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CHALLENGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORTH EAST

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Abstract

In India most of the neglected zone particularly in Higher education is the North East. There are eight states viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim included in North East India. Compare to other areas like south, north or west this zone is very poor in higher educational development. The main reason for the backlog of this can be broadly categorized in to three aspects like demographical aspects, Social aspects and Educational aspects. The present paper emphasized some of the challenges under these three categories along with the remedial measures to overcome the challenges in North East.

Keywords: Demographic Aspects, Social Aspects, Educational Aspects.

Introduction

Most of the north east zone is having hill stations with ghat roads and in altitude wise some regions are very high. The temperature normally range from - 4° to maximum 35° Centigrade and most of the places having cool climates. The people are belongs to Schedule Tribes and there are more than 200 languages and dialects with different cultures. Many people in this region are Buddhists and the area is Indian boundaries of China, Myanmar, Tibet, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. The transportation facilities at present are slowly increasing with train connectivity and the capital cities are having air facility. The backlog of higher education in this region can broadly categorized in to three major aspects like demographic aspects, social aspects and educational aspects.

I. Demographic aspects:

1) Region: Most of the North East region belongs to Defense area because the region belongs to boundary of India with adjacent countries like China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan and Tibet. Majority of this region belongs to hill stations particularly in Sikkim; it is a range of Himalayan Mountains. In order to establish the educational institutions plain land is essential and only some places like Assam, Tripura good number of Educational Institutions were established but it is very poor in other states.

2) High Altitudes: Because of the hill stations and high altitudes the connectivity is poor. At present world NET and Wi-Fi facilities are very essential for the higher education. We can get

lot of information from various sources but most of the material we can get from NET but it is very difficult and some places it is more than 5000 Ft from the sea level.

3) Industrial Development: The land is not suitable for the establishment of Industries. At present some pharmaceutical companies are establishing in this region like Cipla, Sunpharma etc. All these companies are emitting their waste in to the rivers. It is causing environmental pollution. Without having industrial development the states cannot generate money and economically they can't develop. It is also a cause for lack of good number of universities and colleges in this region.

4) Natural Hazards: Northern Himalayan Mountain zone belongs to mud hills. Because of this flush nature, we can see the greenery in this region but there is a danger of land sliding along with earthquakes. Recently a huge earthquake in Nepal prolonged up to the belt to Sikkim also. Because of these factors it is also very difficult to establish good buildings for the educational institutions.

5) Poor Communication: Because of the demographical conditions of this region very poor communication concerned to internet, postal or transportation etc. Here it is very expensive state because it is a tourist place. It is difficult to acquire higher education because of poor communication.

ii. Social aspects:

1) Culture: Whole North East is slowly become modernized and westernized cultures. Most of the people are having the habit of alcoholism and drugs because of cold climate. Even girls are addicted to alcoholism. Their styles are different and their hair styles are also different.

2) Skills: They are talented with music and singing. Many youngsters are guitarists and musicians. People are hard workers and in north east all professions are dignity of labor. Youth are very skillful towards their professions, sports, traditional culture etc. Many youngsters up to secondary or higher secondary education they will complete and they are not interested to continue their college education. Youth are showing more interest to earn money instead of going for higher education.

3) Social Behavior: Generally people of North East don't show interest to go for far places in India. They prefer to stay along with their friends and families in their own places. The crime rate is also very less and people will give respect and honor for the other people from other places because the north eastern states will generate money by tourism and transportation. Both men and women work together and women work hard equally with men.

4) Social Problem: Here suicides are more compare to other parts of our country. Adolescent boys are committing suicides more than adolescent girls. It is because of drugs and alcoholism, modernization particularly in Sikkim. Education is a solution for such type of social problems and teachers, educationists, psychologists, counselors have to guide the adolescent youth to eradicate such type of social evil.

iii. Educational aspects:

1) Low Rate of Enrolment: In every educational Institution either in secondary or higher secondary low rate of enrolment can be observed in north east. Even Government kept so many

acts like right to education, free and compulsory primary education but we can observe wastage and stagnation more in entire north east particularly in primary education.

2) Poor Quality of Infrastructure: The place is not convenient to construct huge and pucca buildings and the infrastructure as well as institutional facilities are poor in so many regions of North East. Apart from capitals of state the remaining places are having poor infrastructure. The class rooms are also very small. The technical equipments are also not good and proper labs are also not there.

3) Poor Quality of Teaching and Research: When sufficient teachers are not recruited it leads to poor quality of teaching and there is no scope for conducting the research. Research solves many problems for identifying root cause for the problems. But throughout the north east quality teaching and research are very poor.

4) Lack of Funds: At present Modi's Government is sanctioning the funds to North East. The transportation facilities have to enhance and establishment of Graduate Colleges and Universities are required more in this region. Almost every state in North East at present is having Central Universities and some more State Universities also essential in this region.

5) Relevant Courses: In order to protect the culture of the North East, Universities are establishing the endangered languages but for such type of courses there is limited scope. The people have to choose the job guarantee courses as their study and it will make knowledge for seeking better livelihood also.

Suggestions for the improvement:

- More number of schools, colleges and Universities have to establish in North East.
- The technical facilities should be improved in educational Institutions and out side environment also.
- The examination system should be computerized and online materials, quarries should be arranged with technology based systems.
- More number of researches should be conducted in this region and Government has to sanction more projects.
- Both Central and State Governments combined and raise the funds for developing the facilities of the North East.
- Universities have to guide the State Governments for taking the necessary steps for the developments of the educational systems in their respective states.
- The air and road transportation facilities should be improved by the Central Governments.
- More number of restructured courses should be incorporate in course structure to develop the citizens with numerous skills.
- The awareness camps should be conducted by the Universities like NSS, Swach Bharath, Clean and Green etc. and take feedback from the society.
- Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between different organizations also helpful to implement innovative and creative thoughts for the development of the North East.
- Teachers should be dedicated towards their profession for making the people of North East as good and active citizens of our country.

Conclusion:

Education is the property of every citizen of our country. Everyone can go and learn either through formal system or informal system of education. The equity and equality should be maintained throughout the country irrespective of religion, region and referred disparities. In this aspect the Government has to look after to provide and take appropriate steps in offering higher education particularly in North East zone. If one part of the country flourishes it also leads to the development of whole nation. Everyone are expecting that the present Government fulfills this dream of North East People.

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