

## **Status of Gender Wise Enrollment in Higher Educational Institutions of Assam**

**Dr. Manash Das,**

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Karimganj College

E-mail: manashdas05@gmail.com

**Dr. Biswajit Paul,**

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Karimganj College

E-mail: biswajit24111986@gmail.com

### **ABSTRACT**

The role of education in the development of a nation is well recognized all over the world. It is regarded as a way of social transformation as it enhances knowledge and skills of both men and women. But it has been observed that over the last few decades women have been trying to become compatible with men in all aspects of life but still there exist inequalities in some of the sectors and education sector of India is no exception to this. Gender inequality in higher education is considered to be an obstacle in the overall progression of the system of education in India and the state of Assam is no exception to this. In this paper an attempt has been made to showcase the status of gender wise enrollment in the institutes of higher learning within the state of Assam.

**KEYWORDS:** Gender, female, enrollment, higher education.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Higher education has an immense role in the expansion of human resources which constructs the roadway for overall development of the country. It can generate high level professionals, technical and managerial personnel, create new knowledge through research and impart such knowledge leading to social welfare (Saikia, 2013). In other words, higher education not only helps to build a successful carrier but facilitates a person in becoming a better human being as well. It develops the habit of critical thinking in a person through which he/she can arrive at a logical conclusion to any given problem. Students who have been going through the process of higher education not just for the sake of attaining a degree but for civilizing their knowledge, skills, behaviour, etc. will surely be able to achieve their ultimate goals.

Earning a degree of higher education is considered to be a crucial factor for survival that can offer people with a prospect to react to the decisive, societal, cultural, moral and spiritual issues faced by humanity. It holds the key to the destiny of the nation and Assam is no exception to this (Bazeley, 2006). The status of higher education has developed into a top educational destination not only within the state of Assam but at the national level as well. In order to further strengthen the position of higher education in Assam, the state government has come up with many innovative educations

and English language polices. The capital city of the state i.e. Guwahati is regarded as a hub of higher education for the students of entire north-eastern region (Rahman, 2012).

Gender inequality in higher education is one of the major factors that make the socio-economic profile of women on the lower front. Due to the existence of male favouring attitude in the higher education sector, women are deprived off in achieving equal opportunities in the society (Stamarski & Hing, 2015). India has been experiencing recordable expansion in higher education in terms of coverage of large numbers of students and increase in the number of institutions and growth of public funds for this sector and the state of Assam is no exception to this (Nilutpal, Ritopan & Dharmaraj, 2014). In this context, the study tries to assess the gender wise enrollment in the institutes of higher learning within the state of Assam.

### **SCENARIO OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASSAM**

The educational infrastructure of Assam, the largest economy in the north-eastern region, is well developed and easily accessible when it is compared with other states of the region. As per 2011 census, literacy rate of Assam is 73.18 with male literacy rate 78.81, which is behind the national rate of 74.04 and male literacy rate 82.14 respectively. The female literacy rate with 67.27 stood above the national rate 65.46 ([www.censusindia.gov.in](http://www.censusindia.gov.in)). The higher education sector of Assam includes, 10 Universities, 4 government colleges, 189 provincialised colleges, 175 non-government colleges, 5 adhoc law colleges, 82 provincialised Sanskrit and Pali Tols, 100 non-government Sanskrit Tols and 17 of literary and voluntary organisations. The state also possesses 11 Engineering colleges (including private), 9 polytechnics and 2 junior technical schools under the directorate of technical education ([www.assaminfo.com](http://www.assaminfo.com)).

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To assess the gender wise growth of enrollment of students at under graduate level courses within the State of Assam.
2. To assess the gender wise growth of enrollment of students at post graduate level courses within the State of Assam.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study is based on secondary information which has been collected from different websites, journals, magazines, etc. Data related to enrollment of students has been gathered from Statistical Handbook of Assam of two different periods i.e., 2015-16 and 2019-20. The number of students enrolled in 2015-16 has been taken as base (100) for the purpose of calculating the growth rate. In the present study, under graduate level courses include B.A. (Pass & Major), B.Sc. (Pass & Major) and B. Com (Pass & Major) while for post graduate level courses M.A., M.Sc. and M. Com have been considered.

### **GENDER WISE ENROLLMENT SCENARIO**

In the era of post independence, a potential growth has been observed in higher education sector of Assam. This growth has been seen due to increase in the number of students getting enrolled in the institutes of higher learning within the state.

**Table 1: Gender Wise Enrollment at B.A. (Pass & Major) Courses in Assam**

Gender	B.A. (Pass & Major)		
	2015-16	2019-20	Growth (%)
Male	191850 (57.00)	167873 (43.77)	87.50
Female	144729 (43.00)	215696 (56.23)	149.03
Total	336579 (100.00)	383569 (100.00)	113.96

Note: Figures in bracket shows proportion to the total.

Source: Statistical Hand Book, Assam.

Table 1 shows enrollment of students with regard to their gender at B.A. & B.A. (Major) course in Assam. It is observable from table 1 that the enrollment of male students in the said course has decreased in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16. However, a reverse situation has been seen in case of enrollment of female students which has increased in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16. The proportions of male and female students enrolled in the said course in 2015-16 indicate that it is biased towards male students while the same is found to be female dominated when we observe the proportions of 2019-20. The calculated growth rate of enrollment further reveals that it is higher with respect to female students when compared to their male counterparts between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

**Table 2: Gender Wise Enrollment at B.Sc. (Pass & Major) Course in Assam**

Gender	B.Sc. (Pass & Major)		
	2015-16	2019-20	Growth (%)
Male	51339 (80.00)	36774 (54.61)	71.63
Female	12835 (20.00)	30568 (45.39)	238.16
Total	64174 (100.00)	67342 (100.00)	104.94

Note: Figures in bracket shows proportion to the total.

Source: Statistical Hand Book, Assam.

Table 2 illustrates gender wise enrollment of students with regard to B.Sc. & B.Sc. (Major) course in Assam. It is revealed from table 2 that the enrollment of male students in the said course has decreased in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16. Nonetheless a high jump has been observed in case of enrollment of female students which has drastically increased in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16. The proportions of male and female students enrolled in the said course points out that the enrollment is male dominated in 2015-16 as well as 2019-20 while the proportion of female students has been considerably improved in 2019-20 as compared to that of

2015-16. The calculated growth rate of enrollment further shows that it is much higher with respect to female students when compared to their male counterparts between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

Table 3 demonstrates enrollment of students with regard to their gender at B.Com. & B.Com. (Major) course in Assam. It is visible from table 3 that the enrollment of male and female students in the said course has increased in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16. But in case of female students the enrollment has drastically increased in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16.

**Table 3: Gender Wise Enrollment at B.Com. (Pass & Major) Course in Assam**

Gender	B.Com. (Pass and Major)		
	2015-16	2019-20	Growth (%)
Male	25946 (85.00)	32040 (57.60)	123.49
Female	4579 (15.00)	23587 (42.40)	515.11
Total	30525 (100.00)	55627 (100.00)	182.23

Note: Figures in bracket shows proportion to the total.

Source: Statistical Hand Book, Assam.

However, by observing the proportions of male and female students enrolled in the said course between the proportion of female students has increased to a large extent in 2019-20 as compared to that of 2015-16. 2015-16 and 2019-20 it can be said that the enrollment is biased towards male students but The calculated growth rate of enrollment further reveals that it is much higher with respect to female students when compared to their male counterparts between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

**Table 4: Gender Wise Enrollment at M.A. Course in Assam**

Gender	M.A.		
	2015-16	2019-20	Growth (%)
Male	5227 (53.00)	6903 (49.85)	132.06
Female	4636 (47.00)	6945 (50.15)	149.81
Total	9863 (100.00)	13848 (100.00)	140.40

Note: Figures in bracket shows proportion to the total.

Source: Statistical Hand Book, Assam.

Table 4 shows gender wise enrollment of students with regard to M.A. course in Assam. It can be seen from table 4 that the enrollment of male and female students in the said course has marginally increased in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16. The proportion of male and female students enrolled in the said course in 2015-16 indicate that it is biased towards male students while the same is found to be a little bit higher in case of female students in 2019-20. The calculated

growth rate of enrollment in table 4 confirms that it is higher with respect to female students when compared to their male counterparts between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

**Table 5: Gender Wise Enrollment at M.Sc. Course in Assam**

Gender	M.Sc.		
	2015-16	2019-20	Growth (%)
Male	3078 (65.01)	3615 (47.77)	117.45
Female	1657 (34.99)	3952 (52.23)	238.50
Total	4735 (100.00)	7567 (100.00)	159.81

Note: Figures in bracket shows proportion to the total.

Source: Statistical Hand Book, Assam.

Table 5 depicts enrollment of students with regard to their gender at M.Sc. course in Assam. It can be seen from table 5 that the enrollment of male students in the said course has marginally increased in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16. Nonetheless, a reverse situation has been observed in case of female students where the enrollment has shown a significant increase in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16. The proportions of male and female students enrolled in the said course in 2015-16 indicate that it is biased towards male students while the same is found to be female dominated when we observe the proportions of 2019-20. The calculated growth rate of enrollment further reveals that it is much higher with respect to female students when compared to their male counterparts between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

Table 6 demonstrates gender wise enrollment of students with regard to M.Com course in Assam. Table 6 further shows that the enrollment of male and female students in the said course has increased in 2019-20 as compared to the figures in 2015-16. The proportions of male and female students enrolled in the said course in 2015-16 as well as 2019-20 indicate that it is biased towards male students but the proportion of female students has increased to a moderate extent in 2019-20 as compared to that of 2015-16.

**Table 6: Gender Wise Enrollment at M.Com. Course in Assam**

Gender	M.Com.		
	2015-16	2019-20	Growth (%)
Male	1115 (66.02)	1526 (57.41)	136.86
Female	574 (33.98)	1132 (42.59)	197.21
Total	1689 (100.00)	2658 (100.00)	157.37

Note: Figures in bracket shows proportion to the total.

Source: Statistical Hand Book, Assam.

The calculated growth rate of enrollment in table 6 reveals that it is higher with respect to female students when compared to their male counterparts between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

## CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the enrollment of female students in the higher education institutions of Assam has seen a very high jump for the periods considered under the study as it is noticed from the calculated growth rate. The reasons for such growth may be attributed to the change in the traditional thinking pattern of the parents, especially those who have girl child. This is considered to be a good sign not only for the education sector of Assam but for the overall development of the State as well. It is also estimated that in the coming days more and more female students will come in the domain of higher education which in turn will strengthen the status of women empowerment in the State.

## REFERENCES

- Bazely, B.R. (2006). Development and Problems of Higher Education in Barak Valley and Karbi Anglong Areas of Assam. New Delhi: Regency Publications.
- Government of Assam (2016). Statistical Hand Book of Assam, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Assam: Author.
- Government of Assam (2020). Statistical Hand Book of Assam, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Assam: Author.
- Nilutpal, C., Ritopan, B. & Dharmaraj, H. (2014). Gender Disparity in Higher Education in India an Analysis of some Socio-economic Factors. ZENITH International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, 4 (6), 151-161.
- Rahman, M.M. (2012). Educational Policies in Assam. International Journal of Social Sciences and Education, 2 (1), 235-246.
- Saikia, M. (2013). Challenges of higher Education in Assam for Development of Human Resources. International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, 2 (11), 41-44.
- Stamarski, C.S. & Hing, L.S.S. (2015). Gender Inequalities in the Workplace: The Effects of Organizational Structures, Processes, Practices and Decision makers' Sexism. Frontiers in Psychology, 6, 1-20.
- [www.assaminfo.com](http://www.assaminfo.com)
- [www.censusindia.gov.in](http://www.censusindia.gov.in)