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ABSTRACT
Higher Education is a matter of vital interest to the State of Manipur. The higher education in Manipur had been fulfilled with the establishment of the Dhanamanjuri College, Imphal now it converted to University in 2016 by state government. The college was affiliated to the Calcutta University. Manipur University has full autonomy in academic matters. But the Directorate of University and Higher Education is the nodal office of the State Government for higher education in Manipur. Private Aided colleges (also referred to as Government Aided Colleges) are governed by grant-in-aid Rules framed by the Government. The Private Aided colleges depend largely on recurring grants received from the Government and the fees collected from students. Manipur University made a tremendous progress in the field of education after the Second World War and the institutions for higher education in Manipur grew around the middle of the twentieth century. The Jawaharlal Nehru University established the Centre of Post-Graduate Studies at Imphal in 1971 at the instance of the Government of India. The Gauhati University could not conduct its various examinations owing to wide-spread agitations during 1980-81. This acute situation led the Government of Manipur to decide the matter of establishing a separate university of Manipur to save the academic lives of several thousand students in the undergraduate colleges of Manipur from the state of academic deadlock under Gauhati University to which all the colleges including technical colleges were affiliated.

Keywords: Ghanapriya, Wadia, Council, Research, Legislative, Commission, etc.

1. Introduction
Higher Education is a matter of vital interest to the State that provides Manipur society with a variety of manpower having the knowledge and skills to sustain socio-economic development, to enhance cultural awareness and regeneration of societal values, to promote harmonious relationship among different ethnic communities, and to lay the foundations of a knowledge society. As the globalized economy continues to evolve and expand its influence, the Manipur people require additional, enriching educational opportunities throughout their lives. As on today, students enter, exit and re-enter the education system and students from different socio-economic and educational enter the educational system at various institutions, bringing increasingly diverse learning needs to each classroom. In fact, the Manipur University is one of the histories remarkable pillars for the growth and expansion of higher education in Manipur. All the colleges of the state are affiliated to it.

The cherished hope of achieving higher education in Manipur had been fulfilled with the establishment of the Dhanamanjuri College, Imphal now it converted to University in 2016 by state government. This college has been established on 6th August 1946. Actually the college was named after the name of Princess Dhanamanjuri Devi, the daughter of Sir Churachand Maharaj, the King of Manipur. This college was the first college in State. Gradually, due to the genuine effect of the Governing Body, the college starts to be developed. It started to wake up the young learners of Manipur. The college was affiliated to the Calcutta University up to the Intermediate standard. In the year 1948, the affiliation of the college was transferred to the Gauhati University in course of time. In the year 1972, the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Centre of Post-Graduate Studies was established at Imphal and the name is changed to the Manipur University and the affiliation of the college was again transferred to the Manipur University in 1980.

The colleges other than D.M. College were private colleges, both aided and unaided. Colleges in Manipur especially the Imphal College (1952-53), the Manipur College (1958), the Oriental College and the Modern College (1963) were established by the people. The colleges were started in response to growing demands for expansion of higher education in the state and with the opening of these colleges, the progress of higher education in Manipur continued in a remarkable.

The D.M. College continued to be the only college in the state till the year 1951-52. In the year 1952-53 the first private intermediate college, the Imphal College was established with Shri Laishram Achou Singh as the Principal. Manipur College began in a small way in 1958. During the same period two other colleges were established, one at Thoubal and another one in Moirang. The first Arts College in the hill areas was founded in the Manipur South District at Churachandpur in the year 1964-65. Now a day Imphal College, Manipur College and Oriental College too teach Arts and Science up to Bachelor Degree level. Modern College, Moirang College, Thoubal College and in the hill areas, Seilmat Christian College, Churachandpur were unaided colleges. In the year 1965-66 the first women’s college in the state was established. A sum of Rs. 1 lakh (Rupees one lakh) was donated by Shri Hidangmayum Dwejaman Deva Sharma in the memory of his mother, Smt. Ghanapriya Devi. With the
approval of the Government of Manipur and by taking the name of Smt. Ghanapriya Devi the college was named as Ghanapriya Women’s College.

2. Manipur Higher Education Structure:

The Manipur University has full autonomy in academic matters. It prescribes and sets academic standards, determines academic calendar, conducts examinations. Based on UGC guidelines, it also prescribes qualifications for recruitment and for career advancement of teachers in the colleges. The Directorate of University and Higher Education is the nodal office of the State Government for higher education in Manipur. Among others, it looks after government colleges imparting general education directly and seven similar Private Aided colleges indirectly. Regarding the 26 Private colleges, the Directorate’s role is limited to issuing a no objection certificate at the time of establishment. Ten government colleges, particularly in the hill districts, are still retaining the Higher Secondary i.e. +2 courses though it should be a part of the school education system. It is also retained by 40 Private Aided and Private Colleges.

Apart from the Manipur University, the D.M. College of Science also offers studies leading to Master’s Degree in Anthropology, Mathematics and Life Sciences. Besides, interested students can avail themselves of post-graduate courses through the Indira Gandhi National Open University, which has opened Study Centers for distance education at six colleges.

3. Private Colleges:

The Private colleges are established and managed by private bodies. The managements of these Private colleges, unlike those in Private Aided colleges, are not so keen on takeover of their colleges by the Government. In fact, some of them were quite resourceful in mobilizing funds and materials from various sources, though a few of them also receive lump sum non-recurring Government grants for promotion of women’s education. When the Investigator visited some of these Private colleges, the teachers looked definitely more enthusiastic than their counterparts in the Government and the Private Aided colleges. But the disparity in their remunerations and other service conditions, compared with teachers in the Government colleges and even with those in the Private Aided colleges, is shocking. The Private college managements were generally found refreshing amenable to ideas and practices pertaining to quality education. Even when the buildings and other infrastructure were inadequate, they were usually maintained neat and clean.

4. Background of Manipur University:

The historical background development of Manipur University made a tremendous progress in the field of education after the Second World War and the institutions for higher education in Manipur grew around the middle of the twentieth century. It was in 1946 that the first college was established in Manipur. Many undergraduate colleges of general education were established in the following years under Gauhati University. In those days, any student of Manipur after graduation had to go outside the state for the post-graduate studies. Several demands for establishment of a university in Manipur had been made since the year 1959. Although the Wadia Committee in 1964 recommended the location of the North Eastern Hill University at Imphal with D.M. College, the biggest and the best established college in the state as the base. The Government of Manipur started a post-graduate centre in the D.M. College. This could not satisfy the desire of the people of the state. So the Government of Manipur made a proposal to the University Grants Commission to establish a university centre for post-graduate studies at Imphal as an extension of Gauhati University to which all the colleges in Manipur were affiliated. The Committee observed the vast expansion of higher education in the state during the past two decades and remarked that “it would be beneficial not only in this region but to the country as a whole if facilities for higher education are developed in a planned way according to the needs of the people of this Area”[Mathur: n.p.].

After a thorough examination of the resources available in Manipur, they recommended a scheme of developing the departments in D.M. College in a planned manner to enable them to impart effective education at the post-graduate level by engaging qualified teachers available in other private colleges on part time basis. They also recommended for the establishment of a university centre as stop gap arrangement. Both the people of Manipur and the State Government persisted in demanding a full-fledged university in the state. However, in partial fulfilment of such a demand, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre was established in the state. The Jawaharlal Nehru University established the Centre of Post-Graduate Studies at Imphal in 1971 at the instance of the Government of India.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre was a stepping stone towards the objectives of establishing a university in Manipur. The JNU Centre was created with twin objectives of providing facilities for higher education and creating the necessary nucleus for a future university in Manipur. This Centre was established in 1971 at the Youth Hostel in the D.M. College Campus with Prof. Asim Kumar Dutta from the Jadavpur University, Kolkata as the Director of the Centre. The Centre started the post-graduate programmes on the 24th September 1972. It was later on shifted to the Basic Training Institute at Canchipur. The Government of Manipur offered an area of 317.31 acres for the post-graduate centre. It is situated at the foot of the Langthabal hill. The campus is the south of Imphal city and on the western side of the National Highway No. 39 (thirty nine).

The Gauhati University could not conduct its various examinations owing to widespread agitations during 1980-81. This acute situation led the Government of Manipur to decide
the matter of establishing a separate university of Manipur to save the academic lives of several thousand students in the undergraduate colleges of Manipur from the state of academic deadlock under Gauhati University to which all the colleges including technical colleges were affiliated. The Manipur State Legislative Assembly passed a Bill towards the establishment of a university named the Manipur University which subsequently became an Act called the Manipur University Act, 1980 (the Manipur Act No. 8 of 1980). This Act came into force on the 5th June, 1980 which date has since then been observed by the Manipur University as its Foundation Day. With the establishment of Manipur University, the aspirations of the people of Manipur to have a place of higher learning and research have been fulfilled. Several Ordinances and Regulations were passed under the Manipur University Act, especially to affiliate all the existing colleges (including professional colleges) and conduct all the examinations of different courses of studies. The Jawaharlal Nehru, Centre of Post-graduate Studies was formally transferred to the Manipur University on the 1st April, 1981. Thus, the provisions of the Manipur University Act, 1980 in respect of Post-graduate education and research came into force with effect that date. With the establishment of a University in Manipur, a new era has heralded in the history of higher education. The long cherished desire of the people to have their own university at Imphal has been fulfilled.

5. Manipur Vision for Higher Education:

The Commission’s Report provides for a long-term vision of the higher education system in Manipur. This Report is intended to serve as a framework to guide the State Government and policy makers, the educators who are employed in Government, Private and Private-aided institutions, the educational planners and administrators, educational and community based agencies in making decisions that support this focus. It is also intended to provide a clear statement of expectations and goals and to facilitate quality and relevance in responding to changing needs and emerging opportunities.

Manipur must develop and maintain a coherent system of first-rate colleges and universities that prepare all students for learning and for transition to and success in higher levels of education. The education system should have relevance to the needs of the work place and of the society at large and should be fully responsive to the changing needs of the State and its people.

If the above objective is to be met, the colleges and the universities must keep in view the students’ learning needs as their primary focus, including that of professional and vocational education. Community based organizations, Government, Private and Private-aided educational institutions, the governments at the Centre and the State, and the people who matter in decision making must all collaborate in building a system of education that ensures the availability of necessary manpower. The system should also ensure that the policies of the higher education system in Manipur are regularly reviewed and revised so that each one supports this focus. In short, this requires a dynamic plan that is based on learner needs, a plan that is comprehensive, grounded on data and reviewed regularly for evidence of progress and need for revision.

6. Government take-over of the Colleges:

In the beginning, D.M. College was the only well established and developed college in the State. In the year 1965-66, there were only two government colleges, one of them being a co-educational college and the other exclusively a women’s college. The first batch of aided colleges was converted into government colleges in the year 1977-78. The Government of Manipur, after having considered the ways and means of improving the available facilities in the private colleges and in order to standardize the teaching facilities in these colleges took over 3 aided colleges, Churachandpur College (hills), Pettigrew Colleges (hills) and Thoubal College (valley). In the following year 1978-79, the government took over 9 more aided college, that is, Imphal College, Manipur College, Modern College, Kha-Manipur College, Moirang College, C.I. College (Bishnupur), Presidency College and Nambol L. Sanoi College. The Government of Manipur further considered the need for the conversion of more private colleges into the government colleges, with the result that Lamka College in Churachandpur District (hills) and 5 other colleges (Ideal Girls’ College, Maharaja Bodhachandra College, N.G. College, Lilong Haoreibi College and Y.K. College) from different areas in the valley were converted into government colleges in the 1979-80.

In 1980-81, Tadubi College was also converted into a government college. Thus, by 1980-81 the number of government colleges increased to 24 in Manipur. The growth of degree colleges was very fast during 1970-71 to 1975-76, after which the growth trend became slightly slow. However, the growth of colleges multiplied by 1995-96 where the total number reached 59 which was only 29 in 1990-91. In the same year, the number of girls’ college also jumped to 7. The total number of colleges again increased to 64 of which 7 were girls’ college in 1996-97.

In spite of these developments, there are various problems which college educations have been facing constantly. The colleges of Manipur have uneven physical, financial and faculty support. Only three colleges are known to have staff quarters and hostel facilities for students. The aided and private colleges have very poor facilities – physical as well as academic. Since most of the colleges in Manipur started as private institutions, their buildings were constructed by the governing bodies concerned according to their own resources. Only aided colleges provided recurring grant for few approved staff of teaching and non-teaching staff. All the colleges in the state, except the colleges established by the government, were funded by the voluntary organizations. The buildings were constructed without proper planning and to
meet the requirements at the initial stage only. Like schools, colleges have their own unique problems. There are three types of colleges – the private, aided and government colleges. The library and laboratory facilities in some private colleges are not modern and well organized. Another specific problem is about the courses of study. The present curriculum has not relevance with vocational opportunities as well as day-to-day problems of the society. In this connection National Council of Educational Research and Training Survey Report (1972) says, “Courses of study at various levels of the schools and colleges are far from satisfactory.” [NCERT: 67] But nowadays great emphasis has given to the vocational educational system.

7. Postgraduate of Manipur University:

The Postgraduate studies during the later part of the 20th century established in Manipur during the later part of the sixties, with the increasing number of colleges and students desiring for prosecuting higher studies in Manipur, the need for a separate university in this region was strongly felt by the people of Manipur who have a rich and distinctive cultural traditions. A general consciousness amongst the people arose to get a university of their own so that facilities for extensive research and higher studies are easily made available to the growing number of young scholars. The main objectives of setting up the university were to meet the individual needs of the students and the people. Considering the views of Radhakrishnan, “In India our unity lies in the diversity of culture”, Manipur with its unique cultural heritage can make substantial contributions towards the unification and richness of Indian nation life.

This may be mainly mentioned that a university in Manipur will not only create adequate facilities of advanced studies for the students of Manipur and adjoining areas but will also help satisfactorily to solve the peculiar problems which have a strict relevance to Manipur and its students. Since most of the universities including the universities in Assam have switched over to the regional media, Manipuri students found it difficult to attend classes in these universities. The need of the establishment of a university as such, was very acute to educate the people of the state, who strongly advocated the establishment of a university. They further strengthened their demand with the justification that on cultural, historical, geographical, sociological and ethnological grounds Manipur has a different but rich entity and therefore Manipur must have a university of her own to look after her own developments in all these aspects of higher educational institutions. It was felt that a separate university would serve and be more solicitous of the welfare of the people of Manipur and that it would provide better opportunities in services, better educational facilities and chances for all round development of their personality. There had been a very remarkable awakening in Manipur and strong belief had grown up among the Manipuris that Manipur would never develop until and unless there was a separate university in Manipur.

8. Problems of Higher Education in Manipur:

Higher education in Manipur is still in the making. So it has a number of teaching troubles both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Earlier the undergraduate colleges of Manipur were affiliated to Gauhati University. Even the erstwhile Postgraduate Centre of Jawaharlal Nehru University has been merged with the Manipur University.

The main problems of higher education in Manipur are

1. Maintenance of standard of higher education both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, striking a balance among national and international standards.
2. Introducing useful and new courses of study with reference to the demands of technical trained men in the employment market.
3. Construction of building and provision for libraries, laboratories, hostels, staff quarters and other physical facilities in the newly government owned colleges and also at the level of the University.
4. Problem of the medium of instruction in view of the poorly developed regional languages at the moment.
5. Problem of the appointment of qualified and experienced staff.
6. Problem of finance. Universities and colleges have many items demanding heavy expenditure but their source of income is quite poor.

9. Remedial Measures:

1. In order to set up its reputation, Manipur University must keep a high academic standard from its very inception. This standard should be kept up both at the undergraduate and the postgraduate levels.
2. Different types of professional courses of new types relevant to the local needs should be started and traditional courses yielding unemployment should be discouraged.
3. The affiliated colleges and the University should be well-equipped with buildings, staff quarters, libraries, laboratories, workshops, hostels, playgrounds and gymnasium.
4. Problem of wastage of all forms can be solved through restricted admission on the basis of merit and also be scattering the students over a wide range of professional courses according to their aptitudes and preferences.
5. Different types of professional courses in agriculture, forestry, indigenous system medicine, oil technology, communication technology, space physics should be introduced.
6. Lecturers, Associate Professors and Professors should be appointed from among the eminent scholars found all over India and all over the world, if possible.
7. The University or the institutes of higher education should not work as an ivory tower but they must
contribute significantly to the welfare of the community. In this regard, they should help in:

a) All development of school education,

b) Training of social education workers and teachers, and

c) Improvement of the general standard of the life of the masses.

10. Conclusion:

Higher education in Manipur had been fulfilled with the establishment of the Dhanamanjuri College, Imphal in earlier. The college was affiliated to the Calcutta University. Then by the time it transferred to Gauhati University. Gauhati University couldn’t conduct in various examinations so the Manipur Government to save thousands of students established Manipur University. The Jawaharlal Nehru Studies centre established and transfer to Manipur University in 1981. Many colleges were established as private, private aided and later converted to Government College. However various problems for various colleges are still not fulfilled. It happens not only in Manipur but all over the world. In future if problem are solve education system will develop and more quality education and student will produce.

Work Cited

4. State Higher Education Commission, Part I-II.