



## **Institutional Problems In The Degree Colleges of Assam With Reference To Lakhimpur District A Critical Analysis**



**\* Dr. Niranjana Kakati**

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**Asst. Prof. Deptt. Of Commerce, Bihpuria College ,Lakhimpur , Assam**

### **INTRODUCTION**

College and universities are playing an important role for development of higher education in our society. The importance of higher education in the development of a country cannot be over-emphasized. Realizing this concept, various steps are taken by the government from time to time to develop the higher education in our country. Setting-up of Education Commission in 1948 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Establishment of University Grants Commission (UGC) in 1953 (as a statutory body), introduction of National Policy on Education in 1968 and 1986, setting up of National Commission on Teachers Education in 1984, Challenges of Education –A Policy Perspective in 1985 etc. are some of the major efforts in this direction.

One of the most important features of higher education in India is the education through colleges, which may be professional or general in nature. These colleges may be Private or Government which may also include provincialized colleges. provincialized colleges means those colleges which comes under the purview of the Assam college provincialization Act, 2005.

Basically most of the colleges of our country are functioning under the affiliation of university. These affiliated colleges have to follow the rules and regulations framed by the respective university for their academic curriculum. These colleges also get the financial support from the State Government as well as from the UGC maintenance and development. For the development of higher education nearly 196 number of universities, 39 deemed universities, 1,770 colleges for professional education and 11,128 colleges for general education are functioning in our country. In case of Assam, apart from affiliated non-government colleges under Gauhati, Dibrugarh and Assam university, 5 State Universities, 2 Central Universities, 21 professional colleges and 195 colleges (including Government and provincialized colleges) for general education are rendering their service in the field of higher education of the state. In case of Lakhimpur District, which is our study area, only 12 provincialized colleges are functioning under the affiliation of Dibrugarh University .

Lakhimpur district is situated in the North Bank of the river Brahmaputra with a total geographical area of 2,277 sq. kilometer and population of 8,89,325 as per census of 2001. For convenience of administrative work, the district is divided into two sub-divisions viz. North Lakhimpur and Dhakuakhana and 9 nos. of Community Development Blocks with 81 villages panchayats.

### **Institutional Problems:**

The provincialized (degree) colleges of Assam in general and the study district in particular have been facing a lot of problems in their operation. These problems can be classified as:

- (a) External Problems
- (b) Internal Problems

The external problems generally arise from the rules and regulations imposed by the Government as well as University Grants Commission (UGC), political interference specially in the appointment of Governing body members and others, co-operation from the general public etc. etc. On the other hand internal problems are generally arise due to shortage of manpower, inadequate facilities of infrastructure, lack of power management by the principal, lack of cooperation of teaching and non-teaching staff with principal, students agitation etc. etc.

At the time of field survey it was found that most of the colleges of the study district are badly affected with the changing rules and regulations of the State Government as well as UGC from time to time. They are also facing a great problem due to political interference especially in the appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff and sometimes in the admission of students in their colleges. Some principal also expressed their views that thorough they have organized some awareness programs like health care, environment preservation, entrepreneurship development programs etc. from time to time in their locality but they have not received proper response from public.

Regarding the internal problem faced by the colleges it is found that almost all the sample colleges have to run their class as well as administrative work with insufficient manpower.

It can be mentioned here that number of office staff in

North Bank college, Ghilamora is only 2 whereas actual requirement as proposed by the authority is 5. It is also found that many of the colleges run their department with the appointment of only one or two teachers whereas actual requirement is more than that.

Some of the principals expressed their views that they have not received proper co-operation both from the teaching and non-teaching staff in academic and administrative work. Some of them are very offended due to non response of the staff on the circulars, notices etc. issued from time to time.

#### **Findings:**

Adequate infrastructure is the basic need to develop and maintain a good academic atmosphere in a college. However, most of the colleges in study district do not have adequate infrastructural facilities. They do not have well equipped library, laboratory and class room facilities. It should be mentioned here that one of the sample college of my research work, which came under deficit grant-in-aid system of Government in 1998, still have to run some of their classes under the shade of a Government Department. There is enough scope for the development of infrastructure in these colleges but lack of fund is a common factor to all of them. Of course it cannot be denied that miss-utilization or non-utilization of State Government as well as UGC fund in proper heads is one of the prime reasons for lack of infrastructure development of these colleges.

Some colleges don't have hostel, canteen, cycle stand, auditorium drinking water facilities etc. which are basic need for the students. Teachers are required to seat together in a small room called as common room and do their study. It is found that some of the colleges have the required infrastructure but due to the lack of proper maintenance and management, students as well as teachers have not been greatly benefited.

#### **Suggestions and Conclusion:**

The State Government, the UGC, the Governing Body, the Principal, teachers and students should play a positive role to solve their institutional problems and thereby promote the good academic atmosphere. The State Government and UGC should

release their funds in time, so that it cannot affect the proper development of infrastructural facilities. Adequate number of staff should be appointed for proper functioning of classes as well as office and administrative work of the colleges.

The Governing Body of the college should be more effective particularly in appointment and proper utilization of fund and overall development of the college in general. However, overall development of the college is largely depending upon the quality of the leader-the Principal. He should not only be a good academician but also a good administrator. The Principal should be aware of the various schemes initiated by Government as well as UGC. He should submit the proposals and utilization certificates in time for availing the funds and introducing the schemes for the benefit of the students and institutions.

Principal should take initiative in time to promote curricular and co-curricular activities like NSS, NCC, scout and guide, games and sports etc. in the college. The faculty of the college can also play a prominent role to solve the problem and to promote academic atmosphere of the college. The sincerity of the college teachers as well as their unit is a basic instrument for running the classes and other academic activities smoothly.

The student – the input of the colleges, particularly the student body should extend their co-operation for the development of the college. They should discuss their demands with the authority and try to negotiate them for the betterment of the college and student as a whole.

The union body should encourage the students to participate in various co-curricular activities at State and National level along with regular attending of their curricular activities. It will help to produce good quality of output of the college. It may be concluded that all the provincialized colleges of Assam in general and the study district Lakhimpur, in particular are facing a lot of problems. However with proper co-operation and co-ordination of the State Government as well as the UGC and effective role of the Principal, the Governing Body, the staff and the students' community will definitely help to solve these problems and to accelerate the overall development of the colleges in near future to a large extent.

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