

## **A Contemplative journey of Post- Independence progress in Higher education of Bihar**

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### **Abstract:-**

Bihar has an illustrious and immortal history of organized education system. It is the torch bearer for higher education in India as well as for entire globe with two ancient epicenter of learning in Aryavart as Nalanda and Vikramshila, which were established in 5th and 8th century respectively. In ancient era successive invasion including Aryans, Greeks, Mughals, Mongols, and Europeans till British not only affected our culture but also our education system. Most of them tried to ruin our education system and cultures as these were our greatest strength. British rulers initiated Anglo cultures and modernize our education system for their materialistic gain. India as well as Bihar became victim of British rulers too but in later period they tried to educate our people .In this series in Higher education they established first three universities in 1863 in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras . But Bihar got its first and only university in British rule in 1917 as Patna University.

After independence it was expected that this condition will be better but till now it is again in one of the worst position in higher education with respect to the other states of our country. Hence it becomes necessary to overview its recent position, condition and reason behind it for its betterment.

Recently, Gross enrolment ratio of Bihar is 13.0 whereas in India its 25.8 in which GER of male is 14.5 and female is 11.5 whereas in India its 26.3 for Male and 25.4 for women. National GPI is 0.92 whereas for Bihar its 0.79. There are only 7 colleges available for per lakh population of Bihar having age group 18-23 years. Total number of boys and girls admitted in 770 colleges of Bihar are 1298263 in which students admitted in Ph.D. courses are 2856 including 1902 male and 954 female and 69461 students in Post graduate programmes including 37001 males and 32460 female students. There are total 22651 teachers in higher education including 17910 males and 4741 female. Pupil teacher ratio for all institution including regular and Distance mode its-67 and for Regular mode only its-61 These data are small enough to draw a light upon Bihar's higher education system. There are many challenges in this field to achieve its goal. Every stakeholders are trying to regain its glorious position but now it's just a dream. According to Dr. A.P.J.Kalam we can achieve our dream only when we see it and then restlessly try to achieve it.

**Key words:-** amelioration, paucity, revival, Higher education, astern, haltingly

### **Introduction**

Bihar is one of the most astern and haltingly growing states of India. In 2020 Bihar with a total population of 213 million is the third largest state of India by population. Nearly 40% of Bihar's population ie 1/7 th of our country is below poverty line. Out of 29 backward district of India 26 are in Bihar. Its politics, caste system, lack of resources and non-performance of successive governments converted it into one of the educationally deprived state. In spite of these unfavorable condition Bihari students proved themselves worldwide. In India in last 10 years about 25% of IAS, IPS officers are from Bihar. Many Bihari students are doing well in Engineering, Technology, Medical, research, different competitive exams as IITs, IIMs, AIIMs etc. It means Bihar's students have potential to excel in every situation of life. It may be due to its glorious educational history where Bihar was the epicenter of worldwide scholars with two ancient universities Vikramshila and Nalanda. That time there were tsunami of scholars for attaining higher education and Bihar has been the source of inspiration to all the education system of the world. This honor lost due to successive invasion of Aryans, Greeks, Mughals, Mongols and Europeans till Britishers. As our education system and cultures were our strength

hence all of them targeted to ruin our education system and culture first. During the later-part of British rule Britishers started modern education system in India for own need but here also Bihar saw amelioration.

### **Pre independence journey**

With the recommendation of Wood's Dispatch 1854, first 3 universities were set up in India as Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in 1857. Under Calcutta University in January 1863 Patna College was opened. But with the negligence of British ruler Bihar got its first university as Patna University in the year 1917 with Patna University bill presented by imperial legislative council on September 1917. With the opening of Patna University with restriction of providing only degree level teaching the story of higher education began in Bihar Till independence Bihar had only one university with more than 15 colleges having general stream colleges, Teacher's training colleges, Medical college, veterinary college, engineering college, fine arts, Law college etc. Only one university and these colleges were not sufficient enough to counter the need of the whole Bihar but till the achievement of freedom it remain alone university of the state. It was expected that Bihar will get its historical position after independence.

### **Objectives of this paper:-**

This paper will take a comprehensive look at the various facts of higher education in Bihar after independence to till date.

### **Methodology**

Research in this paper was based on secondary data taken from different research reports, census, journals, official sites of respective colleges etc.

### **Post-Independence Journey**

The importance of higher education is accepted worldwide for the development of human potential. Bihar lost its ancient glory and became stagnant and thus educational scenario of state is very dismal. Before independence where Britishers were established Patna University along with different stream colleges as Engineering, Medical, Teachers' Training etc. After independence Bihar becomes untouched and its own leaders or politicians became fails to achieve its glorious position in higher education in map of country..

### **Beginning Of The Academic Downfall**

First 20 years after independence from 1947 to 1975 only 17 colleges have been taken over by the State Govt. For taking over only date of establishment of college was the criterion & nothing to do with quality and infrastructure of the College. During sixties the then education minister Satendra Narain Sinha contributed in educational reform in Higher education of Bihar and systematize the educational structure but these miraculous changes are ephemeral as later government failed to retain it. After 1970 Bihar government adopted a new policy under the pressure of teachers association of Bihar to convert Private/Affiliated Colleges into Government/Constituent College in phase wise and it continued in the regime of different Chief Minister like Late Karpoori Thakur, Dr Jagganath Mishra and late Bindeshwari Dubey and continued in four phases only during the period 1975-78 as much 280 private College were converted into Constituent College,. In fourth phase, Late Bindeshwari Dubey Govt. took decision for conversion even ignoring the seniority of the College. Looking this popular policy of the State Govt. large number of College were setup mostly by the political leader of the state to appoint their kith & Kin Even without proper qualification as University teachers, and in due course such teachers got permanent cadre.

This mode of appointment becomes available on paying huge amount in the name of donation. V.S.Jha committee was appointed to review the condition of higher education in Bihar have reported that opening colleges became the status symbol of leading MP/MLA or MLC's of the period, and opened the door for disgrace in higher education in Bihar. Such political leader appointed their wife, daughters, sons, son-in-laws as principal, lecturer even without having essential qualification for the post against whom they were appointed, these Colleges were affiliated one.

### **Present Status Of Higher Education In Bihar**

In higher education present Bihar is at the lowest position among major states of India. It has an inadequate educational infrastructure and resources to counter the need of its alarming population rate admitted in higher education which creates a huge mismatch between demand and supply. Its one of the main obstacle for its development is disturbing rate of its increasing population. Gross enrolment ratio of Bihar is 10.5 in 2010-11 which is now 14.4 in 2016-17. It increases in respect of Bihar but still lowest in country where as GER of Tamilnadu is 46.9 and for country this ratio is 25.2 (AISHE 2017-18).

Researchers found out that 25% in India and 37.8% of Bihar's teachers could not be found during announced visits to school, the worst in India as well as one in world too. Recently Bihar has only 7 colleges per 1 lakh students aged 18-23 where Indian average is 26.

The educational institutional capacity is measured with the help of some indicators as number of universities, colleges, Number of Teachers, Number of students, Teacher-Students ratio etc. At present scenario these indicators we can see with the help of following tables:-

#### **1. Number and Types of Universities**

At the time of independence Bihar had only one university and few colleges. Now it has many well-known universities and colleges which are provided education in both medium regular as well as distance education. In which Nalanda Open universities established in 1987 is the second largest open university in India. List of different types of universities in Bihar with respect to India is given as:-

**Table-I**  
**Types of universities**

Type of University	India	Bihar
Central University	45	4
Central Open University	1	-
Institution of National Importance	101	3
State Public University	351	13
Institution under State Legislature Act.	5	1
State Open University	14	1
State Private University	262	1
State Private Open University	1	-
Deemed University(Govt.)	33	1
Deemed University(Govt. Aided)	10	-
Deemed University(Private)	80	-
Grand Total	903	24

(source:-

ASHE-2017-18)

2 central university of Bihar is under consideration. As Bihar is 3<sup>rd</sup> most populated state of India in this respect with respect to table-1, we can say that, this list can't fulfill the demand of whole population. Important universities of Bihar have enough burdens to maintain law and order as well as provide quality education to its students. These universities are generally overloaded. In Bihar there are 7 colleges

available for per lakh students whereas highest college density in country is 53 of Karnataka and 59 of Telangana. Overviews of these universities are as follows:-

**Table-2**  
**Important Institutions of Higher Education in Bihar**

Name of University	No. of Constituent College	No. of affiliated College	No. of University/ PG Deptt. & Centres	Date of establishment of University	No of Districts	UGC grant allocation In XII <sup>th</sup> plan (in crores)	Working Faculties
TMBU, Bhagalpur	12	10+11 (B.Ed. college)	34	12-july 1960 Bifurcated from Bihar University	07	12-37	1875
BNMU Madhepura	13	14		1992	07	11.64	1004
LNMU Darbhanga	43	24	21	5 Aug 1972	04	14.33	1915
CUB-Motihari	-	-	-	2009	-	176.00	0026
BRAU Muzaffarpur	39	40	-	2.1.1952 Bifurcated of PU	06	13.72	1310
JPU Chapra	21	12		22.11.1990	03	11.03	812
PU Patna	10		42	1917 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	01	12.53	870
Magadh Gaya	44	85	25	2 March 1962	06	14.32	1775
VKSU Ara	17	47	20	22 Oct 1992	04	9.70	2522
Nalanda International University (Rajgir)	-	-	-	2014	-	-	-
KSDU Darbhanga	15	72	09	1961	Entire Bihar	9.79	0402
MMU Persia Univ	Madarsa-116, KRC-102	-	-	10 April 1998	-	-	0019
AKU, Patna	09	08	21	2008	-	-	-
Chanakya National Law	-	-	-	2006	-	-	-

Universit y							
Aligarh Muslim Universit y (Kisangan ) Central Universit y	-	-	-	2013	Entire Bihar	-	-
Bihar Agricultu re Univ. Bhgalpur	-	-	-	2009			
Patliputra Universit y	25	125	-	18 March 2018	2		
Purnea Universit y	14	20	-	18 March 2018	4		
Munger Universit y	17	12	-	18 March 2018	5		
Gopal Narayan Singh Universit y	-		-	18 March 2018			

(source:-respective university sites)Some data are not available.

## 2. Enrolment

Bihar has massive expansion in terms of enrolment in higher education. There are average 2,142 students enrolled in its 744 colleges which is highest in Indian states.(AISHE 17-18), in India its 721 with 39071 colleges and lowest in Karnataka with average 381 students per college. However rate of growth of higher education institution( including general and vocational colleges) remained low with respect to national scenario. In higher education 1311985 students were admitted in 2010-11 which becomes 1602860 in 2015-16. This rate of increase in enrolment is alarming for poor infrastructure, financial and social constraint in development of condition of higher education in state.

## 3. Teacher-Students ratio

Mostly all colleges and universities of Bihar are suffering with acute shortage of teachers. Recently BPSC appointed Assistant Professors in general subjects with their advertisement in 2014. But speed of appointment is very low. Till date they are not able to complete this process. Apart from this universities were advised to appoint guest faculties against sanctioned post. Some universities were also appointed guest faculties some are in the process of appointing them. According to AISHE 17-18 total number of teachers in Higher education of Bihar is 22651 including 17910 male and 4741 female. Pupil teacher ratios are as:-

All institution-Regular and Distance mode-67, Regular mode-61  
 Universities and colleges- Regular and Distance mode-77, regular mode-70  
 University and constituent units-Regular and Distance-106, Regular-36  
 These ratios are one of the highest with respect to rest states of nation.

#### 4. **Technical and vocational education**

We are in modern age and entering into Digital era but still colleges of Bihar have more enrolment in general stream in-stead of Professional, Vocational and Technical Education. Bihar has about 8% population of our country but it has only 0.35% of Engineering colleges, 1.75% of Medical colleges and about 0.8% of Management colleges with respect to country. Due to lack of such institutions we don't have required number of skilled entrepreneur, managers, skilled teachers etc. which ultimately becomes hurdle in the social and economic development of our state as well as our country. Number of universities in Bihar with specialisation are as- general university-16, Agriculture-2, Law-1, Technical-1, Medical-2, Sanskrit-1, oriental Learning-1. Respective number of colleges in Bihar with specialisation are as follows:-

**Table-3**  
**Number of colleges with specialisation**

General	499
Agriculture	6
Architecture	-
Arts	3
Commerce	1
Computer Application	2
Teacher Education	134
Engineering & Technology	28
Fine Arts	1
Fisheries	-
Home Science	1
Law	17
Management	2
Medical	18
Nursing	5
Para medical	1
Pharmacy	1
Sanskrit	47
Veterinary	1
Other	3
Total	770

#### 5. **Lack of Resources**

Total population of Bihar is 12.3 crores and population of 18-23 years aged group is about 11403681(MHRD report for projected population 2016). State government due to resource constraints as lack of infrastructure, no electricity, bad roads, no companies etc., state government alone is not able to full-fill the demand for higher education. Thus, a number of private educational institutes have been set up in Bihar, which are generally institutes of Technical, Medical and Vocational education.

#### 6. **Employment**

Colleges of Bihar are over-crowded and never had a private company which can attract its students. More than half of its population is dependent on agriculture. Hence, as a result young

generation of state has only option to attract towards Government job as a career option. It has limited number of vacancies so it can never fulfill demands of students. Most of the institutions of Bihar don't have campus selection facilities and if it is available then its ratio for whole admitted students are like a drop in the ocean. Hence, for better future and quality education this state regularly suffers with brain drain.

### **Steps to Quality Control by U.G.C**

Due to routine political interference, attack on University autonomy, financial dependency over government, infighting between Chief Minister and Chancellor regarding appointment of vice-chancellor. The quality of teaching and research has gone to degrade to such extent that good quality students migrated from Bihar to Delhi University. In some of the constituent colleges, didn't have a single faculty from last several years. The post vacated by the retirement of teachers could not be filled up ultimately U.G.C compelled to amend its regulation 2012 making it mandatory for all the universities and colleges of Bihar to apply for National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 other wise UGC could stop grant to them from 1<sup>st</sup> April-2015. Now Bihar Public Service Commission is recruiting Assistant Professors in vacant post in universities and colleges but still many seats are vacant.

Out of 13 conventional universities and 260 constituent colleges of Bihar at present 7 universities and 110 colleges of Bihar is NAAC accredited, and more than 75 colleges uploaded their SSR to NAAC website.

### **Research Findings**

In my opinion higher education in Bihar is in ICU, a more sordid drama on the other hand continues to be played out between Governor (Chancellor) and Chief Minister of State, particularly for the appointment of Vice Chancellor [TNN] and ultimately Supreme Court of India has to come forward with Iron hand. In the recent past almost all the former VC is under the radar of vigilance enquiry. As per University Act VCs are appointed for three years but they rarely complete their three years tenure, in most of the Universities average effective tenure of VC is approximately only one year in place of three years. A report of the expert committee on education in 2006 has suggested re-examining the power and functioning of chancellor and state Govt. A comprehensive review of University Acts and Statute and modification in mode of appointment of VCs were recommended. However under the premise of the supreme court of India mode of appointment of VC was changed, a search committee was constituted with all India basis composition and under the guideline of Supreme Court university act was amended and VCs were appointed on new pattern. Lack of infrastructure, substandard teaching, faculty crunch, lack of NAAC accreditation, non-presence of teachers and students in the class room all have made a pitiable condition for higher education less than 1% of state population is enrolled for higher education. One may amazed to learn that about 8 lakhs of students appear in +2 examination and on passing about six lakhs may find road of higher education who will like to consume such number for enrolment where GER in higher education in Bihar is least in the country according to UGC it is about 14.4% and below its neighboring state Jharkhand & Rajasthan. Women enrolment increases with a rate of 0.5% in 2017-18 whereas Sikkim has a growth rate of 12.3% which is highest in nation for women enrolment.

The total number of boys and girls admitted in 770 colleges are more than 12 lakhs (1298263) against the Bihar population of nearly 12.3 crores. To attain the national level, the states needs at its additional general colleges (Arts, Science and Commerce), engineering colleges, medical colleges, education colleges and polytechnics colleges.

In the XI<sup>th</sup> Plan, the state Govt. had signed MoU with the Central Government for opening 25<sup>th</sup> Model Colleges at district level. The center was to provide all the necessary funds for the purpose. But,

not a single model college could be established so far. The state Governments scheme of increasing the number of Universities has also not materialized so far. The recent Government move to convert 50 selected colleges into Centers of Excellence is also moving at snails.

Teacher Educator College in every University should be established by the Government from B.Ed. and M.Ed. Course till now except Patna University none of the College the University has permanent faculty in Teacher Education College. Only few universities as Patna and L.N.M. University Darbhanga have provision of M.Ed. education in the State.

To patch up the national gap Bihar needs much assistance as shown below.

**Table-4**  
**Specialisation-wise requiremet of colleges**

	General	Engineering	Medical	education	Others	Total	Polytechnic
Bihar	0.69	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.11	0.88	0.01
All India	1.01	0.21	0.15	0.24	0.23	1.84	0.14
Colleges Required	1190	246	176	286	267	2166	163
Deficit	373	236	139	253	133	1135	146

(Source- MHRD (2010), Higher Education Abstract 2010 and census2006)

In 2014, Dr. N.R. Madhav Menon Committee constituted by Bihar Govt. in 2013 has submitted draft “comprehensive Bihar University Act” which is open to public suggestions before its enactment. Under directive of NAAC & RUSA on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014-15 members higher education council with state education minister as ex-officio chairman and Dr. Kameshwar Jha a retired Principal of L.N.M.U as executive Vice-Chairman was constituted which will monitor planning, Coordination, making infrastructure development pay of higher education and assisting University and colleges to obtain grant from UGC so far not a single meeting of the Council is held. This Council is empowered to recommend UGC on funding for Universities of Bihar.

**Table-5**  
**BUDGET ALLOCATION**

Year	Expenditure of Education (Rs.Crore)			Expenditure on Education	
	Plan	Non-plan	Total	As Percentage of total budget	As percentage of expenditure on social services
2010-11	3356.97	4667.28	8024.25	15.8	49.7
2011-12	2901.18	6836.34	9737.52	29.8	49.8
2012-13	4949.63	8439.03	13388.66	19.35	57.94
2013-14	3039.99	9907.18	14946.17	18.59	56.62
2014-15	8258.51	9574.42	17832.93	18.83	56.23
2015-16	10303.31	9082.32	19385.63	17.26	53.93
CAGR	35.6	7.2	---	---	---

**(Source:-State Government Finances, GOB, Financial department educational survey 2016-17)**

Table shows the share of expenditure on education in total budget and also with respect to total expenditure on social services. The share of expenditure on education in total expenditure on social services was 49.7 percent in 2010-11 maximum in 2012-13 and then decreases gradually till 2015-16. Though the plan and non-plan expenditure on education has increased over the years, the share of education in total budget has declined from 19.35 percent in 2012-13 to 17.26 percent in 2015-16. The total expenditure on education has been growing steadily at a satisfactory rate of 8.7 percent.

State GDP is 515634 crores in 2018-19 in which total expenditure in education is 32125.64 crores. Expenditure on Higher Education in state is 1.15 % GSDP in 2018-19 and proposed percentage is 2.00 for 2019-20. The budgetary allocation on education in Bihar is 17.9% of its expenditure to education in 2019-20. Conditions are looking favorable and enhancing but due to hard and worst governance no visible impact is seen on the surface.

**Recent Initiatives taken by State Government**

To develop the condition of higher education ,state government has taken various initiatives in recent years as opening of several institutions and some are in queue as BIT Meshra (Patna extension), NIFT Patna, Central university of Bihar (Bodh-Gaya), Nalanda International University etc. Some other measures are taken to initiate towards better future of higher education as:- Try to conciliate and regularize the academic calendar of universities as well as colleges ,Biometric Attendance of teachers and non-teaching staffs, Free Wi-Fi in universities and colleges, steps taken for strengthening and modernizing conventional libraries, e-libraries and laboratories, Introduction of University Management Information System(UMIS), Capacity building of Faculty members, introduction of employable and add-on courses, increase in scholarship for deprived community, Provision of financial support to women education through “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao”, free education for girls, Opening of model Degree colleges, 108 Knowledge Resource Centers Open by MMNAP university, Patna, launched Student Credit Card for Higher Studies , Try to add more knowledge exchange programs to encourage innovation and research, increase intake capacity and quality of Teacher-Education in state, colleges have been encouraged to start Professional and career oriented courses, 20% enrolment seats were increased in colleges and Post graduate departments, colleges and universities are encouraged for their Accreditation ect. These are only some steps, many more steps are taken to uplift higher education of Bihar from its almost lower position in Indian state. Recent policy initiatives and improvements in higher education enrolment show that Bihar is making progress in improving its education.

**Conclusion**

The floating trend of recruiting agency, and neglecting recruitment of faculties, has thrown Bihar's higher education in I.C.U. Even the portion of Bihar went into Jharkhand has not too much effected the higher education portfolio. Almost all teaching Universities and colleges are still in Bihar. The most pertinent question is that institution of 1916 B.H.U has attained International scenario, Delhi University of 1922 has attained 1<sup>st</sup> rank in INDIA [India To-Day Survey 2013] and international rank 474 [QSworld University ranking-2020]. Only Central university of South Bihar got 94<sup>th</sup> position in top 100 universities of India(MHRD list 2020)Now it is be searched what was the cause of lagging behind Patna University which is of 1917 as simple one. Why should not Patna Science college, B.N.College, T.N.B. College Bhagalpur, L.S. College Muzaffarpur, Patna women's college etc. be looked with same

respect and pride as colleges of Delhi by the sociologists and youth of today and even by faculties. However in the period of present C.M Nitish Kumar IIT, AIIMS, Chankya Law University, Chandragupta Institute of Management came to and started functioning around Patna.

We have very grim picture of enrolments of 18-23 years age group in higher education approximates 1% of the 12 crores population. There are several government acquired constituents colleges having zero faculty in various subject even the 75% attendance is reported on paper, the question is who engaged their classes and how syllabus have been completed all these things are to be solved. Frequent controversial approach between state govt. and chancellor badly effect the functioning of the Universities. Now every one of the state whether policy maker, administrator, educationist student's organisation watching the fate of Madhav Menon reforms committee report. The present chief minister claiming good governance in the state has no impact on higher education section. No step has been taken to delink Intermediate teaching from universities, acute shortage of faculties, and introduction of semester system without revamping examination sections. It requires a surgery. Recently appointed VCs[2014] through search committee is one more step towards destruction as most of them are from outside of Bihar are not well familiar with the state of affairs and their appointments are being challenged in the Patna High Court. Senate-Syndicate have become ornamental institutions every order of the VC are Challenged in court as most of them are not done judiciously, more than 4000 Writ and Contempt cases are pending in the court against Universities. In most of the case High Court order is not obeyed by the VC and ultimately court has to treat him for imprisonment to comply its own order in contempt cases. Lawlessness in the campus is at the climax every organ of the university is functioning at the direction of the rowdy elements of the campus. The only solution is handing over the Universities to Army personnel. We can hope that we will achieve what we want but miles to go before we sleep.

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