

University Education in Arunachal Pradesh: An Empirical Study

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Abstract: Arunachal Pradesh is one of the largest States in the northeast region with a population of about 13, 83, 727 and literacy rate of 65.38% as per 2011 Population. The quality of higher education enhances a country's capacity for participation in an increasingly knowledge-based world economy and has the potential to enhance economic growth and reduce poverty. University Education is gaining wider acceptance amongst the stakeholders across the globe. A nation's advancement and development largely depends upon the level and quality of education as it provides enlightenment, power, privilege protection and prestige to the people through the supply of qualitative labour. The objective of the paper is to examine the university education in Arunachal Pradesh. This study is a descriptive type of research based on secondary data gathered from Government official reports, books, articles, websites, and web-based journals.

Keyword: Higher education, World economy, Quality of education, Qualitative labour.

I. INTRODUCTION

Arunachal Pradesh is one of the largest States in the northeast region with a population of about 13, 83, 727 and literacy rate of 65.38% as per 2011 Population Census showing only 0.11 per cent of the India's population. It is the 24th State of the Indian Union declared on 20 February 1987. The State is situated in North Eastern Part of India stretching between latitudes 26⁰30' N and 29⁰31' N and longitudes 91⁰30' E and 97⁰30' E spreads over an area of 83,743 sq. km. touching the international boundaries with Bhutan (160 km) in the West, China (1080 km) in the North and North-east and Myanmar (440 kms) in the south east and in the south it is linked with the States of Assam and Nagaland (Statistical Abstract, 2014, Govt. of A.P.). The geo-strategic importance of the State becomes evident from the fact that the State has more than 1680 km international border. The basic four factors of production: land, labour, capital and entrepreneur, it is labour and more particularly the quality of labour that is the key determinant for a country's competitiveness. It is, therefore, not surprising that there is a strong positive correlation between endowment of skilled labour and the gross domestic product per worker across countries. The quality of higher education enhances a country's capacity for participation in an increasingly knowledge-based world economy and has the potential to enhance economic growth and reduce poverty.

Objective: The objective of the study is to examine the status of university education in Arunachal Pradesh.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study is a descriptive type in nature based on secondary sources of ancient knowledge in India.

Sources of Data: The proposed study is basically empirical in nature based on secondary sources. The data of secondary sources are collected from books, articles, websites, and published at different times, records of Government Offices.

Analysis: The different materials collected from the different sources have been scrutinized, verified and set up systematically under appropriate heading to hold requisite presentation and conclusion. Simple numerical calculations and statistical tools are used with graphical presentation.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Scenario of University Education

Government University Level Institutions

The journey of university education has started with the set up of Rajiv Gandhi University (Central University) (previously it was named Arunachal University) at Rono-Hills, Doimukh, Itanagar, Papum Pare District in 1984. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the university on 4th February 1984 at Rono Hills, where the present campus is located. Ever since its inception, the university has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfill the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The University got academic recognition under section 2(f) from the University Grants Commission on 28th March, 1985 and started functioning from 1st April, 1985. It got financial recognition under section 12-B of the UGC on 25th March, 1994. Since then Rajiv Gandhi University then Arunachal University has carved a niche for itself in the educational scenario of the country following its selection as a University with potential for excellence by a high level expert committee of University Grants Commission from among universities in India. The University was converted into a Central University with effect from 9th April 2007 as per notification of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The University offers Under Graduate, Post-Graduate, M. Phil and Ph.D. Programmes. The Department of Education also offers B.Ed. Programme. The students from the University have found placements not only in State and Central Government Services, but also in various institutions, industries and organizations. Many students have come out successful in the National Eligibility Test (NET). Since inception; the University has made significant progress in teaching, research, innovations in curriculum development and developing infrastructure. The university has many departments such as Department of **Education**, Department of Physical Education, Department of English, Department of Hindi, Department of Anthropology, Department of Economics, Department of History, Department of Political Science, Department of Sociology, Department of Social Work, Department of Mathematics, Department of Physics, Department of Chemistry, Department of Geography, Department of Botany, Department of Zoology, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Department of Mass Communications, Department of Commerce and Department of Management. In addition to the departments, the university has several institutions such as Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, Institute of Distance Education, Center for Excellence in Biodiversity, Computer & Information Center, Centre for Women Studies, Bio-informatics centre, Centre for Youth Development and Leadership Studies, Centre for Development Studies and Physical Education Centre (<https://rgu.ac.in/About/AboutUS>).

Next establishment is North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (Deemed University) at Nirjuli, Itanagar, Papum Pare District, which was also setup in 1984. The foundation stone of the institute was set on 4 March 1984 by the President of India, Giani Zail Singh. The institute started operating in 1986 with six base modules. Six diploma modules started in 1988 and by 1990 seven degree modules were added. The institute was funded by NEC until, on April 1994, it came directly under the full funding and control of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). In May 2005 it was granted deemed university status. NERIST gained approval for the postgraduate programme from AICTE and MHRD in 1996, and the latter was implemented by 2006. The institute offers B. Tech, B.Sc., Diploma, Certificate, Management and Postgraduate programmes under the departments such as Agricultural Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Forestry and Life Sciences and Mechanical Engineering. Besides the departments of core engineering and applied science disciplines, NERIST administers the centres established within the institute such as Centre of Appropriate Technology and Rural Development and Centre for Management Studies (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NERST>).

Next NIT (National Institute of Technology) has been set up on 18 August 2010 in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. National Institute of Technology Arunachal Pradesh (also known as NIT Arunachal Pradesh or NITAP) is one of the 31 National Institutes of Technology in India. The classes of NIT Arunachal Pradesh were started from 2010 in a temporary campus in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh. The courses offered in the college are undergraduate program (Chemical & Bio- Technology, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Post graduate program (Electrical Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering), Management and Humanities (Online MBA, M. Phil and M. Tech in ATEP) and MS in Basic and Applied Science, Doctoral program. The institute is nearly 18km from Itanagar, 11km from Naharlagun and is now located at Jote, Papumpare District.

Union HRD Minister M. M. Pallam Raju has laid the foundation stone of the first National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Arunachal Pradesh on February 10, 2013 at its permanent site in picturesque Jote village nearby Itanagar. The Union HRD Minister, M. M. Pallam Raju said, “The creation of NIT has ensured that some seats for admission to undergraduate courses will be available for students from Arunachal Pradesh, which is bound to uplift the economics of locality, directly or indirectly, and help in enhancing the human development index in the State.” (<https://www.campusoption.com/college/national-institute-of-technology>). In addition to the above, there is National Open University (IGNOU), Regional Centre at Naharlagun and study centre is at Dera Natung Govt. College functioning fully. At present, there are at present 13 university level institutions (Private and Government) of Higher and Technical Education functioning throughout the State shown in Table-1.

Table-1: University Level Institutions in the State as on 1st January, 2020

Sl. No.	Name of Institution	Number
1.	Rajiv Gandhi University (Central University)	01
2.	National Institution of Technology	01
3.	North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (Deemed University)	01
4.	National Open University (IGNOU)	01
5.	Private University	09
Total		13

Source: Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar, 2020

Out of these 13 institutions, 4 institutions are Government Institution and 9 institutions are private institution. Details are shown below in Table-2 and Table-3 with their year of establishment and status of NAAC in the State.

Table-2: University Level Institutions under Government Management with Year of Establishment and Status of NAAC in Arunachal Pradesh

Sl.No	Name of Institution	Year of Establishment	Govt. or Private	Status of NAAC	UGC Recognition
1	Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Rono Hills, Itanagar	1984	Central University	B	Recognised
2	North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), Nirjuli, Itanagar	1984	Deemed University	NBA accredited	Recognised
3	National Institution of Technology (NIT), Yupia, Itanagar	2010	Central Institution	B++	Recognised

4	National Open University (IGNOU), Regional Centre, Naharlagun, Itanagar	-	National Open University	-	Recognised
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Source: Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar, 2020

All the institutions are UGC Recognized and accredited by NAAC and NBA. But IGNOU is UGC recognized only not accredited.

Private Universities

The journey of Private Universities has started with the establishment of Arunachal University of Studies in 2012 by an act of State Legislator. It is a private university located at Namsai. The university is recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC) of India, UGC u/s 22 of UGC Act 1956 and only NAAC accredited State University of Arunachal Pradesh. After that another 6 universities have come in function. In addition to these universities, another 2 universities have come to be established. But these 2 universities have not started to function academically. Therefore there are at present 9 private universities in the State out of which 7 universities are functioning academically shown in the Table-3 shown below.

Table-3: University Level Institutions under Private Management with Year of Establishment and Status of NAAC in Arunachal Pradesh

S.N.	Name of Institution	Year of Establishment	Private	Status of NAAC	UGC Recognition
1	Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai	2012	Private University	C	NA
2	Venketeshwara Open University, Naharlagun	2012	Do	-	
3	Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology and Medical Sciences, Ziro	2012	Do	-	
4	Apex Professional University, Pasighat	2013	Do	-	
5	Himalayan University, Itanagar	2013	Do		
6	North East Frontier Technical University (NEFTU), Aalo	2014	Do		
7	Arunodaya University, Lekhi	2014	Do		

Source: Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar, 2020

Students' Enrolment in Government University Level Institutions

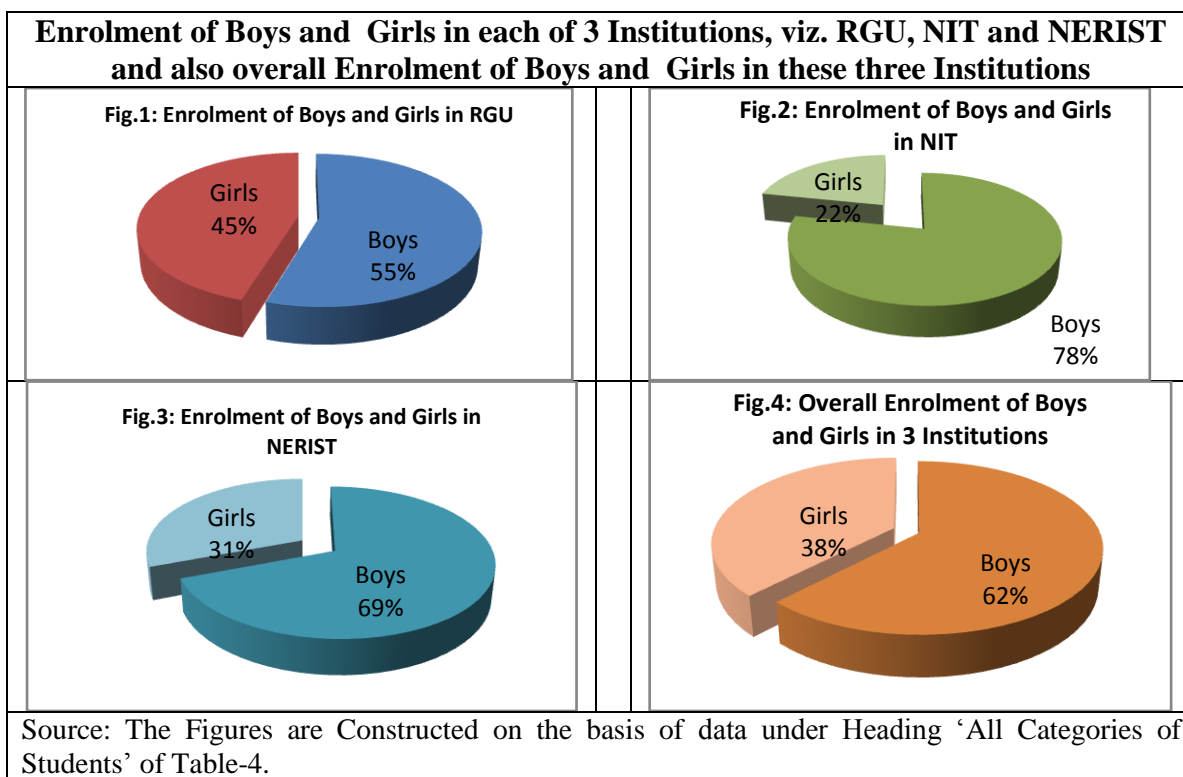
The students' enrolment in RGU, NIT and NERIST in the State during the academic session 2019-2020 under all categories is shown in Table-4 below. Again the students of all categories are divided under 'Arunachal Pradesh Schedule Tribe (APST)' and Non-APST. The total students are also divided into Boys and Girls. In addition to the Table-4, some figures have been constructed below for graphical presentation of easy information of students' enrolment.

Table-4: Students' Enrolment in Government University Level Institutions in Arunachal Pradesh									
Institutions	All Categories of Students			APST			Non-APST		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
RGU	1310 (54.86)	1078 (45.14)	2388 (51.71)	1058 (54.20)	894 (45.80)	1952 (79.48)	252 (57.80)	184 (42.20)	436 (20.17)
NIT	162 (78.26)	45 (21.74)	207 (4.48)	37 (66.07)	19 (33.93)	56 (2.28)	125 (82.78)	26 (17.22)	151 (6.98)
NERIST	1401 (69.25)	622 (30.75)	2023 (43.81)	314 (70.09)	134 (29.91)	448 (18.24)	1087 (69.02)	488 (30.98)	1575 (72.85)

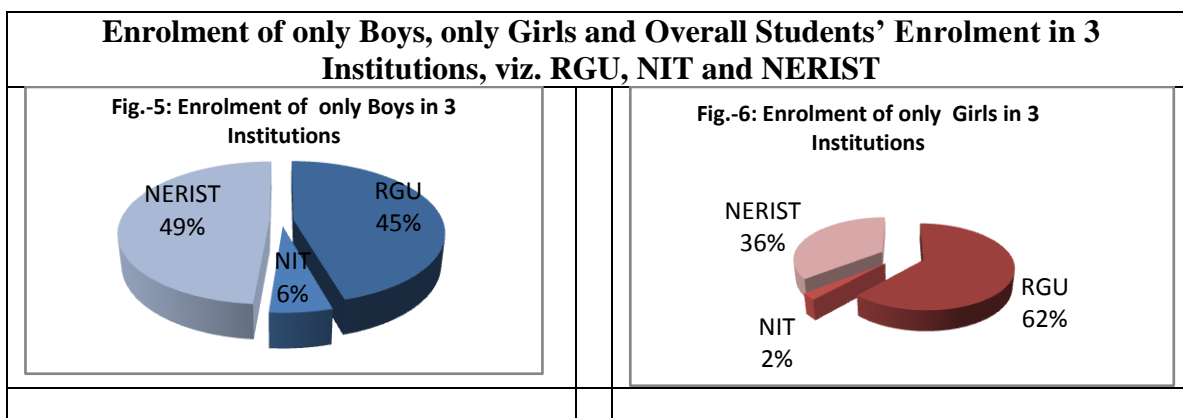
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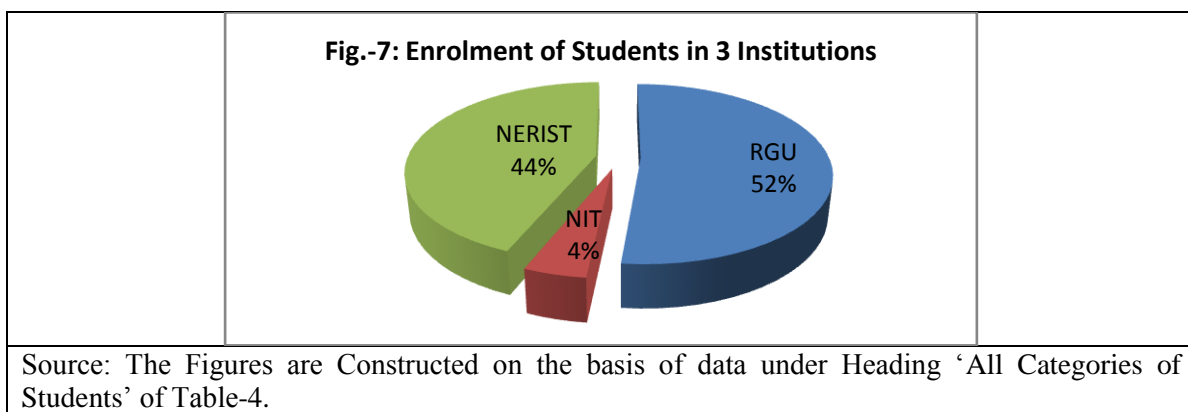
Total	2873 (62.21)	1745 (37.79)	4618 (100)	1409 (57.37)	1047 (42.63)	2456 (100)	1464 (67.72)	698 (32.28)	2162 (100)
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Source: Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar, 2020.
N.B.: Figures within parenthesis indicate percentage.

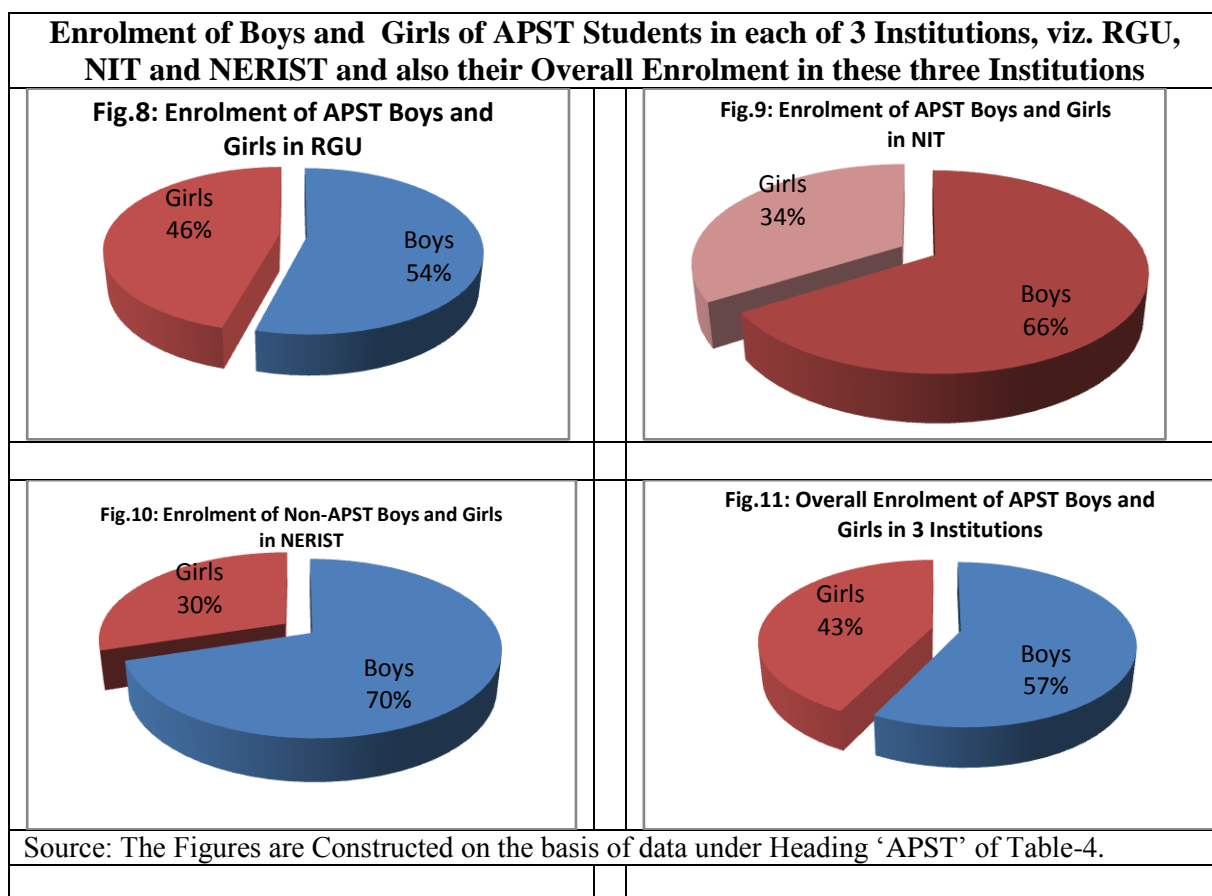


Finding of Table-4 and Fig.-1, 2, 3 & 4 in view of All Categories of Students: In RGU, there are 54.86% i.e., 55% Boys and 45.14% i.e., 45% Girls enrolled shown in Fig. 1 while in NIT there are 78.26% i.e., 78% Boys and 21.74% i.e., 22% Girls enrolled shown in Fig. 2. Again in NERIST, there are 69.25% i.e., 69% Boys and 30.75% i.e., 31% Girls enrolled shown in Fig.3. In all together of these three University Level Institutions, there are overall 62.21% i.e., 62% Boys and 37.79% i.e., 38% Girls studying in the State shown in Fig. 4.

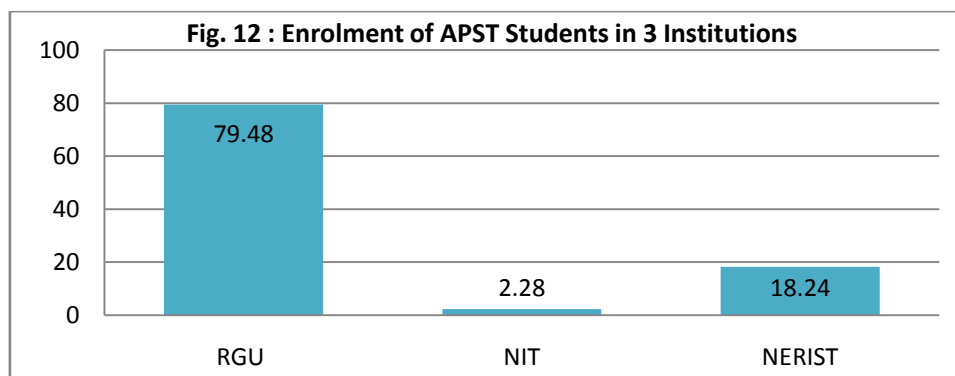




Finding of Table-4 and Fig.-5, 6, & 7 in view of only Boys, only Girls and Enrolment of Students: There are 45% Boys enrolled in RGU, 6% Boys enrolled in NIT and 49% Boys enrolled in NERIST while there are 62% Girls enrolled in RGU, 2% Girls enrolled in NIT and 36% Girls enrolled in NERIST. Again if we calculate the overall enrolment of students in these three University Level Institutions, we get 52% enrolled in RGU, 4% in NIT and 44% in NERIST.

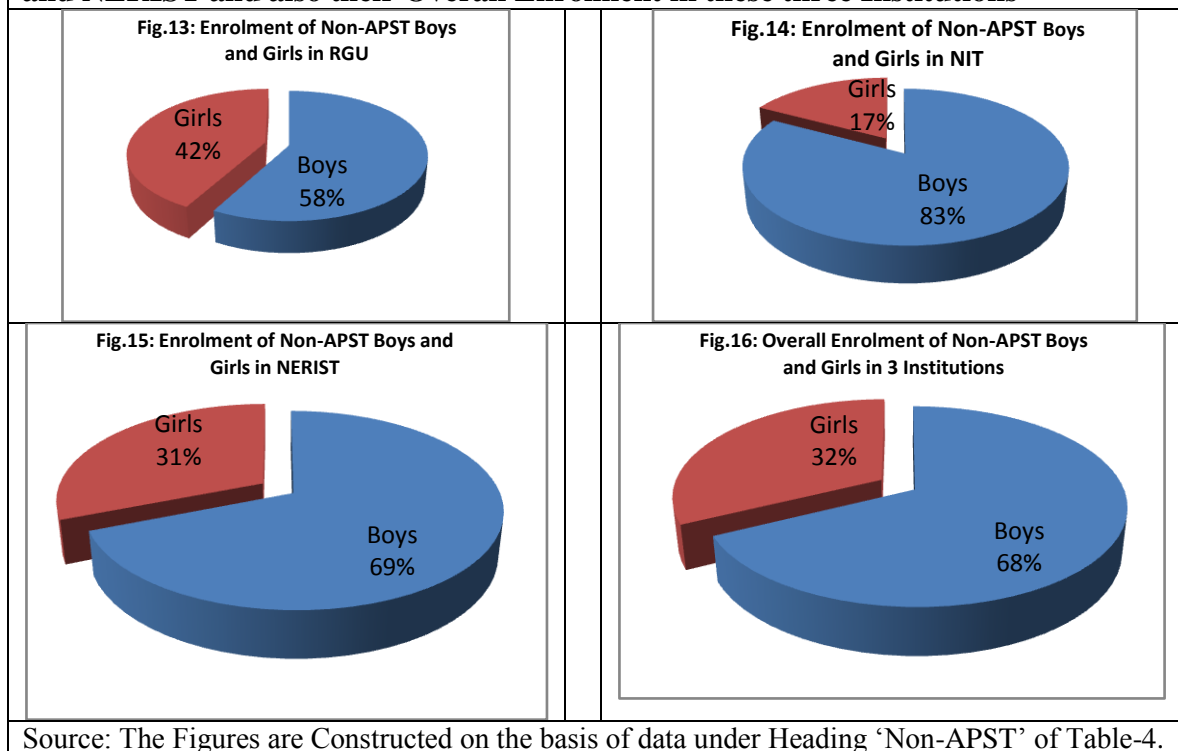


Finding of Table-4 and Fig.-8, 9, 10 & 11 in view of Enrolment of Boys and Girls of APST Students: In RGU, there are 54.20% i.e., 54% APST Boys and 45.80% i.e., 46% APST Girls enrolled shown in Fig. 8 while in NIT there are 66.07% i.e., 66% APST Boys and 33.93% i.e., 34% APST Girls enrolled shown in Fig. 9. Again in NERIST, there are 70.09% i.e., 70% APST Boys and 29.91% i.e., 30% APST Girls enrolled shown in Fig.10. In all together of these three University Level Institutions, there are overall 57.37% i.e., 57% APST Boys and 42.63% i.e., 43% APST Girls studying in the State shown in Fig. 11.

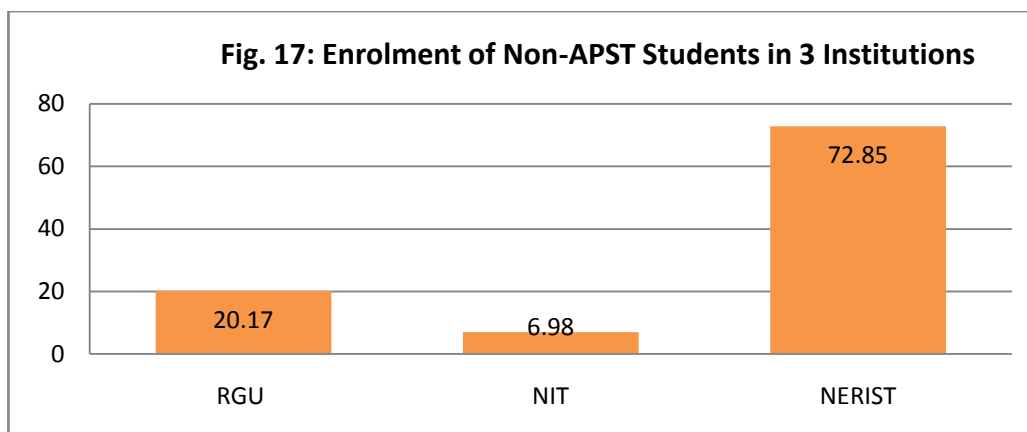


Finding of Table-4 and Fig.-12 in View of Enrolment of APST Students in 3 Institutions: In all together of these three University Level Institutions, APST Students are 79.48% enrolled in RGU, 2.28% in NIT and 18.24% enrolled in NERIST in the State shown in Fig. 12.

Enrolment of Boys and Girls of Non-APST in each of 3 Institutions, viz. RGU, NIT and NERIST and also their Overall Enrolment in these three Institutions



Finding of Table-4 and Fig.-13, 14, 15 & 16 in view of Enrolment of Boys and Girls of Non-APST Students: In RGU, there are 57.80% i.e., 58% Non-APST Boys and 42.20% i.e., 42% Non-APST Girls enrolled shown in Fig. 13 while in NIT there are 82.78% i.e., 83% Non-APST Boys and 17.22% i.e., 17% Non-APST Girls enrolled shown in Fig. 14. Again in NERIST, there are 69.02% i.e., 69% Non-APST Boys and 30.98% i.e., 31% Non-APST Girls enrolled shown in Fig.15. In all together of these three University Level Institutions, there are overall 67.72% i.e., 68% Non-APST Boys and 32.28% i.e., 32% Non-APST Girls studying in the State shown in Fig. 16.



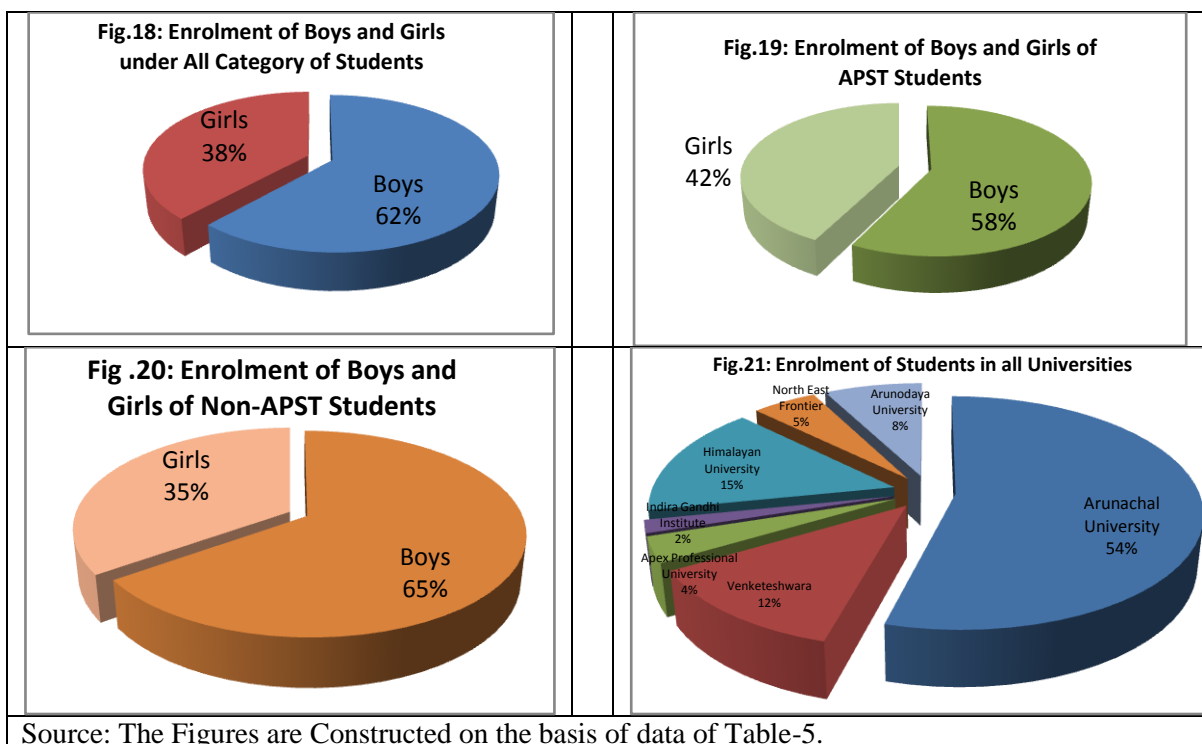
Finding of Table-4 and Fig.-17 in View of Enrolment of Non-APST Students in 3 Institutions: In all together of these three University Level Institutions, Non-APST Students are 20.17% enrolled in RGU, 6.98% in NIT and 72.85% enrolled in NERIST in the State shown in Fig. 17.

Students' Enrolment in Private Universities

The students' enrolment in the Private Universities in the State during the academic session 2019-2020 under all categories is shown in Table-5 below. Again the students of all categories are divided under 'Arunachal Pradesh Schedule Tribe (APST)' and Non-APST. The total students are also divided into Boys and Girls. In addition to the Table-5, some figures have been constructed below for graphical presentation of easy information of students' enrolment.

Institutions	All Categories			APST			Non-APST		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai	3300	1957	5257 (54.23)	576	389	965	2724	1568	4292
Venketeshwara Open University, Naharlagun	659	533	1192 (12.30)	513	437	950	146	96	242
Apex Professional University, Pasighat	197	142	339 (3.50)	73	61	134	124	81	205
Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology and Medical Sciences, Ziro	78	95	173 (1.78)	18	84	102	60	11	71
Himalayan University, Itanagar	952	547	1499 (15.46)	904	517	1421	48	30	78
North East Frontier Technical University (NEFTU), Aalo	359	130	489 (5.04)	193	118	311	166	12	178
Arunodaya University, Lekhi	444	301	745 (7.69)	263	261	524	181	40	221
Total	5989 (61.78)	3705 (38.22)	9694 (100)	2540 (57.64)	1867 (42.36)	4407	3449 (65.24)	1838 (34.76)	5287

Source: Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, Itanagar, 2020. N.B.: Figures within parenthesis indicate percentage.



Finding of Table-5 and Fig.-18, 19, 20 & 21 in view of Enrolment of Boys and Girls of Gross Enrolment, APST and Non-APST of Students under Private Universities: We have enumerated the students from the students' enrolment considering all the private universities at a time. In gross enrolment of students, there are 61.78% i.e., 62% Boys and 38.22% i.e., 38% Girls enrolled shown in Table-5 and Fig. 18. In case of APST students, there are 57.64% i.e., 58% APST Boys and 42.36% i.e., 42% APST Girls enrolled shown in Fig. 19. Again in case of Non-APST students, there are 65.24% i.e., 65% Non-APST Boys and 34.76% i.e., 35% Non-APST Girls enrolled shown in Fig.20. If we construct a pie-chart on the basis of gross enrolment of students of these 7 Universities, we see that 54.23% i.e., 54% students are enrolled in Arunachal University of Studies, 12.30% i.e., 12% in Venketeshwara Open University, 3.50% i.e., 4% in Apex Professional University, 1.78% i.e., 2% in Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology and Medical Sciences, 15.46% i.e., 15% in Himalayan University, 5.04% i.e., 5% in North East Frontier Technical University (NEFTU), and 7.69% i.e., 8% in Arunodaya University shown in Fig. 21. In view of enrolment among all the private universities, Arunachal University of Studies has contained highest enrolment.

IV. COMMENT

As discussed above that Arunachal Pradesh is lowest density populated State in India having 0.17% per sq. km and the State has population 13, 83,727 as per 2011 Census, which is 0.11% of the population of India. In such a small State in view of population, there are One Central University, Two University Level Technical Institutions, Seven Private Universities and another Two Private Universities yet to function. In addition to general education, different types of professional educational institutions such as Engineering, Medical (Allopathic and Homeopathic), Law, Polytechnic, B.Ed., Horticulture and Forestry, Himalayan Cultural Studies, Electronics & Information Technology and Fine Arts have been established in the State. Very soon the State will be educational hub in the country.

V. CONCLUSION

The Quality Assurance in University Education is gaining wider acceptance amongst the stakeholders across the globe. Even though the quality assurance mechanisms in different countries

are at different levels of maturity and capacity, there is a broad agreement on need and effectiveness of quality assurance. The first and foremost task of Higher Education is to re-examine its role and responsibilities in the context of a fast changing socio-economic milieu in the State. It is expected to ensure the quality and relevance of education to meet emerging needs of the society. As it plays an important role not only in the progress of education but also in the overall development of the society. Its growth and status indicate the level of development as it is an important indicator of socio-economic development and a prominent component of population studies. Equally, it is considered as an essential trait of civilization and overall development of human beings. Emancipation and empowerment of people can be achieved only through the quality of education. Indeed, a nation's advancement and development largely depends upon the level and quality of education as it provides enlightenment, power, privilege protection and prestige to the people through the supply of qualitative labour.

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