

PRESENT STATUS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NAGALAND: AN OVERVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

Education is the most important medium through which a nation can achieve its goals and objectives like rapid economic growth and development, equal distribution of income and wealth, elimination of poverty and unemployment etc. Looking to the importance of education in the socio economic and political development of people of a county, providing education to all is the primary function of every government whether it is industrially developed or developing countries. Ever since the adoption of our constitution in 1950, the elementary education has been drawn the center of focus. The constitution of India guarantees free and compulsory education to all its children up to the age of 14 years. Within the elementary education, again priority was given to primary education. However, the District Primary Education Program (DPEP) was initially only limited to primary level but afterwards it was extend to upper primary level. Again, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has also included the entire sphere of elementary education i.e. both primary and upper primary education. In spite of all efforts, increase in government spending and private investment in education, increase in number of schools and number of teachers, the universal primary education is a far distance dream. After the 65 years of independence, the 2011 census of India shows that more than one fourth of the total population of India remained illiterate. Only 74% of the total populations, 82.1% of the male and 65.5% of the female population of India are literate. Nagaland of course achieved the highest growth rate of 19.63% in the literacy rate among all states and union territories in India during 2001 to 2011 census (i.e. from 60.47% to 80.10%). Again, it is pathetic to say that 85% of the school, going children of India cannot complete high school and 93% cannot be graduated in India. Secondary education is acting as bridge between elementary and higher education. It plays an important role to opt for different streams of education. In other words, the results at the secondary level help the students to be selected for different streams at reputed institutions at higher secondary level, junior Engineering, ITI, which again helps them to choose higher education and their future career. Looking to the importance of secondary education, each parents try to choose a right kind of secondary schools for their children according to their ways and means.

BRIEF PROFILE OF NAGALAND

Nagaland is the 16th state in North East India with effect from 1st December 1963 bordered by Assam to the west, Arunachal Pradesh and part of Assam to the north, Burma to the east and Manipur to the south. Kohima is its capital and Dimapur is the largest city, which is considered as commercial capital of Nagaland. It spreads over an area of 16,579 square kilometer (6401 sq. miles) with a population of 19,78,502 out of which 1407536 (71.14%) are rural population and 570966 (28.86%) are urban population as per 2011 census report of govt. of India. The population density is 119 per square kilometer and sex ratio is 931 female per 1000 males. The literacy rate is 79.55, the literacy rate for male is 82.75% and for female is 76.11%. The rural literacy rate is 75.35% whereas the urban literacy rate is 89.62. This paper examines the districts wise distribution of secondary schools and different streams such as Arts, Science and commerce streams at higher secondary level. It is purely based on secondary data published by Nagaland Board of school education, Various Issues of Statistical Handbook of Govt. of Nagaland,.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To study the distribution of private and government schools having secondary sections among different districts in Nagaland.
2. To study the district wise distribution of arts, science and commerce streams at higher secondary level in Nagaland.

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DISCUSSION

In 1903-04, there were 22 primary schools, 1 secondary school and 2 special schools in Nagaland. The number of people attaining school was only 647 against the total population of 1.2 lakhs, while the literacy percentage was only 1.03 (Yonus, 1974). By the time of independence, Naga hill had 161 government primary schools, 3 M.E. schools and 2 high schools at Kohima and Mokokchung (Sema P, 1986). Since 1st December 1963, Nagaland achieved its statehood under Indian Union, there has been rapid progress in the field of education in the state and the literacy rate increased from 18% in 1961 to 65% in 1991 (India turns Fifty, Souvenir, 1997). Nagaland had no higher secondary schools until 1989. However, in 1997 there were 6 private and 4 government higher secondary schools. (Directorate of Information and Public relation, 1997). The state board i.e. Nagaland Board of School Education (NBSE) plays a dominant role in the field of school education in Nagaland, though few schools are operational under CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education). By 1999, there were 4 government higher secondary schools, 121 government high schools, 11 private higher secondary schools, 3 regular recognized private high schools and 78 provisionally recognized private high schools and 113 permitted schools which together comes to 330 schools having secondary sections (NBSE, 1999).

Table-1: District wise Private and Government High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools under NBSE in 2018

S. No.	District	Government Higher Secondary Schools	Government High Schools	Private Higher Secondary Schools	Recognized Private High Schools	Permitted Schools	Total	College Running Hr. Sec. (Government & Private)
1	Kohima	7	24	25	24	23	103	6
2	Mokokchung	5	37	12	13	6	73	1
3	Tuensang	5	24	1	6	17	53	1
4	Mon	5	17	5	2	28	57	-
5	Phek	4	35	5	11	7	62	-
6	Wokha	3	21	2	7	12	45	1
7	Zunheboto	3	22	6	14	15	60	-
8	Dimapur	7	22	44	18	88	179	8
9	Kiphire	2	15	1	2	10	30	1
10	Longleng	1	13	-	2	7	23	-
11	Peren	2	16	5	4	9	36	-
Total		44	246	106	103	222	721	18

Sources: NBSE 2018

In 2018, there are 721 schools having secondary sections under NBSE, out of which 44 government Higher Secondary Schools, 246 govt. high schools, 106 Private Higher Secondary schools, 103 recognized private schools and 222 permitted high schools in Nagaland. Again, 18 colleges are also running higher secondary courses with class XI and XII only. So total number of institution running higher secondary courses in Nagaland is 168. The schools are unevenly distributed among different districts of Nagaland. Out of 721 high schools and higher secondary schools, Dimapur District has highest number of schools i.e. 179 (24.8%) under NBSE followed by 103 (14%) in Kohima district and 73 (10.1%) in Mokokchung respectively. So all to gather 355 i.e. 48.7% of the high schools and higher secondary schools are in the above three districts where as remaining eight districts have 51.3% (366) of the schools. On the other hand, Longleng district has least number of high schools and higher secondary schools (i.e.22 only) above which 30 in Kiphire and 36 in Peren district. The highest populated district, Tuensang has only 53 high schools and higher secondary schools under NBSE. Mokokchung district has highest number of government high

schools and higher secondary schools ($37+5 = 42$) followed by Phek district ($35+4=39$) and Kohima district ($24+7=31$) respectively whereas Longleng district has least number of government schools (i.e. $13+1=14$) above which Kiphire ($15+2=17$) and Peren district ($16+2=18$) number of government high schools and government higher secondary schools. Out of 431 private high schools and higher secondary schools under NBSE, Dimapur District has highest 150 followed by Kohima district 72 and Zunheboto and Mon 35 each whereas Longleng district has least number of private high schools and higher secondary schools (9) above which Kiphire (13) and Peren district (18). This shows most of the schools are concentrated in Dimapur, Kohima and Mokokchung districts respectively whereas Kiphire, Longleng and Peren districts have very less. It also shows that there is a high degree of in-equality in distribution of schools in different districts of Nagaland.

Table-2: Districtwise Private and Government Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges under NBSE running Arts, Science and Commerce Streams in 2018

S. No.	District	Arts	Science	Commerce	Total
1	Kohima	35	10	8	53
2	Mokokchung	18	3	2	23
3	Tuensang	6	2	1	9
4	Mon	10	2	-	12
5	Phek	9	1	-	10
6	Wokha	6	1	-	7
7	Zunheboto	9	2	1	12
8	Dimapur	53	21	22	96
9	Kiphire	4	-	-	4
10	Longleng	1	-	-	1
11	Peren	7	-	1	8
Total		158	42	35	235

Sources: NBSE 2018

The figures given in this table indicate only the number of courses or streams being offered in the institutions. The number is not tallied with number of registered higher secondary schools and colleges (i.e.168) as some institution have two or more streams.

It also reveals that out of 235 arts, science and commerce higher secondary streams run by higher secondary schools and colleges under NBSE in the state, 96 are in Dimapur, 53 in Kohima, and 23 in Mokokchung (172 i.e. 73.2% in the three districts) whereas only 63 (26.8%) are in other eight districts. Out of 158 higher secondary schools and colleges running Arts streams in Nagaland nearly one third (i.e. 53) are operated in Dimapur district, 35 are in Kohima district and 18 are in Mokokchung district (Together 103 i.e. 65.2% in the above three district). Whereas only 55 (34.8%) schools and colleges running arts stream are in remaining 8 districts. Similarly out of 42 Higher secondary schools colleges running science streams in Nagaland 21 (i.e. 50%) are in Dimapur and 10 (i.e. 24%) in Kohima and 3 in Mokokchung district. So, out of the 42 science streams 34 (81%) are in the above 3 districts and remain 8 (19%) are in other 8 districts. Again, no schools or colleges in Kiphire, Longleng and Peren district have science stream, Phek and Wokha have only 1 each, Tuensang Zunheboto and Mon have 2 each. Again, out of 35 schools and colleges running commerce stream in Nagaland 22 (63%) are in Dimapur and 8 are in Kohima district. It means 86% (30) of the schools running commerce stream are in Dimapur and Kohima district. Mon Phek, Wokha, Kiphire and Longleng district have commerce stream at all. Tuensang, Zunheboto and Peren have only one school each having commerce stream. Similarly, science and commerce education is also less popular in Nagaland except Dimapur and Kohima districts. Similarly, institutions running various higher secondary streams like arts science and commerce in Nagaland is very unevenly distributed among its various districts.

FINDINGS OF STUDY

- In Nagaland, nearly 40 percent of the high schools and higher secondary schools having secondary section are managed by government where as 60 percent are under private management.

- Dimapur district in Nagaland has highest percentage of schools having secondary sections (24.6%), next is in Kohima district (14.1). Nearly half of the schools having secondary sections in Nagaland are present in these three districts i.e. Dimapur, Kohima and Mokokchung.
- 35 percent of the total private schools having secondary sections in Nagaland are present in Dimapur district alone i.e. 150 out of 431 while more than half of the total private schools having secondary sections in Nagaland are present in two districts i.e. Dimapur and Kohima district alone (i.e. 222 out of 431).
- On the other hand, highest number of government schools having secondary sections are present in Mokokchung district (42) and next is in Phek district (39)
- Stream wise higher secondary education offered by schools and colleges are unevenly distributed in different district of Nagaland.
- 55.7% of the higher secondary schools and colleges running Arts streams in Nagaland are present in two districts i.e. in Dimapur and Kohima (88 out of 158). Whereas only 44.3% schools and colleges running arts stream are in remaining 9 districts of Nagaland.
- 74% of the higher secondary science streams operated by higher secondary schools and colleges in Nagaland are present only in two districts i.e. in Dimapur and Kohima districts (31 out of 42) whereas 26% of the science stream are in remaining 9 districts (11 out of 41). Again, three districts in Nagaland such as Kiphire, Longleng and Peren have no science stream.
- Again 86% of the higher secondary schools and colleges having higher secondary commerce stream are present in only in two districts: Dimapur and Kohima Districts together (i.e. 30 out of 35). Five districts in Nagaland like Mon, Phek, Wokha, Kiphire and Longleng district have commerce stream at all.
- 33.5% of the arts streams, 50% of the science streams and 62.9% of the commerce streams of Nagaland at higher secondary level are operated by higher secondary schools and colleges in Dimapur.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of above findings, we can conclude that the secondary schools are not evenly distributed among different parts or districts of Nagaland. Similarly, different streams of Arts, Science and Commerce at higher secondary level are also unevenly present in different district in the state. Science and Commerce streams at higher secondary level are not at all present in some districts of Nagaland. Therefore, government of Nagaland need to look after this problem seriously and in order to provide equal opportunity to all students it has to establish more of both secondary and higher secondary schools in areas where children are deprived of such facility. It may also provide necessary facilities to establish secondary and higher secondary schools private in these areas.

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