

### **6.05 Recommendations for further Research on this area of Study:**

Research has been widely known by all that it opens up the doors of new thoughts and further studies. Therefore it can be deduced that one research work leads to a variety of works for further investigations on the area from different perspectives and at different levels. Regarding the present topic, the researcher has underscored the following suggestions based on the experiences gained during the research journey.

1. A similar study can be conducted by taking all the Private Higher Educational Institutions of Kamrup (Rural) District which are affiliated to Gauhati University.
2. A further study on the present topic can also be replicated by taking larger samples.
3. A study can be undertaken to examine the Socio-Economic Impact of Privatization of Higher Education in Assam.
4. A similar study can be conducted by taking all the Private Universities in Kamrup and Kamrup (m) Districts of Assam.
5. Further studies can also be undertaken on each Private University in Assam considering varied aspects.
6. A Study can be pursued by taking the Private Higher Educational Institutions affiliated to each Public University in Assam like Dibrugarh University, Assam University etc.
7. A further study can be conducted on the employability prospects of the students pursuing the varied courses of study at these Private Higher Educational Institutions.
8. A similar study can be undertaken by taking the Professional and vocational colleges in Kamrup (m) District of Assam.
9. Considering the growth and acceptability of Private Higher Educational Institutions in Assam, a similar study can be undertaken in each of the 33 Districts of Assam.
10. Comparative studies on Private and Public Higher Educational Institutions on different aspects related to teachers, students, infrastructure, employability prospects etc. can be undertaken in Assam.
11. A study can also be undertaken on the growth and history of Privatization of Higher Education in Assam.

### **6.06 Policy Implications of the Study and Suggestions**

Privatization of Higher Education is gaining in strength and purpose in Assam. Private Higher Educational Institutions are a part and parcel of our Education system in today's perspective. It has reached such a stage from where it cannot be undone. Therefore, under such circumstances it is the need of the hour to conduct such a study on different aspects of these Private Higher Educational Institutions and the impact it has created in our State i.e. Assam. It is hoped that the findings of the present study would obviously help to accelerate the efforts of the policy-makers, educationists, other researchers to sort out answers to different aspects and problems of employees, teachers and students of these Private Higher Educational Institutions.

The study had been confined to the Private Higher Educational Institutions of Kamrup (m) District which are affiliated to Gauhati University upto 2017. The results and overall findings of the study defined Privatization of Higher Education in the district of Kamrup (m) as an all-pervading and all-encumbracing concept in the Higher Education sector of Assam. Private Higher Education has definitely played a significant role in its expansion and development. After a thorough analysis and study of the research findings of the work, the researcher has come up with certain suggestions which needs to be taken care of by policy makers, educationists and other persons who are at the helm of affairs. These have been enumerated below.

1. The Government of India and the State Government should ensure proper functioning of these Private Higher Educational Institutions by putting in place a functional and efficient mechanism of checks and balances in order to avert commercialization and its terrible negative implications in the higher education sector.
2. The Higher Education sector is always given the least importance and minimum allocation of funds in the Five Year Plans. This needs to be corrected immediately since education leads to human resource development and human resource development leads to the rise and growth of a nation.
3. The Private Higher Educational Institutions are comparatively costly than the public ones. The Central Government must take serious note of this and regulate the fees and other costs of students pursuing Higher Education in these institutions.

4. Although it has come out from the study that campus placements are given priority in these Higher Educational Institutions, much more needs to be done with regard to this aspect.
5. Private Higher Educational Institutions are always established in the urban areas whereby a regional imbalance is created. Therefore the Government should take note of this and encourage the Private entrepreneurs to establish Higher Educational Institutions in the rural areas also whereby students from the rural areas will be benefitted.
6. Steps should be taken by the Governments to ensure higher education to economically weak students in these Private Higher Educational Institutions by providing scholarships and free ships. Policy makers should take note of this aspect seriously.
7. Permanent Campus should be mandatory for these Private Higher Educational Institutions. Because of temporary campus, all the stakeholders, teachers, students, employees suffer a lot. The Government and most importantly the affiliating Universities should look into this aspect very seriously. The affiliating Universities should not give permanent and not even temporary affiliation to Institutions which do not have a permanent campus.
8. One of the major findings of the study relates to the salary of faculty members. Highly educated people are working in these Private Institutions at a very meagre salary. The Government Policy makers should seriously take note of this aspect and determine the pay and allowances of the teachers. A pay structure should be in place in these institutions whereby the teachers get a decent living by working in these institutions.
9. The trusts which run these Private Institutions should be made more pro-active. It was reported during visits to these Private Institutions of Higher Education that these trusts do not meet on a regular basis as per the rules of the affiliating University. The Government should take note of this seriously and ensure that these trusts meet on a regular basis for the overall well-being of the institutions.
10. Faculties are also not consistent in service in many institutions. This is probably due to the low pay and allowances offered in these institutions. Ultimately the students are the worst sufferers. The Government should take note of this very

disturbing fact and ensure that the teachers are paid well so that they do not shift to other places of work.

11. Digitalization of Library services should be made compulsory. Not even a single digitalized library was found in the Private Higher Educational Institutions taken up for the study. This aspect needs to be strictly enforced for the benefit of students.
12. Temporary affiliation was given to institutions which does not have minimum physical infrastructure like classrooms, library, staff rooms, proper wash room facilities etc. The Government should strictly look into this matter and the affiliating university should be directed to cancel their affiliation status.
13. In case of academic infrastructure the student teacher ratio is also not maintained in most of the Private Higher Educational Institutions and many under qualified (according to U.G.C. norms) teachers are appointed. This is done taking into consideration the minimum salary offered by the management. This aspect needs to be seriously looked after by the concerned authorities at the earliest.
14. Libraries are not well equipped with books in most of the Private Higher Educational Institutions. And in most of them librarians are also not upto the mark and not appointed according to U.G.C. norms. This aspect needs to be paid attention by the policy makers.
15. The concerned authorities should always pay great attention towards maintenance of quality. Mere increase in the number of institutions without giving due importance to quality perspective will definitely deteriorate the educational environment of our state.
16. Acceptability of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization in 1991 by the Indian Government opened up the doors for private parties to establish educational institutions on a large scale. As a result of this economic policy, industrial houses and the corporate sectors have also shown keen interest in the Higher Education sector and the subsequent Governments have also provided many incentives in this regard. Now, the question is whether these Private Higher Educational Institutions are being monitored carefully or not. The need of the hour is a careful assessment and monitoring by the concerned authorities.
17. Higher Educational Institutions should be free from political influences and it is very much necessary to assess these institutions on a regular basis by the MHRD or other assessment agencies like NAAC to maintain quality in these Private

Institutions just like the public institutions of Higher Learning where it is mandatory to go for assessment after every five years.

18. For the specialized Private Higher Educational Institutions offering Job-oriented Courses of study, the need of the hour is to go for industrial linkages whereby the employability factor can be taken care of to a large extent.
19. In order to evaluate and assess the quality of teaching in these Private Higher Educational Institutions there must be an efficient mechanism in place.
20. These Private Higher Educational Institutions would have played a distinctive role in our state if they would have gone for area specific and job-oriented courses and programs which would have led to employment opportunities for students. The Government and policy makers need to consider this perspective very seriously.
21. The Government both at the centre and the states should take the unemployment crises very seriously. If higher Education is in the agenda of Governments, then employment should also be on their priority list. Merely going for Higher Education without employment facilities will make students unwilling to go for higher education.
22. In order to channelize human resource to its full potential, we must have skill based education right from the Primary education itself. The Policy makers should take this aspect seriously and formulate measures for the same.
23. Rationalization of fees is of utmost importance. The Governments and Policy makers should immediately handle this and do the needful.
24. Again, scholarships for meritorious but poor students should be taken seriously and this should be enforced by the Governments.
25. Facilitation of bank loans and job guarantee to the economically poor students should be on the agenda of Governments and policy makers for the benefit of this section of society.
26. The Private Institutions should restrict the fees structure for different courses in such a way so that it becomes affordable to for all according to their income.

## 6.07 Conclusion

The Private sector currently accounts for 59% of all tertiary enrolment and 64% of the total number of institutions and continues to grow rapidly at an alarming rate in India. It provides most of the Professional Courses, which are much in demand nowadays. This sector is definitely expected to play a significant role in the future expansion of Higher Education in India. Another factor which needs mention here is that India's Higher Education system at present is driven by an unprecedented demographic change. By the year 2020 i.e. this year itself India will become the world's third largest economy, with a correspondingly high and rapid growth in the size of middle classes. By this year, India will replace China with the largest tertiary age population since over 50% of the total population is under 25 years of age. At present, there is little capacity in Public universities for teaching either skills for employability or entrepreneurship. And therefore Private Higher Education has been viewed as an emerging market, and vocational skill seems to be the need of the hour. There is utmost necessity for linking skills for employability and the Higher Education sector. This is possible only in the Private colleges and Private Universities because of various reasons like decision taking capacity at the hands of the management unlike the Public Universities where it takes a long time because of the official red-tapism.

Therefore with the rise of the middle classes, the ever increasing number of people need not rely on the state to provide education. As a consequence, India has seen a dramatic shift towards Private participation in Higher Education. Privatization continues to rule the roost in the Higher Education scenario of our country and has been playing a significant role in the development of this sector.

In Assam's perspective, it was a dire need of the times to conduct a study on Privatization of Higher Education. The researcher considering the all pervasive and all encumbering nature of Private Higher Education attempted to study the Private Higher Educational Institutions of Kamrup (m) District which are affiliated to Gauhati University upto 2017. The research findings revealed various aspects of these institutions be it the facilities offered to its employees, the satisfaction level of teachers, the perception of students regarding these Private Institutions of Higher Learning, the relationship between demographic variables and academic achievement of students etc. As has been found in the

major findings as well as the minor findings and interviews taken of sample teachers that they are not at all satisfied with regards to their salaries although they are satisfied with all other facilities. One very important fact which needs mention here is that these Private Institutions of Higher Learning are doing a great job by providing job opportunities to thousands of educated, highly educated, uneducated, skilled people by directly employing them as well as outsourcing certain services. A great social problem would have been created if these people were not engaged by these Private institutions. Regarding perception of students it was found out that students have high opinions of these institutions and they are quite satisfied with their institutions considering various parameters. Facilities provided in these institutions were quite good enough although certain facilities needed upgradation by the concerned authorities.

Ultimately it can be concluded that only education has got immense potential to contribute to the development of a country. Education both public as well as private should be given utmost priority in a country like India whereby employability and social stability can be addressed with in an efficient manner. Quality perspective should be taken seriously by one and all concerned and connected to the Higher educational Institutions. Only then the nation will prosper in the right direction. Another pertinent question which needs to be addressed is that since these Private Higher Educational Institutions are urban centric, most of the students come from English medium background which will create a socially exclusive class of people in the society whom we can term as the elite class. This elite group of people who remain aloof from the common people might create a social imbalance in the society. This will definitely widen the gap between the privileged and the under privileged, the rich and the poor. Inclusive education cannot be brought about by Privatization of Higher Education. The Public Higher Educational Institutions should be all inclusive since they are formed from tax payers' money. At the end, the one and only basic thing according to the researcher's point of view is the maintenance of quality perspective in Higher Education system both Private and public. Internal as well as external quality management mechanism should be strengthened for the betterment of the student community which will ultimately lead to the development of a nation.

Finally I want to wind up with a beautiful message shared by Dr. Nijoya Wandia, a University Professor in South Africa who beautifully summarizes the value of education. And this is the message;

*“Collapsing any nation does not require the use of atomic bombs or the use of long range missiles. It only requires lowering the quality of education and allowing cheating in the examinations by the students. The patient dies in the hands of such doctors. And the buildings collapse in the hands of such engineers. And the money is lost in the hands of such accountants. And humanity dies in the hands of such religious scholars. And justice is lost in the hands of such judges. The collapse of education is the collapse of the nation”*