

A STUDY ON THE ACADEMIC ATTITUDE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS OF GENERAL EDUCATION AFFILIATED TO MANIPUR UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

Collegiate education is an important stage of making one's educational career of life. It can develop a man to become a worthy member in the democratic society. The present scenario of the higher education particularly the collegiate level of undergraduate studies of general education has been in alarming situation in the State of Manipur due to various psycho-political, psycho-social, psycho-cultural, psycho-ethical attitudes of the people of the State in general and the students' communities in particular. In addition to these there are economic problems, bad law and order conditions, ethnic issues in the society which affected academic life of the students to a very great extent. The academic attitude of the students has also been disturbing for the last two/three decades. In order to examine and to focus the academic attitude of the college students of the State of Manipur, the present paper is a humble attempt to explore their academic attitude towards existing collegiate education system.

Keywords: Academic attitude, College Students, General Education, Manipur University.

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Introduction

In the social structure of the social and nation building the colleges occupy a very important place. College education enables to produce able citizens who can take-up social and national responsibilities successfully in various fields. It provides trained personal and developed males and females to the society. College education is connected with the general social structure and nation's requirement for development. Immediately after completion of the college education the boys and girls enter matrimony and profession. The success in these is initially guaranteed by the raining at the college. Therefore, the college student must be prepared for adult roles and responsibilities. Various types of colleges such as arts colleges, science college technical and professional colleges occupy slightly different position in the structure of the society. The college education promotes development of autonomy and the formation of identity. College education provides opportunities of the development of these traits.

Functionally, the college is a social system. It selects and differentiates the students on the basis of achievements in different directions. It puts a premium on academic excellent. It promotes development and explores the student to various activities. It encourages creativity and critical faculty. It develops responsibility and provides occasions for taking up independent decisions.

It promotes qualities of team work as well as initiative and leadership. It provides opportunities for development of friendship among same sexes and also among different sexes. The friendship among different for a successful opportunity to select life partners and lays the foundation for a successful marriage and happy family. Thus in the modern societies each male and female passes through the college life to become an adult prepared to accept various roles and statuses in the wider society outside. College life offers a student's ample opportunity to make or mar his career students may spend the day in gossiping and smoking, or visiting a restaurant or cinemas or they may spend the day in exchanging notes with a class-mates or studying in a library. They may thus either wastes time and energy and career failure in examination, or by hard study they may march from success to success and eventually become precious like a gem to his family. The assemblage of many students at one spot offers a golden chance to many to establish contact which often ripens into love and friendship lasting through life. The students fight here many a battle, combat many a temptation, and not a few of them come out of the portals of the colleges

as full-fledged men. Their career in life is chalked out here. Whether a student will become a doctor or an engineer or a philosopher or a lawyer in later life is determined within the halls of the college and its education.

There are 86 colleges affiliated to Manipur University, Canchipur (College Development Council 2015-2016), of which 60 is general Education, 23 are professional Educational and 3 are technical education. In the year 2017, one professional education of teacher education named, Ideal Teacher Training Academy has also been established. Not only these, there is National Institute of Technology in Manipur, out of the 60 General Colleges, 31 are government, 7 are Aided and 22 are unaided. More colleges of professional education have increased during 2017-2018 which are as follows:

- a) Yoga Physique Institute.
- b) Lungnila Elizabeth School of Social Work.
- c) Vishal Law College
- d) PanditDeenDayalUpadlyay Institute of Agricultural Science.
- e) Shija Paramedical Research Academy
- f) Ideal Teachers Training Academy
- g) S.KulaB.Ed College

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The statement of the present problem is entitled as – “**ATTITUDE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS OF GENERAL EDUCATION AFFILIATED TO MANIPUR UNIVERSITY**”

OPERATIONAL TERMS USED

Academic Attitude - The physical emotional mental and social disposition of liking and disliking, pleasant and unpleasant feeling, and favourable and unfavourable behavioural pattern in the academic life or studying the course of general education is considered academic attitude. In the present study academic attitude refers to the students' favourable and unfavourable attitude of reading the collegiate education.

College Students – The students reading under graduate courses in the colleges provided Bachelor's Degree in Arts, Science and Commerce in general as well as in Professional and Technical education are considered as college students. In the present study college students, here refers to students reading in colleges of general education affiliated to Manipur University, Canchipur, Imphal.

General Education – The term general education refers to education of liberal arts, science and commerce is academic discipline.

Manipur University – The first state university of Manipur which was established in May 1980, and it becomes Central Manipur University since 2005, have five different schools of studies, affiliated all the state run colleges, private and aided colleges. These are over 89 colleges affiliated at present.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

1. To study the academic attitude of the college students in the existing collegiate education system.
- 2 To explore the favourable and unfavourable academic attitude of tribal and non-tribal college students.
3. To explore the favourable and unfavourable attitude of boys and girls college students.
4. To offer suggestions for improving favourable academic attitude of college students.

HYPOTHESEOF THE STUDY

The hypotheses formulated for the present study are as follows;

There exists no favourable academic attitude of college students in the existing collegiate education system.

There exists no significant difference of academic attitude in between tribal and non-tribal college students.

There exists no significant difference of academic attitude in between boys and girls college students.

There is need for seeking the measurement for improving favourable academic attitudes of college students.

DELIMITATION

The present study is delimited to the students of college of general education affiliated to Manipur University.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

There is deteriorating conditions of higher education system in Manipur particularly in undergraduate and postgraduate courses of general studies. The present scenario of the higher education, particularly collegiate education of general studies has been alarming in the state due to various administrative, political, psychological, Socio-cultural, economical, law and order situations of the state. The attitudes of the college students have been changing day by day which need special attention to draw; otherwise the collegiate education will completely be downfall after few academic years. The present study can serve little benefit to the authorities, principals, students' parents and other stakeholders particularly the government in order to take up necessary measure, policies and programmes for the promotion of collegiate education considering its Equity, Expansion and Excellence (3E's) under 12th Five Year (2012-17) plan, and mission mode flagship programmes of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).

With a vision to focus the present scenario and condition of collegiate education system of general studies in Manipur and the academic attitudes of the college students reading undergraduate courses in different management-Government, Aided and unaided private colleges about their attitudes in relation to purpose and objectives of studying the BA, B.Sc and B.Com in General and Honours. Courses, attendance of college and classes, reading and study habits, teacher taught relationship, courses of study (Curriculum), methods of teaching, teaching standard and quality, examination and evaluation system, regarding management and administration, co-curricular activities, discipline and conduct, incentive programmes, etc, and how and their academic attitudes towards existing collegiate education system affects the quality of higher education particularly in undergraduate courses of general studies. In regard to the present study, the investigation of the research work feels to undertake the problem of higher

education of collegiate level which aims to explore the favourable and unfavourable academic attitudes of undergraduate college students reading in general courses in different streams.

METHOD ADOPTED:

In the present study, the investigator adopted the Descriptive Survey Method in exploratory nature to focus the present academic attitude of college students.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE:

The population of the study will cover all the college students reading in the colleges of general education affiliated to Manipur University. From this population, the investigator has drawn 300 college students classifying 150 each of tribal and non-tribal boys and girls students reading in the Government, Aided and Unaided colleges located in the Hill and Valley Districts of Manipur using Stratified Random Sampling technique.

TOOLS USED:

The collection of the data have done using self-developed academic attitude scale consisting of 3-point scale of **Favourable (F)**, **Undecided (U)**, and **Unfavourable (UF)** have 11 statements each of positive and negative attitude.

TREATMENT OF DATA The collected data through academic attitude scale have been properly tabulated and the responses have also been entered according to the items

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The collected data through academic attitude scale from the 300 students of tribal and non-tribal communities reading in Bachelor's Degree of Semester System in First, Third and Fifth semester course in Arts, Science and Commerce are tabulated their responses in two separate items of Positive Statements and Negative Statements have taken in the form of number and percentage of responses.

The responses of Favourable are taken in both statements but are different meanings. In the positive statement Favourable Responses in positive statements are considered as Favourable

academic attitude while favourable responses in negative statements are considered as unfavourable academic attitude of the college students. These are shown in the following Table 1,2,3 and 4 (see in following pages).

Analysis of Favourable Academic Attitude in Positive Statements

There are 11 statements in positive statements. The overall percentage of responses is 49.3 (tribal students' is 47.03 per cent while non-tribal students' is 53.76 per cent). It means that there is little favourable academic attitude of college students though non-tribal students have more favourable attitude than tribal students (see Table No. 1).

Table No. 1 Favourable Academic Attitude of Tribal and Non-Tribal Students. N = 300

SL. NO.	Positive Statements	Favourable Responses		
		Tribal N = 150	Non-Tribal N = 150	OverallTotal
1	Your objective for studying collegiate education is for getting a good job after its completion.	99 (66 %)	85 (56.67%)	174 (58 %)
2	You are entering collegiate education to pursuit higher education of post-graduate degree to become a teacher.	33 (22 %)	47 (31.34 %)	80 (26.67 %)
3	Most of the students have favourable academic attitude towards the existing collegiate education system.	57 (38 %)	85 (56.67%)	142 (47.34%)
4	A few students attend class regular to make their future academic career	38 (25.34 %)	54 (36 %)	92 (30.67 %)
5	I admitted to this college on the basis of my choice subject and stream opened to make my career.	92 (61.34)	107 (71.34 %)	199 (66.34%)

6	Regular attendance of classes is dependent on the effectiveness of teaching in the colleges.	112 (74.67%)	122 (81.34%)	234 (78%)
7	The existing curriculum and syllabus can meet the need and requirement of the student life and social progress.	57 (38%)	68 (45.345)	125 (41.67%)
8	Most of the teachers working in the colleges are competent and accountable.	69 (46 %)	72 (48 %)	141 (47%)
9	Academic atmosphere of the collegiate education system is highly conducive.	58 (37.67%)	66 (44%)	124 (41.34%)
10	The infrastructure and facilities of colleges is highly developed under the assistant of UGC and RUSA	109 (72.67 %)	115 (76.67%)	224 (74.67%)
11	The introduction semester system has brought improvement in the existing collegiate education system.	52 (34.67%)	66 (44%)	118 (39.34%)
Grand Total =		776 (47.03 %)	887 (53.76%)	1626 (49.3%)

- Favourable response means favourable academic attitude.

In table 2, the overall responses of both tribal and non-tribal students 70.98 per cent in negative statement percentage of tribal students in negative responses is 69.09 per cent and non-tribal a student is 72.86 per cent. It means that there are more unfavourable academic attitudes of both

tribal and non-tribal students. It shows that there is little favourable academic attitude of tribal and non-tribal students in the existing collegiate education system.

Table No. 2 Unfavourable Academic Attitude of Tribal and Non-Tribal Students.

N =300

SL. NO.	Negative Statement	Favourable Response		
		Tribal N = 150	Non-Tribal N = 150	Overall Total
1	Your study of collegiate education is just for getting certificate.	105 (70%)	115 (76.67%)	220 (73.34%)
2	Some of students are reading collegiate education to acquire student's power politics.	56 (37.34%)	65 (43.34%)	121 (70.67%)
3	I study in this college to pass the examination easily.	102 (68%)	110 (73.34%)	212 (70.67%)
4	Even the regular class are conducted attendance of students are poor in the most of the colleges.	110 (73.34%)	115 (76.67%)	225 (75%)
5	Most of college students do not favour in the present curriculum and syllabus.	115 (76.67%)	120 (80%)	235 (76.34%)
6	The teaching quality of the existing collegiate education system is very poor.	88 (58.67%)	92 (61.34%)	180 (60%)
7	There are lacks of dedicated teacher in existing collegiate education system.	116 (77.34%)	121 (80.67%)	237 (79%)
8	Most of the principal of the colleges has lack of management skills for	105 (70%)	110 (73.34%)	215 (71.67%)

	efficient functioning.			
9	The present examination and evaluation system of collegiate education is highly defective.	120 (76.67%)	125 (83.34%)	245 (81.67%)
10	There is poor relationship between teacher and students.	115 (76.67%)	116 (77.34%)	231 (77%)
12	There is absence of inspection and supervisor of the colleges by the concerned authority.	108 (72%)	113 (75.34%)	221 (73.67%)
Grand Total		1140 (69.09%)	1202 (72.86%)	2342 (70.98%)

Favourable response is unfavourable academic attitude.

Table 3 reveals the overall percentages of responses of favourable academic attitude of boys and girls college students is 49.3 per cent, which is 50.31 per cent for boys students and 49.88 per cent for girls students. There is little and negative difference in between boys and girls college students in favourable academic attitude.

Table No. 3 Favourable Academic Attitude of Boys and Girls Students. N = 300

SL. NO.	Positive Statements	Favourable Responses		
		Boys N = 150	Girls N = 150	OverallTotal
1	Your objective for studying collegiate education is for getting a good job after its completion.	94 (62.67%)	80 (53.34%)	174 (58 %)

2	You are entering collegiate education to pursuit higher education of post-graduate degree to become a teacher.	45 (30%)	35 (23.34%)	80 (26.67 %)
3	Most of the students have favourable academic attitude towards the existing collegiate education system.	70 (46.67%)	72 (48%)	142 (47.34%)
4	A few students attend class regular to make their future academic career	46 (30.67%)	46 (30.67%)	92 (30.67 %)
5	I admitted to this college on the basis of my choice subject and stream opened to make my career.	100 (66.67)	99 (66%)	199 (66.34%)
6	Regular attendance of classes is dependent on the effectiveness of teaching in the colleges.	120 (80%)	114 (76%)	234 (78%)
7	The existing curriculum and syllabus can meet the need and requirement of the student life and social progress.	65 (43.34%)	60 (40%)	125 (41.67%)
8	Most of the teachers working in the colleges are competent and accountable.	60 (40%)	81 (54%)	141 (47%)
9	Academic atmosphere of the collegiate education system is highly conducive.	64 (43.67%)	60 (40%)	124 (41.34%)
10	The infrastructure and facilities of colleges is highly developed under the assistant of UGC and RUSA	110 (37.34%)	114 (76%)	224 (74.67%)

11	The introduction semester system has brought improvement in the existing collegiate education system.	56 (37.34%)	62 (41.34%)	118 (39.34%)
Grand Total =		830 (50.31%)	823 (49.88%)	1626 (49.3%)

From the Table No. 4, it can be observed that the overall percentage of unfavourable responses of both boys and girls college students is 70.98 per cent which is 71.27 per cent for boys and 70.67 per cent girls. It means majority of college students of boys and girls have unfavourable academic attitude in the existing collegiate education system. There is no significant difference in the academic attitude between boys and girls according to the result of responses found out. As the statements are negative the favourable response is considered as unfavourable.

Table No. 4 Unfavourable Academic Attitude of Boys and Girls Students. N = 300

SL. NO.	Negative Statements	Favourable Response		
		Boys N = 150	Girls N = 150	Overall Total
1	Your study of collegiate education is just for getting certificate.	110 (73.34%)	110 (73.34%)	220 (73.34%)
2	Some of students are reading collegiate education to acquire student's power politics.	71 (47.34%)	50 (33.34%)	121 (70.67%)
3	I study in this college to pass the examination easily.	104	108	212

		(69.34%)	(72%)	((70.67%)
4	Even the regular class are conducted attendance of students are poor in the most of the colleges.	105 (70%)	120 (80%)	225 (75%)
5	Most of college students do not favour in the present curriculum and syllabus.	115 (76.67%)	120 (80%)	235 (76.34%)
6	The teaching quality of the existing collegiate education system is very poor.	90 (60%)	90 (60%)	180 (60%)
7	There are lacks of dedicated teacher in existing collegiate education system.	120 (80%)	117 (78%)	237 (79%)
8	Most of the principal of the colleges has lack of management skills for efficient functioning.	105 (70%)	110 (73.34%)	215 (71.67%)
9	The present examination and evaluation system of collegiate education is highly defective.	125 (83.34%)	120 (80%)	245 (81.67%)
10	There is poor relationship between teacher and students.	115 (76.67%)	116 (77.34%)	231 (77%)
12	There is absence of inspection and supervisor of the colleges by the concerned authority.	116 (77.34%)	105 (70%)	221 (73.67%)
Grand Total		1176 (71.27%)	1166 (70.67%)	2342 (70.98%)

Findings of the Study:

The objectives findings of the study can be reported as follows:

For the first objective, the main finding of the study is there is little favourable academic attitude of the college students i.e. 49.3 per cent favourable responses in positive statement. Unfavourable response is 70.98 per cent in negative statements.

In the second objective, the main finding, the non-tribal students have little more favourable academic attitude in the existing collegiate education system i.e. 53.76 per cent while a tribal student is 47.03 per cent.

In the third objective, the main finding is that there is no significance difference in the academic attitude of boys and girls college students in the existing collegiate education system. The favourable responses are positive statement is 50.31 per cent for boys while 49.88 per cent for girls.

For the fourth objective, there is need for developing positive attitude among college students by providing conducive academic atmosphere, proper teaching quality, reforming curriculum, removing defects of evaluation system, promoting administrative and management skill training among principals, providing faculty improvement programmes of updating knowledge to college teachers, motivating and inspiring students for higher education for the student of the state and nation.

Conclusion:

The present conditions of college education of general studies in Manipur have been deteriorating year by year due to various reasons. Most of the college students of boys and girls of both tribal and non-tribal communities did not have confidence to make their career. Due to lack of job opportunity and lack of applicability to their life, most of the college students did not have favourable academic attitude towards college education of higher education of general studies. There are full of defects found in the existing collegiate education which is the responsibility in the development of unfavourable academic attitudes among the college students. There is need for drawing special attention by the Government and authorities of collegiate

education. Proper planning, policies and programmes should be made immediately. Reforms of curriculum are also highly needed according to the need of the students in particular and the society in general methods of teaching should be improved. Proper guidance and counselling has to be provided to the college students. For bringing quality of collegiate education, various measures and steps have to be taken up from time to time. There is need for opening new subjects and streams in order to meet the need of the collegiate students and applicability in the society. The government and concerned authorities of collegiate education should check and control the migrating tendency of students to outside state.

There is increasing tendency of the enrolment of students in the collegiate education for the last few years, workshops, conferences and seminars for the improvement of collegiate education of general studies should be organised. Proper management and administration including inspection and supervision should be maintained in both Departmental level and Institutional level. To conclude, there is need for improving collegiate education of general studies for developing favourable and positive academic attitude among the undergraduate student of male and female of both tribal and non-tribal communities reading in Arts, science and commerce of the colleges of Hill and Valley districts of Manipur.

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