

Status of Higher Education with special reference to District Kupwara J&K

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to investigate the present status of Higher Education in district Kupwara. The study also emphasized the problems of higher education in the district. Questionnaire and information schedule was used to collect the required data. The data was analyzed in plannedmanure. Findings of the study revealed that the status of higher education in the district is not as per the needs and requirement of the students and public of the district and the researcher also detected huge problems of the existing higher educational institutions of the district during the study.

Key Words: Higher Education, Status, Problems.

Introduction

The ultimate aim of education is the harmonious development of an individual physically, mentally, socially, morally, intellectually, economically and in all aspects. The development of any nation depends upon the education of the country. The nation with strong educational system is the developed nation of the world. India's educational system is weak education system than the most nation of the world like, USA, China and France etc. well developed educational system is the backbone of the nation to reach the goal in all aspects. The people of the nation could only develop when they are well educated means when they have obtained the quality education from their teachers who in turn should be highly professionalized and utilize the same knowledge in the best way for the benefit of the society of which is considered as a productive citizen. "Education is a right that transforms lives when it is accessible to all relevant and underpinned by core shared values," (said UNISCO director general Irina Bokova)

India has so many states and UT's, one among them is Jammu and Kashmir which is educationally not well established and has become total failure on the part of facilities, faculties, teachers, students, society etc. the J&K has so many districts and one among them is District Kupwara, which is the most backward district of the J&K in all aspects. The researcher feel that there is great need to study the status the higher education of the district and make the concerned authorities aware about the field for development of the said sector.

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Review of related literature

Yasir Mehmood, Dr. Pranav Kumar² (2020), studied issues and challenges in higher education with special reference to Jammu and Kashmir and the study reveals that there is need to rationalize the scheme of providing free education at all level in the state to consider the decision of providing free education to university level. the study also reveals that there is great lack of higher educational institutions in the state and also the study also finds lack of infrastructure of the existing higher educational institutions of the state.

Mir Muzaffar, Butt Chanchal Kumar Etal. (2017), education is th primary need for the growth of the individual and investment in education plays wide role in the long run and make the individual well human being. Beside3s education nation's growth is impossible and the main components of human growth are education and nothing else.

Sharma Sheetal (2014), studied that besides primary and secondary education higher education is considered as the backbone of the contemporary society. Over the last decade Indian higher education shown remarkable progress and development and becomes the world's largest system of higher education. The study also reveals that the current ststus of higher education in rural areas are facing various political, economic and social challenges, lack of transpiration facility infrastructure are major issues and challenges to higher education

Ritu Bhagat (2013), studied that in order to meet the various challenges of changing demand for advanced and modern technologies both in quality and quantity, education is at most necessary tool. For imparting better and quality education the enhancement of education both at public as well as private resources and their proper allocation is necessary. Trained and well qualified staff, professors and researchers are the main components and pillars.

Objectivies

1. To study the present status of Higher education in district Kupwara.
2. To find out the issues of higher education in district Kupwara.

Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary and primary data sources. The data has been collected from the degree colleges of district Kupwara using a self made questionnaire and information schedule and also from different research reports, Journals, research papers, Directorate of Colleges J&K Higher Education Department, different Economic Surveys of J&K. and from the different websites.

Results and Discussion

Status of Higher Education in District Kupwara

Status of higher education can be seen by the availability of higher educational institutions, faculties of higher education as well as facilities of higher education in all aspects. District Kupwara is a far-flung and most backward district of the J&K in all aspects. If we think about the higher education of the district, the district is most backward district as compared to other papules districts of the J&K. The first two Degree Colleges were established in 1988 namely Govt. Degree College Kupwara and Govt. Degree College Handwara, after 24 years of District Baramullah, where first college namely Degree College Baramullah was established in 1963 and after 37. years of District Anantnag, and after 83 years of District Srinagar where the First Degree Colleges were established in 1950 and 1905 respectively.

Presently there are eight Govt. Degree Colleges in District Kuypwara one Private B. Ed College, Govt. Polytechnic College Kupwara,

Table No. 1 showing the Number of Colleges in district Kupwara with year of establishment

S.No.	Name Of College	Year of Establishment	Affiliation
1	Govt. Degree College Kupwara	1988	University Of Kashmir
2	Govt. Degree College Handwara	1988	University Of Kashmir
3	Govt. Degree College Sogam	2008	University Of Kashmir
4	Govt. Degree College Tangdhar	2008	University Of Kashmir
5	Govt. Women College Kupwara	2011	University Of Kashmir
6	Govt. Women College Langate	2019	University Of Kashmir
7	Govt. Women College Vilgam	2019	University Of Kashmir
8	Govt. Women College Kralpora	2019	University Of Kashmir
9	Shiekhul-Alam College of Education Drugmulla Kupwara	2002	University Of Kashmir
Total	Nine (9) Colleges Only including one private B.Ed College		

Source: Directorate of Colleges, Higher Education Department, (J&K)

The number of degree Colleges in district Kupwara was only two in 1988. In 2008 there were only four Colleges in the district, in 2011 there were only five Colleges in the district, and presently there are eight Govt. Degree Colleges in district Kupwara which is very less colleges in the district as compared to other districts of the J&K.

As per my field study the education system in the district Kupwara is not as per the need and requirement of the district, because the education system is not well established and has become totally failure on part of the educational environment, Authorities, society, teachers and students. There are only one B.Ed College in the district so it is very difficult for each and every desirous candidate of the district to get admission in the college so they goes to other district to get admission in the B.Ed. Course. It is very difficult for the poor students to have such huge money to go outside of their district for study. As per my study there are only eight Govt. Degree Colleges in the district among which three Colleges namely G.D.C. Langate, Vilgam and Trahgam are newly established colleges and have no such kind of facility and faculty in which the students can achieve their aim of study, it will take long time for these colleges to get fully facilitated. When we discuss the present status of higher education in the district, the education system is not progressing at a peace when compared to other districts of J&K.

Table 2 shows statistical representation of Govt. Degree Colleges of district Kupwara till 2020:-

Year	No. of Colleges
1988	2
1998	2
2008	4
2020	8

Source; Directorate of Colleges, Higher Education Department, (J&K)

There were only 2 colleges in the district in 1988 and it is very unfortunate that very little growth takes place from last 32 years in higher education section in the district. there is no any university available in the district.

Issues of Higher Education in District Kupwara

Presently the people and students of district Kupwara are facing lot of issues in higher education system, which have destroyed the future career of the people and students of the district. These issues put the people and students of the district in darkness which needs to be addressed. Among these so many issues, some of the main issues are discussed in the present study.

- a. **Contractualism. The Use and through policy:-**There are less number of permanent teaching staff in almost all Higher educational institutions in the district, the govt. is using the highly qualified unemployed youth of the district as well as the J&K on contractual basis on a very meagre wages and after completion of academic session

the govt. disengages them, so the govt. is using, “Use and Through Policy” in the J&K, this is among the major issues of the higher education of J&K.

- b. **Weather and climatic conditions:-** weather and climatic conditions of the district and in J&K also is worst and is a big problem in achieving all kinds of education, nearly 6 to 7 months of the J&K remains cold in a year, due to heavy rains, snowfalls, highways and local roads remains closed, Universities, Colleges, Schools also remains closed, which effects badly the people of the district and whole J&K.
- c. **Political/internal disturbance:-** due to the political internal disturbance like Hartaals, Strikes, shutdowns, curfews, communication blackout, law and order issues, Corona virus (COVID-19) lockdown etc., the schools, colleges, and universities remains closed in most of the time in a year, which is also a big problem of the students of the district as well as the whole J&K.
- d. **Lack of research:** - Most of the teachers in Colleges are without research degree, which is necessary for a teacher working in Higher education institution and also Ph.D. is not being offered in almost all Colleges of the district as well as the whole J&K.
- e. **Lack of Computer lab facility:-** most of the higher educational institutions of the district as well as the whole J&K, do not have well equipped computer lab facility. Today the world has brought revelation because of information technology, but most of the graduate students of the district as well as the whole J&K, do not even know how to start the computer even those should be well trained in college computer labs.
- f. **Vacancy of teacher:-** there are shortage of teaching staff in most Higher educational institutions of the district, this is also a big issue in Higher education. The students suffer badly in achieving education in the district.
- g. **Lack of guidance.** District Kupwara is most backward district of the J&K, so the people of the district are mostly unaware about almost all kinds of facilities of the Govt. as well as the about the educational institutional faculties, facilities and about their future career of their wards, so the students are also unaware same as their parents mostly, that is why the students of the colleges of the district opt for the courses without proper guidance, then in between leaves the course and changes their streams after wasting their own valuable time. They are not able to achieve the exact knowledge that could change their life.

- h. **Lack of a University.** In district Kupwara, there is no any kind of university available in the district. Mostly poor students of the district leaves the study after completing their Bachelors' degree because of lack of university, this is also a big problem for the district.

Suggestions and Recommendations

1. Contractualism system should be closed; there should be permanent teaching facility in the colleges so that students can get their same teacher in their whole courses which is very beneficial for teaching learning.
2. All colleges should be given heating facilities in winter season so that students can continue their study in the winter seasons well.
3. Different combinations of subjects should be available in all colleges so that students can choose their interested combination.
4. Institutions should be learner centred.
5. U G C Norms should be followed to make educational system meaningful and effective.
6. Colleges should be politics free environment.
7. Research courses should be available in the Colleges.
8. Each and every type of facility should be available in the colleges for the betterment of the educational system.
9. Proper guidance and counselling programmes should be organised in such manure so that each and every student of the district will get benefitted.
10. Govt. should establish a state university in district Kupwara so that poor students can continue their higher study.

Conclusion and Findings

The present study investigated the current status of higher education in district Kupwara and also the researcher also studied the issues of higher education in the district, because higher education is the backbone of educational system of any nation, higher education is most important because it needs to meet the challenges of changing demand for advanced knowledge and technology. However expansion of higher education will be fruitful and investment in research in higher education will leads to help in the changing demand and scenario of actual life. The researcher found that the status of higher education in the district

is not as per the needs and requirement of the students and public of the district and the researcher also detected huge problems of the existing higher educational institutions of the district during the study.

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