

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 33878 during 2016-17. The overall student-teacher ratio is 1:48 and the ratio of govt. colleges alone is 1:58 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 of the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Key Words: 1.Quality, 2.Institution, 3.Development, 4.Infrastructure, 5.Education

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.

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 four numbers of 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 33878 up to academic session 2016-17. However, the gross enrolment ratio (GER) within the age group of 18-24 years is 23.99 against the national average of 23.6 and GER of male and female was recorded at 24.72 and 23.21 respectively. The overall students-teacher ratio in the higher education institutions of the state is 1:23 and the ratio of that government colleges alone is 1:38 and that of government polytechnics is 1:16 against the UDC 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-2016-17

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 41 colleges/institutions till 2016, under which 9 govt. colleges, 7 private colleges, 3 private professional institutions like Homoeopathic medical college and Law College and Fine Arts College, 7 private universities, 8 private B.Ed. colleges, 6 govt. polytechnics and one private polytechnics college. The state has two central institutions such as College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat and Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Dahung in Bomdila. The Table-2 further shows that out of 16 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 polytechnics colleges necessitates in view of the students preferences to shift from humanities disciplines to professional courses. The establishment of private institutions was encouraged by the govt. to fill the vacuums in the higher education sector through proper monitoring the functioning of these institutions.

Table-2

Names of Higher & Technical Institutions in Arunachal Pradesh

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	6
3	Other Central Institution	-	-	2
4	Govt. Degree College	6	6	16
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	54

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

Table-3

Enrolment of Students in Govt. University Level Institutions during 2016-2017

Sl.No.	Name of the Institution	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh	1984	895	1200	2095
2	North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), (Deemed University), Nirjuli	1984	1236	477	1713
3	National Institute of Technology, Yupia	2010	34	64	98
4	Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Naharlagun		2096	2563	4659
	Total		4261	4304	8565

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

Table-3 shows the students enrolment in various regular and Open University level Govt. institutions in Arunachal Pradesh during academic session 2016-17. Out of three regular University level institutions RGU has the highest number of students, of which girls students are 1200 numbers against boys 895 students during academic session in 2016-17. This is followed by NERIST with boys 1236 students against the girls 477 students during the same year. The NIT was established in 2010 and their present students' strength is only 98 students (boys-34 and girls-64). The IGNOU, Naharlagun has 2096 boys' against 2563 girls' students at the 4659 total students during the academic session 2016-17. Thus, an aggregate in govt. university level institutions has 4261 boys against 4304 girls with the total of 8565 students during 2016-17 in Arunachal Pradesh. It is found that the girls' students in higher educational institutions are more than boys' students during 2016-17 in Arunachal Pradesh.

Table-4

Enrolment of Students in Private Universities during 2016-2017

Sl.No.	Name of the University	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai	2012	1367	899	2266
2	Venketshwara Open University, Lekhi	2012	22	26	48
3	Apex Professional University, Pasighat	2013	281	167	448
4	Indira Gandhi Technological & Medical Sciences university, Ziro	2012	58	159	217
5	Himalayan University, Chimpu (Itanagar)	2013	1054	640	1694
6	North East Frontier Technical University (NEFTU), Aalo	2014	360	199	559
7	Arunodaya University, Jolang (Itanagar)—Not yet started	2014	-	-	-
	Total		3142	2090	5232

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

Table-4 illustrates that Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai has 1367 boys against 899 girls' students at the total of 2266 students during the academic session 2016-17. Again, Himalayan University, Chimpu was established in 2013 and the total strength are 1694 students (boys-1054 & girls-640) during 2016-17. The North East Frontier Technical University (NEFTU), Aalo has the third highest with 559 students and this is followed by the Apex Professional University, Pasighat at the enrolment of 448 students during 2016-17. The Indira Gandhi Technological & Medical Sciences University, Ziro has 159 girls and 58 boys with the aggregate of 217 students. Though, Arunodaya University, Jolang was established in 2014 but academic classes are not yet started till date. Thus, there are seven private universities with the total of 5232 students, of which 3142 boys and 2090 girls' students. It is noticed that the boys are more than the girls in private universities unlike the girls are more than the boys in govt. university level institutions in Arunachal Pradesh.

Table-5

Enrolment of Students in Government Degree Colleges during 2016-17

Sl.No.	Name of the Colleges	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	J.N.College, Pasighat (Including M.A.)	1964	1628	1786	3414
2	D.N. Govt. College, Itanagar	1979	1637	1434	3071
3	I.G.Govt. College, Tezu	1986	993	951	1944
4	Govt. College Bomdila	1988	248	375	623
5	R.F.Govt. College Changlang	1996	134	149	283
6	D.P. Govt. College Kamki	1996	842	745	1587
7	Wangcha Rajkumar Govt. College, Deomali	1997	291	217	508
8	Govt. College Yachuli	2007	163	141	304
9	Govt. Model College Seppa	2009	168	92	260
10	Tader Taniang Govt. College, Nyapin	2009	44	16	60
11	Govt. College, Doimukh	2012	282	262	544
12	Govt. Model College, Daporijo	2012	353	277	630
13	Model Degree College, Geku	2014	88	39	127
14	Women College, Lekhi, Naharlagun	2014	-	378	378
15	Govt. Model College, Basar	2015	162	118	280
16	Jomin Tayeng Govt. Model Degree college Roing	2016	44	23	67
	Total		7077	7003	14080

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

Table-5 shows that there are sixteen government colleges in Arunachal Pradesh. J.N. college Pasighat has the highest number of 3414 students (boys 1628 & girls 1786) followed by D.N. Govt. college Itanagar with the total of 3071 students. The Tader Taniang Govt. College, Nyapin was established in 2009 but the total number of students is very less at 60 numbers (boys 44 & girls 16) only. The first Govt. Women's College, Lekhi, Naharlagun was established in 2014 which has 378 students and it is still located at temporary site. The youngest college called Jomin Tayeng Govt. Model Degree College Roing was established in 2016 with 67 students. Thus, it shows that the numbers of boys and girls students are more or less same at 7077 and 7003 students respectively in the government colleges of Arunachal Pradesh.

Table-6

Enrolment of Students in Private Degree Colleges during 2016-17

Sl.No.	Name of the Colleges	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Don Bosco College Jully, Itanagar	2002	559	548	1107
2	St. Claret College, Ziro	2003	303	455	758
3	Doying Gumin College, Pasighat	2004	325	177	502
4	St. Frances De Sales College, Aalo	2007	204	219	423
5	Arunachal Community College, Itanagar	2009	243	115	358
6	Venerable Uktara Bethany College, Namsai	2012	109	110	219
7	Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai	2013	102	118	220
	Total		1845	1742	3587

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

Table-6 shows the seven private colleges in Arunachal Pradesh. Don Bosco College jully has 559 boys' and 548 girls students with the total of 1107 students during 2016-17 followed by St. Claret College, Ziro with the total of 758 students during the same year. The Doying Gumin College, Pasighat was established in 2004 has 502 students (boys 325 and girls 177) followed by St. Frances De Sales College, Aalo and Arunachal Community College, Itanagar with the total of 423 and 358 students respectively during the academic year 2016-17. Further, the Venerable Uktara Bethany College, Namsai and Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai have 219 and 220 students respectively during the same year. Thus, the private colleges of Arunachal Pradesh have total of 3587 students (1845 boys and 1742 girls) during the academic year 2016-17.

Table-7

Enrolment of Students in other Central Institutions during 2016-17

Sl.No.	Name of the Institution	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat	2001	36	52	88
2	Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Bomdila	2007	44	25	69
	Total		80	77	157

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

Table-7 illustrates the two central institutions that are functioning in Arunachal Pradesh in two different disciplines. The College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat was established in 2001 which has 36 boys and 52 girls' students with the total number of 88 students only during 2016-17. Another institution called Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies; Bomdila was established in 2007 which have 80 and 77 students of boys and girls respectively during the same year.

Table-8

Enrolment of Students in Private Professional College during 2016-17

Sl.No.	Name of the Institution	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	North East Homeopathic Medical College and	2002	50	109	159

	Hospital, Itanagar				
2	Arunachal Law Academy, Lekhi (Naharlagun)	2007	241	86	327
3	Rajeev College of Fine Arts, Itanagar	2009	-	-	-
	Total		291	195	486

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

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 have 50 boys and 109 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 241 boys and 86 girls at the total of 327 students in academic session 2016-17. Rajeev College of Fine Arts, Itanagar was established in 2009 but data of the college is not available.

Table-9

Enrolment of Students in Private B.Ed. Colleges during 2016-17

Sl.No.	Name of the Colleges	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Hills College of Teacher Education, Lekhi	2003	38	172	210
2	M.T.M B.Ed. College, Ziro	2010	16	33	49
3	Daying Ering College of Teachers Education, Pasighat	2007	41	59	100
4	Siang Royal Academy, Pasighat	2011	34	66	100
5	Teacher Training College, Aalo	2011	37	60	97
6	Denning College of Teacher Education, Tezu	2013	41	95	136
7	Kasturba Gandhi Institute of Higher Education, Kebali, Roing	2014	21	29	50
8	Donyi-Polo B.Ed. College, Itanagar	2015	33	117	150
9	Vivekananda Kendra College of Teacher Education, Nirjuli	2016	30	64	94
	Total		291	695	986

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

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 now college has 38 boys and 172 girls' students at the total of 210 students during 2016-17. This was followed by Daying Ering College of Teachers Education, Pasighat which was established in 2007 with the strength of 100 students (boys 41 girls 59) during the same year. The M.T.M B.Ed. College, Ziro has 16 boys and 33 girls students at the total of 49 students only. In 2011 Siang Royal Academy, Pasighat and Teacher Training College, Aalo were established and they have total of 100 and 97 students respectively in their colleges during 2016-17. The Denning College of Teacher Education, Tezu was started in 2013 and this college has 136 students (boys 41 and girls 95). Kasturba Gandhi Institute of Higher Education, Kebali, Roing has 21 boys and 29 girls during 2016-17. Further, Donyi-Polo B.Ed. College, Itanagar and Vivekananda Kendra College of Teacher Education, Nirjuli have total of 150 and 94 students respectively during the academic year 2016-17. Thus, from the above discussion it is found that girls' students are more than boys' students in every B.Ed. private colleges in Arunachal Pradesh.

Table-10

Enrolment of Students in Polytechnic Colleges during 2016-17

Sl.No.	Name of the Colleges	Year of Establishment	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Rajiv Gaandhi Govt. Polytechnic Itanagar	2002	132	62	194
2	Govt. Polytechnic Namsai	2014	83	17	100
3	Govt. Polytechnic, Roing	2014	55	09	64
4	Govt. Polytechnic, Pasighat	2014	56	14	70
5	Govt. Polytechnic, Dirang	2014	51	19	70
6	Govt. Polytechnic, Laying	2014	15	-	15
7	Tomi Polytechnic, Basar	2006	236	36	272
	Total		628	157	785

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

Table-10 illustrates the enrolment of students in polytechnic colleges in Arunachal Pradesh during academic session 2016-17. Altogether there are seven polytechnic colleges in the state. The Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Polytechnic Itanagar was established in 2002 which has 132 boys and 62 girls at the total of 194 students during 2016-17. Thereafter, five polytechnic colleges were established in the same year in 2014. Of which Govt. Polytechnic Namsai has the highest students with 100 numbers (boys 83 girls 17). The Govt. Polytechnic, Pasighat and Govt. Polytechnic, Dirang have the same number of 70 students during 2016-17 followed by Govt. Polytechnic, Roing which has 64 students in the same academic session. The Govt. Polytechnic, Laying has only 15 enrolled students as per data available. The lone private polytechnic college was established in 2006 and it has the highest number of students with the total enrolment of 272 students of which boys 236 and girls 36 during the academic session in 2016-17. Thus, as per data shown in above Table-10 indicates that boys are more than girls' students in every polytechnic college in Arunachal Pradesh.

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 has offered the distance education courses in B.A. and M.A. with 5356 and 814 students respectively during 2016-17. The Indira Gandhi National Open University Naharlagun has enrolled 2096 boys and 2563 girls at the total of 4659 students during the academic year 2016-17. Thus, the enrolment of students in distance education during 2016-17 is 5823 boys and 5006 girls at the total of 10829 students.

Average Enrolment of Students in Higher Education in Arunachal Pradesh

The enrolment of students in the HEIs of the state is recorded at 33878 during academic session 2016-17. However, the gross enrolment ratio (GER) within the age group of 18-24 years is 23.99 against the national average of 23.6 and GER of male and female was recorded at 24.72 and 23.21 respectively. At present there are 16 govt. colleges in Arunachal Pradesh and the total number of students enrolled stood at 13,513 students in 2016-17 session. Thus, the average enrolment in govt. colleges stood 844.56 students per college. However, it differs for private institutes and universities as well. There are 7 private colleges with the enrolment strength in 2016-17 academic session at 3583 students and the average students per private college comes at 512.42 students. In case of professional institutions, there are two working institutions with an enrolment of 486 students during the academic session 2016-17 and their average students per institutions comes at 243 students. All university level institutions have a total enrolment of 8565 students during the same academic period and their average students per institutions comes at 2141.75 students per university level institutions.

Taking into account of B.Ed. colleges run by private entities, the average student per B.Ed colleges stood at 109.55 students. In Polytechnics, the average students per polytechnics are 112.14 students in Arunachal Pradesh. The overall enrolment per institution in all 53 institutions of Arunachal Pradesh here stood at about 616 students per institution in the current academic session. Therefore, the govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has been trying to improve this scenario of teacher-student ratio by recruiting both teaching and non-teaching staff for the govt. colleges.

Higher Education in Arunachal Pradesh: Its Challenges

In the era of globalization, with 11 university level institutions, 35 colleges, 7 polytechnics and about 34 thousand students of Arunachal Pradesh need a drastic change to be made in the field of higher education so that the state can compete with the developed states of the country in particular and 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 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 in Arunachal Pradesh are as follows:

- a. To make Arunachal University at Pasighat functional by 2018-19. The construction work of the university has already started.
- b. To establish the lone Govt. Women's college to its permanent site at Poma at the earliest.
- c. 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.

- d. The govt. has planned to established govt. colleges in Tawang and Palin from the academic session 2017.
- e. The various govt. colleges like Govt. Model College of Basar, Daporijo, Doimukh, Geku, Roing are currently running in different departments buildings since last 2 to 5 years are planning to shift to its permanent location in next academic and in coming one to three years.
- f. Govt. Law College, Jote is an important milestone of the department of higher education will start academic session by August 2017.
- g. The Science stream at D.P. Govt. College, Kamki will start from academic session 2017.
- h. There are 9 projects for govt. polytechnics in Arunachal Pradesh which is to be functional within this coming academic session or next academic session.

Most of the higher educational institutions do not have the minimum required infrastructure at present and hence a challenge to overcome it is the need of the hour. The basic physical infrastructure like lecture halls, well equipped laboratories, adequate library resources, facilities for sports, recreation and special living facilities with good environment and information infrastructure that provide students with high speed terminals will motivate the students to concentrate on learning activities.

Conclusion

The principles governing higher education should be accessibility, affordability, equity and excellence in the field of higher education. 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 through institutional RUSA Cell, Internal Quality Assurance Cell 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.

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