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Methodological Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education in Assam

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Abstract

The methodological problems in higher education in Assam is faced very challenging set up for many causes and atmosphere. The mind-set of the people towards research or innovative work is not satisfactory. In this paper critically examines the prevailing issues in curriculum design, pedagogical approaches, research practices, and technological integration across higher educational institutions in the state. Traditional teacher-centric methods, rigid curricula, and limited exposure to interdisciplinary approaches continue to hinder academic excellence. There are more challenges such as the digital divide, inadequate research infrastructure, and linguistic diversity compound the problem, particularly in rural and tribal areas. These issues mostly impact on the quality of education, student engagement, and the overall research ecosystem. But the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offer a framework for progressive reform in the field of research. The policy emphasizes flexibility, skill-based learning, blended pedagogies, and increased autonomy, providing a fertile ground for innovation. The growing integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), capacity-building initiatives for faculty, and the emergence of localized research paradigms are creating new possibilities for academic development. Assam is rich in socio-cultural context and diverse student population also present unique opportunities for inclusive and contextually relevant methodological practices. In this paper discussed about the methodological challenges with strategic interventions-such as digital infrastructure, localized curriculum design, interdisciplinary collaboration, and robust teacher training. The study calls for sustained policy support, academic leadership, and grassroots participation to realize the full potential of these emerging opportunities.

Keywords: Interdisciplinary, research, innovation, ethics, knowledge.

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Introduction

There is a great gap between our traditional education system and modern technological education system in the field of social science and ethical considerations. It is the time to reduce the complexity from social, cultural, political, educational and economic phenomena. Interdisciplinary research especially in North-East in India may be a key to understand the necessity and help to exploration of its methodological and ethical considerations.

Assam is the one of the state where education, educational research, research opportunities, innovation play a important role in intellectual and economic field in India. Assam has a rich cultural and academic heritage. But the higher education system faced vigorously methodological challenges in research.

It is fact that there are more opportunities for improving methodological reform and innovation in the field in higher education in Assam.

Objectives

1. To study challenges of Higher education in Assam.
2. To study infrastructure development in improving the quality of education.
3. To suggest measures to mitigate the problems of Higher education in Assam.

Hypothesis

1. There is positive correlation between infrastructure facilities and quality of education.

Methodology and Database

Assamese higher education research approach involves the utilisation of both primary and secondary data. Within the state of Assam's research area, the observation has been proved. To arrive at a clear conclusion primary as well as secondary data was collected. Secondary data for the study were collected from sources like census report, academicians, educational institutions etc.

Conclusion of current investigation was drawn according to results obtained from analysis of primary as well as secondary data and also from personal observations in field.

Significance of Higher Education in Assam

Due to several of inherent limitations of its location, including poor infrastructure, adverse climatic conditions, and a rugged topography, North East India's educational centre is experiencing a slowed rate of growth. To create and develop capable human resources, higher education is necessary. The high school enrolment ratio in Assam is under the standard, regardless of the most recent modifications.

Literature Review

1. Mili, Uttam (2021) in his study on issues as well as constraints of Higher Education scenario of Assam reveals that higher education of Assam is facing delayed developmental progress and this is due to several inherent drawbacks like adverse climatic conditions, inadequate infrastructure, and rugged terrain.
2. Chakraborty, A, Sarkar, S.N., Meet. made a study on constraints as well as chances in
3. Higher Education in North east India. Their study reveals unique socio-cultural landscape, characterised by linguistic diversity and rich traditions delivers both hurdles and avenue for growth.
4. Borchetia, B (2019) in his study on problems of Higher Education in Assam for Human Resources development stated that Higher Education in Assam is confronting huge constraints having them to compete with global players specifically after education became marketable product and India opened its market later for global competitors.

Result and Discussion

1. **Status of Higher Education in Assam:** First higher education institution in Assam, Cotton College has been established in 1901. Prior to establishment of Cotton College there was no such provision for higher education in Assam. After independence, higher education institution grew immensely. At present despite growth in higher education, this is very disheartening to measure standard of higher education in Assam is decreasing that affect quality of education.
2. **Challenges of Higher Education in Assam:** Main challenges of Higher education in Assam which require to be addressed are-
 - a) **Problem of Innovative Outlook and Research:** The majority of Assamese people lack a creative mindset and research ingredients. It inhibits the growth of educators, learners, and the institution's overall infrastructure.
 - b) **Inadequate Funds:** In Assam most of higher educational institutions are suffering from required funds. They may now prioritise other areas, such technological advancements and research-based activities. Shortage of qualified teachers: Lack of qualified teachers is another challenge in field of

higher education in Assam. Most institutions found it challenging to attract suitable teachers due to privatisation and a lack of adequate government funding.

3. **Lack of Proper of Infrastructure and Modern teaching methods:** Another challenge in field of higher education in Assam is that most of colleges lack proper infrastructure and advance approach of teaching.
4. **Lack of Job Guaranteed Courses:** Education is considered as a medium to ensure livelihood opportunity. Institutions providing professional and vocational training are quite few in Assam.

Opportunities for Improvement

Assam's higher education system is at a turning point with numerous opportunities for development that might considerably raise the standard and relevance of education. A multifaceted strategy that includes curriculum reform, infrastructural development, and community participation is needed to address the issues that educational institutions experience.

1. **Curriculum Improvement:** Reform of educational curriculum is one of the pressing needs of Assam. The needs of the job market are often ignored by the existing curriculum, which results in a mismatch between educational employment opportunities. In order to solve this problem, interdisciplinary courses that combine academic knowledge with practical skills must be introduced. This courses could improve employment opportunities.
2. **Infrastructure Development:** To enhance quality of education it is essential to invest in infrastructure. Upgrading existing infrastructure such as libraries, laboratories to create a digital environment.
3. **Community Engagement:** Supporting local communities in various educational programs helps stakeholder's deeper involvement. Participating in educational and decision-making processes with community people ensures that programs are adapted to local circumstances. Additionally, outreach programs that introduce students to local issues can improve their educational opportunities while assisting the community.

Suggestions

1. Examination and grading system: Examination system pattern, credit grading system, adequate coverage of syllabus is required to be assured during curriculum..
2. Better amenities of research and technological development.
3. Establishment of Job oriented courses.
4. Proper infrastructure and access to funds.
5. Focus on e- learning.

Conclusion

In conclusion it can be said that Higher education in Assam is lagging behind in quality education in opposition to other parts of India. Even the number and colleges and universities are increasing yet quality of education imparted is not upto date. Higher education institutions in Assam are barely prepared to compete in the global educational field due to their urgent need for infrastructure and basic facilities. Higher educational institutions with having wider reach beyond State and regional borders could help to build a more competitive environment.

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