providing various funds and incentives. But there is the need of proper utilisation of the funds allocated to these institutions. The dearth of teachers in some departments ought to be filled up immediately.

4. It is also observed that majority of the colleges have only the arts stream. The government as well as the authority should take the initiative to establish science and commerce stream in such colleges.

5. It is also observed that majority of the colleges do not have the residential quarters for the teachers. So it is quite necessary to establish residential quarters for them. Moreover, there is the need to establish more number of hostels for students’ benefit.

6. The quality of the educational institutions is reflected by the educational attainments of the students in the examinations. The analysis of pass percentage over the years 2004-2013 of the BA and BSc courses of the colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University reveals that the pass percentage was satisfactory (more than 70%). But in certain years the pass percentage in BCom final examination is not satisfactory. The authority should give importance to commerce courses for its improvement. Moreover, the colleges should provide along with general courses some job oriented courses which will be beneficial for the students.
7. The result analysis of BEd courses for 10 years (2004-13) revealed that the pass percentage of BEd courses is not satisfactory as it is less than 50% in certain years. So, the concerned authority should look into this matter and should take steps for improvement of the present condition.

8. Regarding management and administration, colleges of Upper Assam are running smoothly. But there is the need of training from time to time to the college principals as well as to the office members regarding various activities of the college.

9. In the present world of Globalisation, Information and Communication Technology is very important for the college teachers, non-teaching staffs and students so as to compete with the competitive world. Moreover, there is the need of faculty exchange programme at the national as well as international level to improve the present condition of higher education.

10. It was seen that the college students are facing the problem due to the shortage of computers, dearth of various facilities like NSS, art education, socio-economic survey, playground, photocopying machine, common room, students’ aid fund (in majority of the professional colleges), gymnasium hall, transport facility, medical facility, career oriented courses, placement cell, community services and scholarships. These problems should be solved as soon as possible. The State Government should take initiative in this regard by providing financial assistance.

**University:**

1. The second university of Upper Assam i.e. Assam Agricultural University was established in 1969 in Jorhat. This university has four faculties. A total of 472 faculty members are working at present in the university. Students’ enrolment in PhD courses of AAU is increasing day by day. But the enrolment pattern and pass out students in various undergraduate and post-graduate courses is not so satisfactory.
Therefore it is necessary to organise some motivational programmes to attract the students towards this profession.

2. Both the universities have various problems like scarcity of proper drinking water facility in the university campus, lack of maintenance of the building, limited number of hostels for the students, lack of transportation, lack of Wi-Fi facility, lack of security, shortage of revised books and lack of scholarships for students. These problems should be solved by the university authority for the betterment of the students.

3. Moreover, limited fund sometimes affect the activities of the universities. So, adequate fund from both the Central and State Government should be provided to meet the educational expenses.

These problems should be solved by the stakeholders to improve the higher education scenario of Upper Assam.

7.2 Recommendations for Further Research

Future researchers can carry out their study in the following fields:

1. A study of the progress and development of professional and Technical colleges of Assam.
2. A study of women’s Higher Education in Assam.
3. A comparative study of rural and urban colleges of Upper Assam.
4. A comparative study of the higher educational institutions affiliated to Dibrugarh University and Gauhati University.
5. A comparative study of higher education among the tribal and non-tribal students of Assam.
6. A Study of the problems of educationally backward districts of Assam.