

EDUCATIONAL SCENARIO OF LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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Abstract: Education is the key factor in the development of human potentialities. Every country gives due importance to her education system through which all types of challenges are possible to be faced. The present study investigated the educational scenario of Lakhimpur district of Assam. This study based on qualitative content analysis method. The information and data are collected from secondary sources like: printed books, journals, newspapers, periodicals, web sites and Ph.D. thesis etc.

Keywords: Educational Scenario, Lakhimpur District and Assam

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Introduction

Education is the key factor in the development of human potentialities. Every country gives due importance to her education system through which all types of challenges are possible to be faced. It is possible to reach all the people with the benefit of economic and technical developments through well planned and well implemented system of education. Education is a process which leads to harmonious development of an individual in terms of cognitive, affective and psychomotor facilities. Education helps not only in building's personality, character and intelligence but also his productive capacity and his ability to perform his share work more efficiently. Education develops a child to be a person who is physically strong mentally well equipped, emotionally balanced and with right attitude towards life.

Brief Profile of Assam

Assam is situated in the Himalayan foothills, the land of blue hills and red rivers with the area of 78,438 square kilometres, and it represented 2.39 percent of the total land area of the country. The mighty river Brahmaputra flows through it, serving as a source of literature for its people settled on both of its banks. A meeting ground of several language families, ethnic groups and a mosaic of cultural patterns, Assam present a unique case of sociolinguistic pluralism bound by a single thread of cultural homogeneity. It is divided into 32 districts. The state capital is Dispur (Guwahati) in Kamrup district. Assam is surrounded by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh on the north; Nagaland, Manipur, and Arunachal on the east; Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura on the south; and Bangladesh, Meghalaya and west Bengal on the west. Assam is connected with the rest of Indian Union by a narrow corridor (called the 'Chicken's or 'Bottle Neck') in west Bengal that runs for 56 kms below foothills of Bhutan and Sikkim (Sources: Assam Year Book 2014). The population of the state is 3.12 crores as per the 2011 census. The density of the population is 398 persons per square kilometre, the highest in the North Eastern Region. The state has 45,590 schools (pre-primary to high school). Out of 32 districts in Assam the investigator selected one district (Lakhimpur) only.

Brief Profile of Lakhimpur

Lakhimpur is an eastern district of borderline of Assam. The Lakhimpur is believed to have been originated from the word 'Lakshmi', the goddess of wealth or prosperity. The region is mainly

dependent upon agriculture and hefty amount of paddy cultivation is practiced here. Paddy is regarded locally as Lakshmi. The word Pur means fulfilled. Lakhimpur therefore means 'Full of Paddy' or the place where paddy are grown abundantly. According to another common belief, the word originated from Lakshmi Devi, the mother of Bhuyan Raja, who was the descendent of king Arimatta. The district was notified as Lakhimpur through a proclamation issued by the then Governor General Lord Auckland in July, 1839. After independence, on 2nd October, 1971 comprising Dhemaji and North Lakhimpur as sud-divisions the district was reformed. Later in 1980 Dhemaji was formed as an independent district and Lakhimpur district was formed taking Dhokuwakhona and North Lakhimpur as sub-divisions. The district was known as 'kaleepani' until 1950, due to flood damage and uncomfortable transport system. A temporary airport was built here in 1954 and the Assam State Transport Corporation started transportation facilities to this district in 1957. Similarly in 1963, NF Railway service also included this district. The main livelihood is agriculture and the district is lacking in the industrial and educational sector.

The total area of Lakhimpur district is 2,277 sq. km. and it is divided into 2261.26 and 15.74 sq. km. as rural and urban areas respectively. Total population of Lakhimpur district is 10,42,137; out of this 5,29,674 are males and 5,12,463 are females population (Source: Assam Year Book, 2014). The sex ratio of the district 968 female per 1000 male and density of the population is 458 persons per sq. km. District headquarters and sub-division of Lakhimpur district is North Lakhimpur. The boundaries of Lakhimpur district are Arunachal Pradesh in the north; Dhemaji and Dibrugarh in the east; Jorhat, Sibsagar and Brahmaputra in the south and Sonitpur and Arunachal Pradesh in the west. The main rivers and tributaries of the district are Brahmaputra, Dikrong, Subansiri, Ranganadi, Cici, Jiyadhhal and Ghunasuti. Important places located in the district are North Lakhimpur, Narayanpur, Bihpuria, Dhakuakhana and Pabhoi Sanctuary. In Lakhimpur district the total number of secondary schools is 339; out of them urban and rural secondary schools are 15 and 324 respectively.

Review of Related Study

Review of related literature is an essential aspect of a research work. Related literature provides the basic ground to the researcher for his problem of research. It is of great help to the literature and works as guide for him. Review of related literature serves as a pointer to the lacunae in the

concerned piece of research work. The investigator made a candid effort for reviewing the related literatures or studies conducted in Assam.

Boruah, JahnabeeLahkar (2010) did a study on academic achievement, achievement motivation and modernity attitude: a study on the tribal secondary students in Assam. The study indicated that academic achievement, academic motivation and modernity attitude were related each other and positive relationship had been found. It was found that there was significant difference in the above variable of Tribal students belonging in male and female, rural and urban areas.

Dutta.Jadab, Nath, Lakshinandan&Soni,J.C, (2016) “A Comparative Study on Academic Achievement of Secondary School Students in Lakhimpur District of Assam”. This study is conducted on a sample of 500 Students comprising of 250 boys and 250 girls selected randomly from 16 Government and Private secondary schools of Lakhimpur district of Assam. The descriptive survey method is used for data collection. The study clearly revealed that in the whole sample the secondary school students studying in government and private schools as well as belonging to in urban and rural areas showed different significantly in respect of their science subject. However, the separate comparison of male and female of government students are not significant in science subjects.

This study also clearly showed that in the whole sample the secondary school students studying in government and private schools, rural and urban schools and male/female of rural and urban government students are found to differ in performance of dissimilar social science subjection. However, the separate comparison of male and female students of (a) male/female of rural secondary schools; (b) male/female of urban secondary schools; (c) rural male/female of government secondary schools; (d) urban male/female of government secondary schools; (e) male/female of private secondary schools; (f) rural male/female of private secondary schools and (g) urban male/female of private secondary school students are not significant on their social subject.

This study also clearly showed that in the whole sample the secondary school students studying in government and private schools, rural and urban secondary schools, male/female of rural

secondary schools, male/female of rural and urban government schools, rural male/female of government schools, male and female of private secondary schools and urban male/female of private secondary school students' performance are dissimilar in whole subjects. However, the separate comparison of male and female students of (a) male female of urban schools; (b) urban male/female of government and as well as (c) rural male/female of private school students' performance is similar level in whole subjects.

Need of the study

The present study has been designed to study the educational scenario of Lakhimpur district in Assam. The study will serve the following purposes:

- The government will be able to take right decisions regarding educational policy formulation in town/district.
- The study will reflect the actual education scenario of town/district.

Statement of the Problem

The problem of the present study has been stated as “**Educational Scenario of Lakhimpur district of Assam**”

Objective of the Study

The study is designed with the following objective:

1. To study the educational scenario of Lakhimpur town/district in Assam.

Methodology of the Study

The Descriptive approach is used in the study. The present study is designed educational scenario of Lakhimpur district of Assam. Keeping in view the nature of study, the survey method was found to be more suitable.

Population of the Study

The population of the present study constituted all the households/Families of Lakhimpur town.

Sample of the Study

The sample is of a small number of representative individuals from the population. This study is conducted on a sample of 10 households of Lakhimpur town.

Tool Used

In order to fulfill the objective of the present study the self prepared questionnaire tool and secondary sources was used for data collection.

Result and Discussion

Collected data through above mentioned objective were analyzed in following way:

Educational Scenario

Education is the backbone for the social and cultural development. Educational scenario can be understood through its literacy, educational institutions enrolments and dropout rate etc. at various levels. To speak on the overall educational scenario of Lakhimpur district it will be worthwhile to discuss the above mentioned parameters of the district.

Literacy Rate of Lakhimpur District

Literacy is the most important indicator for the educational development of any society. Literacy has been defined as the ability to read and write a letter with understanding of language. A person who could merely read but not write was defined as illiterate. The literacy rates of Assam and Lakhimpur districts are shown in **Table – 01**.

Table-1

Population, Literacy Rate, Sex Ratio and Population Density of Lakhimpur, Assam and India in 1991, 2001 and 2011

State/District	Area/s q.km	Year	Population			Literacy Rate			SR	PD/ Km ²
			Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Fem ale		

Lakhimpur	2,277	1991	7,51,517			58.96	68.27	44.99	931	330
		2001	8,89,010	4,55,691	4,33,319	68.6	77.1	59.6	951	390
		2011	10,42,137	5,29,674	5,12,463	78.39	84.66	71.91	968	458
Assam	78,438	1991	2,24,14,286	1,16,58,153	1,07,56,133	52.9	61.87	43.03	923	286
		2001	2,66,38,407	1,37,87,799	1,28,50,608	63.3	71.31	54.6	932	340
		2011	3,11,69,272	1,59,54,927	1,52,14,345	73.18	78.81	67.27	954	397

Source: Census of Assam and India, 1991-2011

It is observed from **Table-01** that the literacy rates for both males and females are higher for Assam than that of Lakhimpur District for years 1991 to 2011. Though there is consistent increase in literacy rate of both males and females from 1991 to 2011, yet literacy rates of Lakhimpur district remained quite behind than that of Assam. This shows that Lakhimpur district is still educationally backward.

It is evident from **Table-01** that the total population of Assam in 2001 was 2,66,55,528 (M:1,37,77,037 and F: 1,28,78,491) and that of Lakhimpur District was 8,89,010 (M: 4,55,691 & F: 4,33,319). The total populations of Assam and Lakhimpur District are 3,11,69,272 (M: & F: 1,59,54,927 & 1,52,14,345) and 1,042,137(M: 529,674) & (F:512,463:) respectively in the year 2011. The population of Assam has increased by 17% in the last decade. The population densities of Assam in 2001 and 2011 are 340 and 397 persons per sq.km, and 390 and 457 respectively for Lakhimpur district as shown in the **Table-01**. The sex ratio of Assam in the 2011 is 954 and that of India is 940 which is evidently one of the better states in the country with respect to sex ratio.

The literacy rates of Assam in 2001 and 2011 are 63.25 and 73.18 respectively whereas 68.6 and 78.39 respectively for Lakhimpur District. The male literacy rates for Assam in 2001 and 2011 are 75.23 and 78.81 with the female literacy rates of 51.85 and 67.27 respectively.

The male literacy rates for Lakhimpur District in 2001 and 2011 are 77.1 and 84.66 and the female literacy rates are 59.6 and 71.91 respectively. The comparison further shows that the females are still lagging behind their male counterparts in Assam and Lakhimpur District.

Regarding the overall educational scenario and status of education of Lakhimpur district, it will be worthwhile to discuss certain important parameters as below.

1. Educational Institution of Lakhimpur District.
2. Enrolment pattern at various levels
3. Children who Dropped- out or left school

Schools/Colleges of Lakhimpur District

The number of educational institutions reported in government documents as on September, 2011 in Lakhimpur district is shown in **Table-2**.

TABLE-2

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS/COLLEGES IN LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT (CATEGORY-WISE)

Category of schools	Provincialised/Government (%)	Venture/Private (%)	Total (%)
Lower Primary School	1377 78.82	370 21.10	1747 100.00 56.19
Upper Primary School	428 44.40	536 55.60	964 100.00 31.01
High School	127 41.78	177 58.22	304 100.00 9.78
Higher Secondary School	25 48.08	27 51.92	52 100.00 1.67
Junior College	4 20.00	16 80.00	20 100.00
Degree College	12 54.55	10 45.45	22.64 100 0.71
Grand total	1973 63.46	1136 36.54	3109 100.00

Source: Dice 2011, Lakhimpur District. Office of the Inspector of School, Lakhimpur District

The Table shows that there are 1747 primary schools, of which 1377 (78.82%) are provincialised and 370 (21.18%) are venture; 964 upper primary schools of which 428 (44.40%) are provincialised and 536 (55.36%) are venture, 304 high school of which 127 (41.78%) are provincialised and 177 (58.22%) are venture, 52 higher secondary schools of which 25 (48%) are provincialised and 27 (51.92%) are venture, as regards different colleges are concern, there are 20 Junior College of which 4 (20%) are provincialised and 16 (80%) are venture and 22 degree Colleges of which 12 (54.55%) are provincialised and 10 (45.45%) are venture in Lakhimpur district. The Table also indicates that there are 3109 educational institutions of which 1973 are provincialised and 1136 are venture in the district. The percentages of provincialised and venture school are 63.46% and 36.54% respectively. It is seen that the percentage of venture schools at upper primary, high school, Higher secondary stage are higher than the provincialised schools in the district. The Government of Assam has not been provincialising the schools for the last 15 years. At present (2010) there are 17,630 venture schools and colleges in Assam (Record of AikyaMorcha: Association of venture school and colleges in Assam). Venture schools and colleges can't provide quality education due to various problems associated with them and a huge number of are debarred from getting quality education in the state.

Types of School Buildings

The school plant is a factor of tremendous importance in education. The more emphasis on speeding up the learning process, the more will be the emphasis on good learning environment. Non functional, meagerly equipped and unattractively managed school plants need to be replaced by plants with superior lighted, attractive buildings, comfortable seating, useful service facilities such as library, multipurpose room, functional playgrounds and classroom with chalk and bulletin boards, filing and storage facilities and public lockers. Although because of financial handicapped all these ideal requirements may not be met yet It is necessary that our school plants become the learning laboratories. They should provide opportunities for the child to do his own study, to study real problem in groups, to think together to arrive at conclusion, to plan constructive programmes, and community a common meeting place for the year round educational recreational programmes. There are no two opinions on the idea that a school building must be excellent planned, spaciouly functionally and with pleasing architectural features. "Buildings are to education as body is the mind". A sound mind can only be there in a

sound body. It is very well expressed in the statement. ‘A fine building makes a fine school and a poor building a poor one’. School be housed in a beautiful building which are not only stimulating centers of education for children but also vital centers of community life. It is well known that unattractive school building causes the low enrolment in the school.

In Lakhimpur district, different school buildings of primary to higher secondary and degree colleges are shown in **Table-3**.

TABLE -3**TYPE OF SCHOOL BUILDING(CATEGORY-WISE) OF LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT**

Category of school	Pucca (%)	Partly Pucca(%)	Katcha (%)	Total (%)
Lower Primary	1101	598	48	1747
(%)	63.02	34.23	2.75	100.00
Upper Primary	414	361	189	964
(%)	42.95	37.45	19.60	100.00
High School	72	163	69	304
(%)	23.68	53.62	22.70	100.00
Higher Secondary	14	32	6	52
(%)	26.92	61.54	11.54	100.00
Junior College	4	11	5	20
(%)	20.00	55.00	25.00	100.00
Degree College	12	7	2	22
(%)	54.55	36.36	9.09	100
Grand Total	1647	1173	319	3109
(%)	52.01	37.73	10.26	100.00

Source: Dice- 11, Lakhimpur District. School Inspector Office, Lakhimpur District

The Table shows that out of 1747 Lower primary schools, 1101 (63.02%) pucca, 598 (34.23%) partly pucca and 48 (2.75%) kutch; out of 964 upper primary schools, 414 (42.95%) are pucca,

361 (37.45%) partly pucca, and 189 (19.60%) kutcha; out of 304 High Schools, 72 (23.68%) possesses pucca, 163 (53.62%) partly pucca and 69 (22.70%) kutcha; out of 52 higher secondary schools 14 (26.92%) are pucca, 32 (61.54%) partly pucca and 6 (11.54%) kutcha; out of 20 Junior college, 4 (20%) pucca, , 11 (55%) partly pucca and 2 (9.09%) kutcha building in Lakhimpur district. It also indicates that there are 1617 (52.01%) pucca , 1173 (37.73%) partly pucca and 319 (10.26%) kutcha buildings out of the total 3,109 academic institutions.

Number of Teachers

From the survey it is found that there are 16,856 teachers of which 10,038 (59.55%) are government schools' teacher and 6,818 (40.45%) are venture school's teachers from primary to higher secondary stage in Lakhimpur district as shown in **Table-4**.

TABLE-4

NUMBER OF TEACHERS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORY OF SCHOOL IN LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT

Category of school	Government school's teacher (%)	Venture schools Teachers (%)	Total teacher (%)
Lower Primary school (%)	4670 86.32	740 13.68	5410 100.00
Upper Primary School (%)	3527 50.03	3523 49.97	7050 100.00
High School (%)	1519 39.37	2339 60.63	3858 100.00
Higher Secondary School (%)	322 59.85	216 40.15	538 100.00
Grand Total (%)	10038 59.55	6818 40.45	16856 100.00

Source: Dice 2011, Lakhimpur District. School Inspector Office, Lakhimpur District

The Table shows that 4,670 (86.32%) lower primary teachers are government school teachers and 740 (13.68%) are venture school teacher out of the total 5410 teachers serving at Lower primary stage; 3527 (50.03%) Government school teachers and 3523 (49.97%) venture school

teachers a total of 7050 serving at the upper primary teachers; 1519 (39.37%) are government school teacher and 2339 (60.63%) are venture school teacher out of a total of 3858 high school teachers and 322 (59.85%) are government school teacher and 216 (40.15%) are venture school teachers out of a total of 538 higher secondary school teachers in Lakhimpur district. It is found that in high school stage, majority of teachers (60.63%) are venture school teacher in the district.

Enrolment Status (Category-wise)

For knowing the status of formal education' Enrollment is the best indicator' to study the educational status of a particular section of the society in a district it is essential to take into account to what extent the particular section accepted the formal education. Enrolling the children into school and colleges is a minimum essential condition for educational development of any section or community. The increase or decrease of enrolment is an index that helps to measure several dimensions of the life of the people of that community. The enrolment figures at various levels of schools (Primary to higher secondary) in Lakhimpur district are shown in the **Table-5**.

TABLE-5

CATEGORY-WISE ENROLMENT STATUS OF LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT UPTO HIGHER SECONDARY CLASES (2011)

CATEGORY OF SCHOOL	ENROLMENT		
	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Lower Primary School	62990 50.99	60549 49.01	123539 100.00 45.76
Upper Primary School	44920 51.74	41900 48.26	86820 100.00 32.16
High School	25518 48.55	27044 51.45	52562 100.00 19.47
Higher Secondary School	3555 50.50	3485 49.50	7040 100.00 2.61
Grand total	136983 50.74	132978 49.26	269961 100.00 100.00

Source: Dice 2011, Lakhimpur District

The Table gives a broad idea of enrolment figures of various levels in the district of Lakhimpur. It shows that total enrolment at primary to higher secondary level is 2,69,961 of which 1,36,983 (50.74%) are boys and 1,32,978 (49.26%) are girls which imply that girls equals the boys in enrolment. At lower primary level, the total enrolment is 1,23,539 of which 62,990 (50.99%) boys and 60,549(49.01%) girls; at upper primary level, the total enrolment is 86,820 of which 44,990 (51.74%) are boys and 41,900 (48%) are girls; at high school level, the total enrolment is 52,562 of which 25,518 (48.55%) are boys and 27,044 (51.45%) are girls; and at higher secondary level, the total enrolment is 7,040 of which 3,555 (50.50%) are boys and 3,485 (49.50%) are girls in Lakhimpur district. The Table further indicates that percentages of enrolment at Lower primary, upper primary, high school and higher secondary level are 45.76%, 32.16%, 19.47% and 2.61% respectively. The highest enrolment is found at lower primary level and lowest at higher secondary level. The enrolment percentage of boys (50.74%) is slightly higher than the girls (49.26%) in Lakhimpur district.

School Teacher and Student Ratio

The total number of schools, teachers, and students and their ratio in Lakhimpur district are shown in the **Table-6**.

TABLE-6

TOTAL NUMBER AND RATIO OF SCHOOLS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT (CATEGORY-WISE-2011)

CATEGORIES	OF	TOTAL NUMBERS			TOTAL RATIO		
		School	Teacher	Students	School-teacher	School-Student	Teacher-Student
Lower Primary		1747	5410	123539	3.12	70.71	22.84
Upper Primary		964	7050	86820	7.31	90.06	12.31
High School		304	3858	52562	12.69	172.90	13.62
Higher Secondary		52	538	7040	10.35	135.38	13.09

Source: Brief Analysis of DISE Data- 2011, Lakhimpur district

The Table shows that at Lower primary level total number of schools, teachers and students are 1,747, 5,410 and 1,23,539 respectively. The school teacher ratio is 3.12, school student ratio is 70.71 and teacher student ratio is 22.84. At upper primary level, total number of schools, teachers and students are 964, 7050 and 86,820 respectively and the school teacher ratio is 7.31; school-student ratio is 90.06 and teacher student ratio is 12.31. Similarly at high school stage, total number of schools, teachers and students are 304, 3858 and 52,562 respectively and school-teacher ratio is 12.69, school student ratio is 172.90 and teacher student ratio is 13.62; and at higher secondary stage, total number of schools, teachers and students are 52, 538 and 7040 respectively and school-teacher ratio is 10.35, school-student ratio is 135.38 and teacher-student ratio is 13.09 in Lakhimpur district in 2011. The student teacher ratio is quite encouraging. This is due to the fact that the teachers are appointed according to the subject or courses of study irrespective of the enrolment in a class.

Findings of the Study

- 1.** The literacy rates of Lakhimpur district are still educationally backward. This is also finding that the females are still lagging behind their males counterparts in Lakhimpur district and Assam.
- 2.** The total educational institutes of Lakhimpur district are 3109. Out of 3109 institutes 1973 are provincialised and 1136 are venture. The percentage provincialised and venture school are 63.46% and 36.54% respectively.
- 3.** This study also find that venture schools and colleges are can't provide quality education due to various problems associated with them and huge number of are debarred from getting quality education in the state.
- 4.** The types of whole (3109) educational institutes' buildings of Lakhimpur district are 1647 pucca, 1173 are partly pucca and 319 institute are katcha.
- 5.** The total numbers of whole educational institution teachers are 16856. Out of 16856 teachers 10038 are government school teachers and 6818 are venture school teachers. This study also finds that in high school stage, majority of teachers (60.63%) are venture school in the district.

6. The total enrolment status of Lakhimpur district are 2,69,961. Out of 2,69,961 enrolment 1,36,983 (50.74%) are boys and 1,32,978 (49.26%) are girls. The highest enrolment found at lower primary level and lowest at higher secondary level.

7. This study also finds that the enrolment percentage of boys (50.74%) is slightly higher than the girls (49.26%) in Lakhimpur district.

8. The school teacher ratio of Lakhimpur district is 3.12, school student ratio is 70.71 and teacher student ratio is 22.84. The student teacher ratio is encouraging. This is due to the fact that the teachers are appointed according to the subject or courses of the study irrespective of the enrolment in class.

Conclusion

Lakhimpur is an eastern district of borderline of Assam. The Lakhimpur is believed to have been originated from the word 'Lakshmi', the goddess of wealth or prosperity. The total area of Lakhimpur district is 2,277 sq. km. and it is divided into 2261.26 and 15.74 sq. km. as rural and urban areas respectively. Total population of Lakhimpur district is 10,42,137; out of this 5,29,674 are males and 5,12,463 are females population (Source: Assam Year Book, 2014). The sex ratio of the district 968 female per 1000 male and density of the population is 458 persons per sq. km. District headquarters and sub-division of Lakhimpur district is North Lakhimpur. At present literacy rates of Lakhimpur district remained quite behind than that of Assam. This shows that Lakhimpur district is still educationally backward.

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