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RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY.

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Abstract

Arunachal Pradesh is the late starter in formal education. The history of higher education in the state started with the establishment of the J.N. College, Pasighat in 1964. Now the state has more than fifty numbers of government and private higher educational institutions. The enrolment of students is recorded at 35109 during 2017-18 academic session. The overall student-teacher ratio is 1:27 and the ratio of govt. colleges alone is 1:37 against UGC laid norms of 1:25. Thus, there is acute shortage of teachers in the state. The establishment and expansion of modern and formal education is one of the most significant accomplishments during the last more than 55 years, has far reaching impact on socio-economic development of the state. The Arunachal University (now Rajiv Gandhi University) and the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) were established in 1984 in the same year. With this, the expansion of higher and technical educational institutions in both govt. and private started in the state to fulfill the growing demand of the people. Today, the higher education system as a whole is faced with many challenges such as financing and management, lack of infrastructure, access, relevance and reorientation of policies and programmes for lying emphasis on values and quality of higher education in the state. The objectives of this study are to analyse the development of higher and technical educational institutions and challenges they have with the help of secondary data and field observations in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

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Introduction:-

Arunachal Pradesh, the land of down lit hills, forms the strategic North Eastern part of India sharing international boundaries with China, Bhutan and Myanmar. Erstwhile known as NEFA, Arunachal Pradesh attained its statehood in the year 1987. With an area of 83,743 Sq.Km, the state stands the largest amongst the eight north eastern states of the country in terms of area and has a considerably low density of 17 persons per sq.km. Arunachal Pradesh, with its exquisite natural beauty not only adorns the country but also enriches her with a rich flora and fauna and enchanting demography. The state a home to 26 major tribes and more than one hundred sub-tribes, each having distinct culture, is an epitome of unity in diversity that India stands for.

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At the dawn of independence of the country in 1947, it was officially recorded that there were only three primary schools with enrolment of 35 students. When the first ever census was conducted in the state in 1961, the literacy rate was recorded at 7.23 per cent against 28.30 per cent of all India. As per the latest census 2011 report the state has achieved the 66.95 per cent literacy rate but it is still below the national average of 74.04 per cent. The higher education in the state started with the establishment of the J.N. College at Pasighat on 4th July 1964 with enrolment of 42 students. Now, we have fifty five numbers of functional higher educational institutions including a Central University, Deemed University and one National Institute of Technology. The enrolment of students in the higher educational institutions of the state is recorded at 35109 during academic session 2017-18. The overall students-teacher ratio in the higher education institutions of the state is 1:27 and the ratio of that government colleges alone is 1:37 and that of government polytechnic college is 1:16 against the UGC laid norms of 1:25 for science, 1:15 for honours course in humanities and 1:30 for pass course respectively and as per the RUSA laid norms the ratio is 1:20 in all perspective. As such, there is acute shortage of teachers in government colleges.

Table-1:-Literacy Rate of Arunachal Pradesh in Vis-a-Vis all India Since 1951

Sl. No.	Year	Arunachal Pradesh (In Percentage)	All India (In Percentage)
1	1951	N.A	18.33
2	1961	7.23	28.30
3	1971	11.29	34.45
4	1981	25.54	43.53
5	1991	41.59	52.23
6	2001	54.74	65.38
7	2011	66.95	74.04

Source: Basic Information on Higher & Technical Education Arunachal Pradesh-2017-18

Table-2 shows the history of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh which was started with the establishment of Jawaharlal Nehru College Pasighat in 1964 and it was initially affiliated to Guwahati University. The college started in humanities stream at a barrack of Assam Rifles on the bank of mighty Siang river. Later in 1967, the college was shifted to its present location. The year 1979 saw the establishment of Dera Natung Govt. College, Itanagar. The state Arunachal University now Rajiv Gandhi University and North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) a Deemed university came into existence in 1984. Similarly, five more colleges of humanities were established i.e. Indra Gandhi Govt. College Tezu in 1986, Govt. College Bomdilla in 1988, Rang-Frah Govt. College Changlang in 1996, Donyi-Polo Govt. College Kamki in 1996 and Wangcha Rajkumar Govt. College Deomali in 1997. Accordingly, in the early part of the 21st century, the state had seen the growth of 59 colleges/institutions till 2018, under which 17 govt. colleges, 7 private degree colleges, 3 private professional institutions like Homoeopathic medical college and Law College and Fine Arts College, 9 private universities, 9 private B.Ed. colleges, 6 govt. polytechnic colleges and one private polytechnic college. The state has 3 other central institutions such as College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat, Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Dahung-Mon-Bomdila and National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology, Naharlagun.

Table-2:-Names of Higher & Technical Institutions in Arunachal Pradesh During 2017-18

Sl.No.	Type of Institution	No. of NAAC Accreditation	No. of UGC/AICTE Recognized	Total
1	Central University/Institution	1	4	4
2	Private University	-	NA	9
3	Other Central Institution	-	-	3
4	Govt. Degree College	6	6	17
5	Private Degree College	1	-	7
6	Private Professional College	-	-	3
7	Private B.ED. College	-	-	9
8	Govt. Polytechnic College	-	1	6
9	Private Polytechnic College	-	1	1
	Total	8	10	59

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P-2017-18.

The Table-2 further shows that out of 17 Govt. degree colleges only six colleges are NAAC accredited and out of six Govt. polytechnic colleges only Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Polytechnic, Itanagar is AICTE recognized. The development of polytechnic colleges necessitates in view of the students preferences to shift from humanities disciplines to professional technical courses. The establishment of private institutions was encouraged by the government to fill the vacuums in the higher education sector through proper monitoring the functioning of these institutions.

Table-3:-Enrolment of Students in Govt. University Level Institutions (Regular) During 2017-2018

Sl.No.	Name of the Institution	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh	1984	1055	1209	2264
2	North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), (Deemed University), Nirjuli	1984	1210	509	1719
3	National Institute of Technology, Yupia	2010	750	132	882
	Total		3015	1850	4865

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P.-2017-18.

Table-3 shows the students enrolment in various regular university level Govt. institutions in Arunachal Pradesh during academic session 2017-18. Out of three regular university level institutions RGU has the highest number of students, of which girl students are 1209 numbers against 1055 boy students during academic session in 2017-18. This is followed by NERIST with 1210 boy students against 509 girl students during the same year. The NIT was established in 2010 and their present students' strength is only 882 students (boys-750 and girls-132). Thus, an aggregate in govt. university level institutions has 3015 boys against 1850 girls with the total of 4865 students during 2017-18 in Arunachal Pradesh. It is found that the girl students in higher educational institutions are less than boy students during 2017-18 in Arunachal Pradesh.

Table-4:-Enrolment of Students in Private Universities During 2017-2018

Sl.No.	Name of the University	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai	2012	1931	1193	3124
2	Venkateshwara Open University, Lekhi	2012	273	637	910
3	Apex Professional University, Pasighat	2013	263	159	422
4	Indira Gandhi Technological & Medical Sciences university, Ziro	2012	201	349	550
5	Himalayan University, Chimpu (Itanagar)	2013	975	757	1732
6	North East Frontier Technical University (NEFTU), Aalo	2014	928	231	1159
7	Arunodaya University, Jolang (Itanagar)—Not yet started	2014	139	83	222
8	Global University, Hollongi (Not yet started)	-	-	-	-
9	Kameng Professional & Technical University (Not yet started)	-	-	-	-
	Total		4710	3409	8119

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P.-2017-18.

Table-4 illustrates that Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai has 1931 and 1193 students of boys and girls respectively with the total of 3124 students during the academic session 2017-18. The Himalayan University, Chimpu was established in 2013 and the total strength are 1732 students (boys-875 & girls-757) during the same year. The North East Frontier Technical University (NEFTU), Aalo has the second highest with 1159 students and the Apex Professional University, Pasighat has the enrolment of 422 students during 2017-18. The Indira Gandhi Technological & Medical Sciences University, Ziro has 349 girls and 201 boys with the aggregate of 550 students. The Arunodaya University, Jolang was established in 2014 and their total enrolled students are 222 during 2017-18 academic session. Thus, there are seven private universities whose classes have already started out of nine universities with the total of 8119 students, of which 4710 boys and 3409 girls. It is noticed that the boys are more than the girls in overall private universities in Arunachal Pradesh.

Table-5:-Enrolment of Students in Government Degree Colleges During 2017-18

Sl.No.	Name of the Colleges	Year of	Boys	Girls	Total
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		Establishment			
1	J.N.College, Pasighat (Including M.A.)	1964	1678	1843	3521
2	D.N. Govt. College, Itanagar	1979	1626	1443	3069
3	I.G.Govt. College, Tezu	1986	1064	947	2011
4	Govt. College Bomdila	1988	250	305	555
5	R.F.Govt. College Changlang	1996	137	132	269
6	D.P. Govt. College Kamki	1996	622	453	1075
7	Wangcha Rajkumar Govt. College, Deomali	1997	292	233	525
8	Govt. College Yachuli	2007	78	56	134
9	Govt. Model College Seppa	2009	168	92	260
10	Tader Taniang Govt. College, Nyapin	2009	13	04	17
11	Govt. College, Doimukh	2012	1439	1012	2451
12	Govt. Model College, Daporijo	2012	194	175	369
13	Model Degree College, Geku	2014	106	58	164
14	Women College, Lekhi, Naharlagun	2014	-	391	391
15	Govt. Model College, Basar	2015	158	125	283
16	Jomin Tayeng Govt. Model Degree college Roing	2016	93	85	178
17	Govt. Degree College, Tawang	2017	65	117	182
	Total		7933	7473	15406

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P.-2017-18.

Table-5 shows that there are seventeen government colleges in Arunachal Pradesh. J.N. college Pasighat has the highest number of 3521 students (boys 1678 & girls 1843) followed by D.N. govt. college Itanagar with the total of 3069 students. The Tader Taniang govt. college, Nyapin was established in 2009 but the total number of students is lowest among all the government colleges which have 17 students (boys 13 & girls 04) only. The first Govt. Women's College, Lekhi, Naharlagun was established in 2014 which has 391 students and it is still located at temporary site. The youngest college called Govt. Degree College Tawang was established in 2017 with the enrolment of 182 students. Thus, it shows that in overall, boys are more than girls' students in the government colleges of Arunachal Pradesh.

Table-6:-Enrolment of Students in Private Degree Colleges During 2017-18

Sl.No.	Name of the Colleges	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Don Bosco College July, Itanagar	2002	614	597	1211
2	St. Claret College, Ziro	2003	335	457	792
3	Doying Gumin College, Pasighat	2004	381	203	584
4	St. Frances De Sales College, Aalo	2007	246	228	474
5	Arunachal Community College, Itanagar	2009	185	132	317
6	Venerable Uktara Bethany College, Namsai	2012	185	132	317
7	Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai	2013	88	82	170
	Total		2034	1831	3865

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P.-2017-18.

Table-6 shows the seven private colleges in Arunachal Pradesh. Don Bosco College July has 614 boys and 597 girls' students with the total of 1211 students during 2017-18 followed by St. Claret College, Ziro with the total of 792 students during the same year. The Doying Gumin College, Pasighat was established in 2004 which has 584 students (boys 381 and girls 203) followed by St. Frances De Sales College, Aalo with the total of 474 students during the same year. It is found that the Arunachal Community College, Itanagar and Venerable Uktara Bethany College, Namsai have same number of 317 students during academic year 2017-18. Thus, the private colleges of Arunachal Pradesh have total of 3865 students of which 2034 boys and 1831 girls during academic session 2017-18.

Table-7:-Enrolment of Students in other Central Institutions During 2017-18

Sl.No.	Name of the Institution	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
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1	College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat	2001	65	41	106
2	Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Bomdila	2007	43	24	67
3	National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology, naharlagun	2014	05	02	07
	Total		103	67	180

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P.-2017-18.

Table-7 illustrates the three central institutions that are functioning in Arunachal Pradesh in three different disciplines. The College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat was established in 2001 which has 65 boys and 41 girls' students with the total number of 106 students only during 2017-18. Another institution called Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies; Bomdila was established in 2007 which has 43 and 24 boys and girls students respectively during the same year. The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology, Naharlagun has 07 students only during academic session of 2017-18.

Table-8:-Enrolment of Students in Private Professional College During 2017-18

Sl.No.	Name of the Institution	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	North East Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Itanagar	2002	41	106	147
2	Arunachal Law Academy, Lekhi (Naharlagun)	2007	389	90	479
3	Rajeev College of Fine Arts, Itanagar	2009	-	-	-
	Total		430	196	626

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P.-2017-18.

Table-8 shows the three private professional colleges that were established in Itanagar. The first Homeopathic Medical College was established in the state in 2002 which has 41 boys and 106 girls' students during 2016-17. Again, the Arunachal Law Academy, Lekhi is the first law college in Arunachal Pradesh was established in 2007 and it has 389 boys and 90 girls at the total of 479 students in academic session 2017-18. Rajeev College of Fine Arts, Itanagar was established in 2009 but student's data of the college is not available.

Table-9:-Enrolment of Students in Private B.Ed. Colleges during 2017-18

Sl.No.	Name of the Colleges	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Hills College of Teacher Education, Lekhi	2003	40	206	246
2	M.T.M B.Ed. College, Ziro	2010	32	68	100
3	Daying Ering College of Teachers Education, Pasighat	2007	44	56	100
4	Siang Royal Academy, Pasighat	2011	83	129	212
5	Teacher Training College, Aalo	2011	37	63	100
6	Denning College of Teacher Education, Tezu	2013	31	69	100
7	Kasturba Gandhi Institute of Higher Education, Kebali, Roing	2014	16	34	50
8	Donyi-Polo B.Ed. College, Itanagar	2015	44	106	150
9	Vivekananda Kendra College of Teacher Education, Nirjuli	2016	50	143	193
	Total		377	874	1251

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P.-2017-18.

There are nine private B.Ed. colleges in Arunachal Pradesh as shown in above Table-9. The Hills College of Teacher Education, Lekhi was established in 2003 and the college has 40 boys and 206 girls' students at the total of 246 students during 2017-18. This is followed by Siang Royal Academy, Pasighat with the total students of 212 during 2017-18. The Daying Ering College of Teachers Education, Pasighat was established in 2007 and now college has 100 students (boys 44 and girls 56) during the same year. The M.T.M B.Ed. College, Ziro has 32 boys and 68 girls' students at the total of 100 students only. In 2011 Teacher Training College, Aalo was established and the college has total of 100 students. The Denning College of Teacher Education, Tezu was started its academic session in 2013 and this college has also 100 students (boys 31 and girls 69). The Kasturba Gandhi Institute of

Higher Education, Kebali, Roing has 16 boys and 34 girls during 2017-18 academic session. Donyi-Polo B.Ed. College, Itanagar and Vivekananda Kendra College of Teacher Education, Nirjuli have total of 150 and 193 students respectively during the same academic year. Thus, from the above discussion it is found that girls are more than boys' students in every B.Ed. private college in Arunachal Pradesh during 2017-18.

Table-10:-Enrolment of Students in Polytechnic Colleges During 2017-18

Sl.No.	Name of the Colleges	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Rajiv Gaandhi Govt. Polytechnic Itanagar	2002	157	55	212
2	Govt. Polytechnic Namsai	2014	68	15	83
3	Govt. Polytechnic, Roing	2014	60	06	66
4	Govt. Polytechnic, Pasighat	2014	55	14	69
5	Govt. Polytechnic, Dirang	2014	50	25	75
6	Govt. Polytechnic, Laying	2014	39	03	42
7	Tomi Polytechnic, Basar	2006	231	19	250
	Total		660	137	797

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P.-2017-18.

Table-10 illustrates the enrolment of students in polytechnic colleges in Arunachal Pradesh during academic session 2017-18. Altogether there are seven polytechnic colleges in the state. The Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Polytechnic Itanagar was established in 2002 which has 157 boys and 55 girls students at the total of 212 students during 2017-18. Thereafter, five polytechnic colleges were established in the same year in 2014. Of which Govt. Polytechnic Namsai has the highest of 83 students (boys 68 girls 15) followed by Govt. polytechnic, Dirang with 75 students. The Govt. Polytechnic, Pasighat has 69 students and Govt. Polytechnic, Roing has 66 students in the same academic session. The Govt. Polytechnic, Laying has only 42 enrolled students as per data available. The lone private polytechnic college Basar was established in 2006 and it has the highest number of students with the total enrolment of 250 students (boys 231 and girls 19) during the academic session in 2017-18. Thus, as per data shown in above Table-10 indicates that boys are more than girls' students in every polytechnic college both in government and private colleges of Arunachal Pradesh during academic session 2017-18.

Table-11:-Enrolment of Students in Distance Education During 2016-17

Sl.No.	Name of Study Centre	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh (B.A.)	3295	2061	5356
2	Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh (M.A.)	432	382	814
3	Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Naharlagun	2096	2563	4659
	Total	5823	5006	10829

Source: Basic Information on H & T Education A.P.-2016-17.

Above Table-11 illustrates the enrolment of students in distance education in Arunachal Pradesh during 2016-17. The Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh was established in 1984. However, the Institute of Distance Education was started from the academic session 2005-06. The Rajiv Gandhi University offer distance education courses in both B.A. and M.A. which has 5,356 and 814 students respectively during 2016-17. The Indira Gandhi National Open University Naharlagun enrolled 2096 boys and 2563 girls students at the total of 4659 students during the academic year 2016-17. Thus, the enrolment of students in distance education during 2016-17 is 5,823 boys and 5,006 girls at the total of 10,829 students.

The enrolment of students in the higher educational institutions of the state is recorded at 35,109 students during academic session 2017-18. At present there are 17 govt. colleges in Arunachal Pradesh and the total number of students enrolled stood at 15,406 students in 2017-18 academic session. There are 7 private colleges with the enrolment of 3,865 students in 2017-18 academic session. In case of private professional institutions, there are two working institutions with an enrolment of 626 students during the academic session 2017-18. All university level institutions both government and private have total enrolment of 12,984 students during the same academic period.

Higher Education in Arunachal Pradesh: Challenges:-

In the era of globalization, with 10 running university level institutions, 29 government and private degree colleges, 7 polytechnic colleges, 9 B.Ed colleges have 35,109 students needs development of infrastructure facilities in the higher education sector so that the state can compete with the rest of the states in the country in particular and rest of the world in general. The general few challenges are:

1. Higher education in Arunachal Pradesh at present is becoming costlier especially in respect of engineering and other specialized courses as these courses could not be provided in the state.
2. The gap between the rural and urban areas continues to widen because institutions in urban areas have improve infrastructure and other facilities provided by the govt. To overcome this dichotomy, the allocation of funds should be performance based rather than need based.
3. Poor student-teacher ratio in govt. colleges would have a significant impact in quality of output as it is difficult for the teachers to have an individual attention. The practice of the institutions so far has been to increase the student strength in response to increased demand without a consequent increase in faculty strength. Such an approach has corroded the quality of teaching.
4. Most of the colleges/institutions of the state of Arunachal Pradesh are not yet accredited by the NAAC.

The immediate challenges before the directorate of higher and technical education, government of Arunachal Pradesh are as follows:

1. To make Arunachal University at Pasighat functional. The construction work of the university has already started.
2. To establish the lone Govt. Women's college to its permanent site at Poma at the earliest.
3. A Regulatory Commission has been in place by an act of Legislative Assembly so as to monitor and regulate the functioning of private universities and colleges including their fee structure in Arunachal Pradesh.
4. The govt. has planned to established govt. college Palin from the academic session 2018.
5. The various govt. colleges like Govt. Model College of Basar, Daporijo, Geku, Roing are currently running in different departments buildings.
6. Govt. Law College, Jote is an important milestone of the department of higher education will start academic session by August 2018.
7. To make 9 projects functional for govt. polytechnics in Arunachal Pradesh

At present, most of the higher educational institutions do not have the minimum required infrastructure. The basic physical infrastructure like lecture halls, well equipped laboratories, adequate library resources, facilities for sports, recreation, hostel facilities with good environment, sufficient type-IV quarters for faculties will motivate more on the teaching-learning activities in the college campus with the smooth flow of information and communication technology in and around the institutions in the state.

Conclusion:-

The principles governing of higher education should be accessibility, affordability, equity and excellence in the field of higher education sector. The establishment and expansion of modern and formal education is one of the most significant accomplishments during the last more than 55 years, has far reaching impact on socio-economic development of the state. The Arunachal University (now Rajiv Gandhi University) and the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) were established in 1984 in the same year. With this the expansion of higher and technical educational institutions in both govt. and private started in the state to fulfill the growing demand of the people with the meager amount of only 0.3 NSDP of state expenditure on higher education in Arunachal Pradesh. The database of all institutions must be maintained in the institutions in the state for a sound policy and planning in the higher education. Today, the higher education system as a whole is faced with many challenges such as financing and management, lack of infrastructure, access, relevance and reorientation of policies and programmes for lying emphasis on values and quality of higher education in the state in particular and country as a whole.

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