In order to meet increasing demand for quality primary education in present day context, experimentations as well as innovations in the field thereof are being highly appreciated all over the world. The concept of Total Quality Management (TQM) has also been conceived very recently in the field of primary education, which aims at improving the quality of products (graduates), services or educational processes as well as increasing reliability and sustainability of such quality with minimum cost and waste. To have an efficient and effective primary school system, the total quality of the system be managed through continuous monitoring and evaluation, quality control and quality assurance. In this context analysis of internal efficiency and cost effectiveness of the educational system together can help the investigator to know the extend to which the particular school system perform well with maximum output at minimum expenditure. Such findings could effectively be used for Total Quality Management of the education system.

Interventionist role of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) has recently brought some hopes for deprived section of the country. But, unfortunately targeted objective of UPE under SSA could not yet been achieved by Assam. Studies conducted by National level agencies like NCERT, NUEPA etc. reveal that learning achievement of primary graduates of Assam is also very poor. The dropout and repetition rates at primary stage are also higher in Assam as compared to many of educationally advance States of India.
It is also realised by the investigator that problems of an education system are interrelated and a large number of socio-economic, cultural, physical and biological variables are influencing each problem. It is also good to view problems or deficiencies of the education system in a holistic way considering as much variables as possible. Keeping all these in mind, the investigator has intended to conduct the present study. The investigation covers the geographical area of two districts out of 27 districts of the State i.e. Kamrup and Marigaon districts. These districts were selected because to the best of knowledge of the investigator no such study related to internal efficiency and cost-effectiveness of primary school system has been done in these districts till date. In order to achieve the objectives set for the study, several tools and techniques were used in connection with research design and methodology. In this study descriptive survey method has been adopted. The method of true cohort was applied in strict sense without any deviation for computing different indicators of internal efficiency of primary school system and wastage thereof. To gain an idea about cost-effectiveness of primary schools, unit costs were computed and compared with the levels of achievement of students in terms of Achievement Index as well as with the Promotion Rate.

The thesis begins with a brief sketch of the relationship between Education and Development and efforts for achieving goals of UEE at international and national level. It also deals with the legal implication of Right to Education, State and district profile, need and significance of the study, limitations, objectives of the study, operational definitions of keywords used in the study. In the second chapter, conceptual issues and review of related
literature with justification of the study have been presented. The third chapter gives a detailed account of the methods used, sampling technique, tools and statistical techniques used.

Chapter four and five deals with analysis and interpretation of the collected data. In these chapters findings of the study have been statistically analysed and presented in tables and graphically.

In the sixth chapter, objective-wise major findings with their implication have been presented. Suggestions for future research have also been given in this chapter. Finally, in chapter seven the summary of the entire study has been presented systematically with conclusions drawn along with general suggestions there on.

*Jayanta Kumar Sarmah*

Investigator