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A study of higher education infrastructural back-up in Bihar, with special reference to selective areas in Patna (A case study conducted with a retrospective flair)

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Abstract : Higher education had a facelift over the past few years and there has been a rapid development of educational infrastructure in Bihar. This study analyses – the impact of higher educational infrastructure development in the state, effect of recent trend in development of economy and the mindset of youth towards this development. It reveals the level of satisfaction of students towards the standard of academic input provided by the institution, infrastructural

facilities, and financial assistance to the students etc. The study brings into light the fact that lack of experienced faculty and adequate accommodation facilities are the main areas of concern of the present day. These have to be looked into in order to arrest brain drain.

Keywords : Higher education, Infrastructure, Target group.

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Introduction :

In the ancient past, Bihar was a major centre of learning, teaching and research work. There were two internationally renowned universities, i.e., the university of Nalanda and Vikramshila. Nalanda University was setup for providing education in Political Science and Economics, while Vikramshila was known for education in Tantras. Unfortunately, during the medieval period this system of education was destroyed by repeated invasions. Later, when the British ruled the country, these areas remained neglected.

It was during the later part of the British rule in India that Bihar saw a revival in the field of education. The British established a university at Patna and some other institutes for higher education, like Science College, Patna College, Prince of Wales Medical College (now known as Patna Medical College and Hospital), and Bihar Engineering College (now known as The National Institute of Technology, Patna). However, the graph of educational growth did not rise in post Independence.

Currently, there is a huge gap in demand and supply of education in the state. Hence, students are migrating from the state for higher education. There is a large number of students studying in institutions of higher education in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, U.P, Delhi etcetra. The state requires more schools and institutes for higher education.

This study identifies and analyses the overall educational infrastructure present in Bihar, and the measures to strengthen it. This study is based upon a response frame work gathered and compiled by exploring the different sections of the audience groups.

This study focuses upon the areas concerning Management, Technology, Medicine and Legal studies as focal areas for higher education.

Hypothesis of the Research :

Higher education has had a face lift over the past five years with the change in government in Bihar. There has been a rapid development of educational infrastructure in state. To a great extent arresting of Brain Drain has been possible, and this is what which is being assumed but needs to be studied and reported, so that hidden problems may be identified and a proper system based approach may be adopted.

Objective :

The objectives of this research are :

- To assess and analyze the impact of higher educational infrastructure development in Bihar.
- To study the effect of this recent development trend on the Economy of the State.
- To assess the mindset of youth towards this recent development, which has made this sector very important.

Methodology :

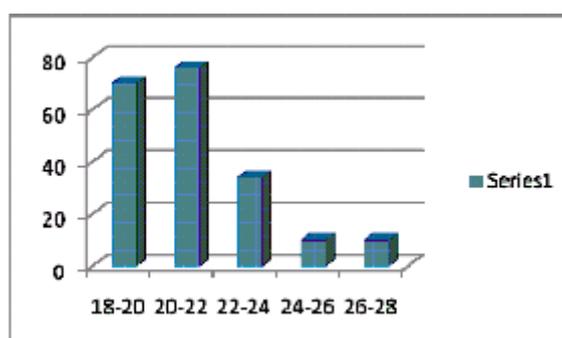
This study was carried out within the city of Patna with reference to 200 respondents randomly taken from the different social strata irrespective of caste, creed, religion and gender. We also used Internet and Journal to collect secondary data. The study was conducted by using a structured schedule comprising of different variety of questions and the result was subsequently analyzed and interpreted by using different statistical tools.

Major Findings of the Research :

The research has revealed several interesting observations.

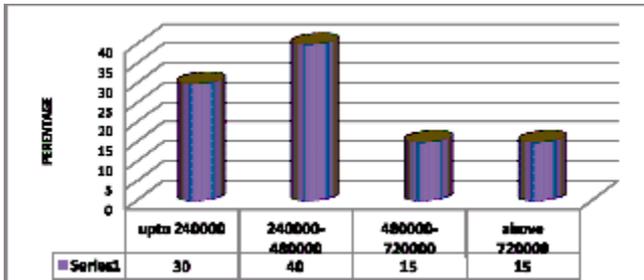
NO. OF STUDENTS UNDER DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS

AGE	NO. OF STUDENTS
18-20	70
20-22	76
22-24	34
24-26	10
26-28	10



*Our study revolved around respondents between 18 to 28 years of age, and a frequency chart for the same is given above.

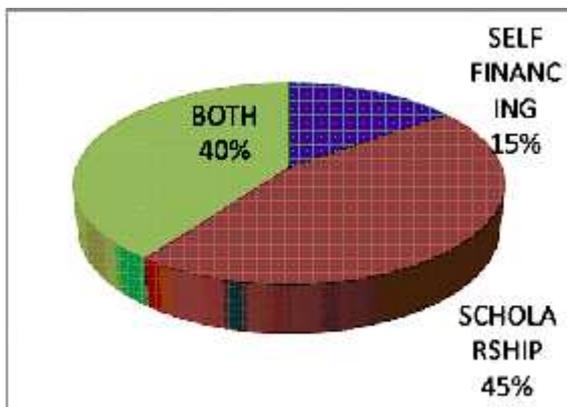
FAMILY INCOME PROFILE



*During our research we found that the students pursuing higher education in Bihar are generally from middle income group.

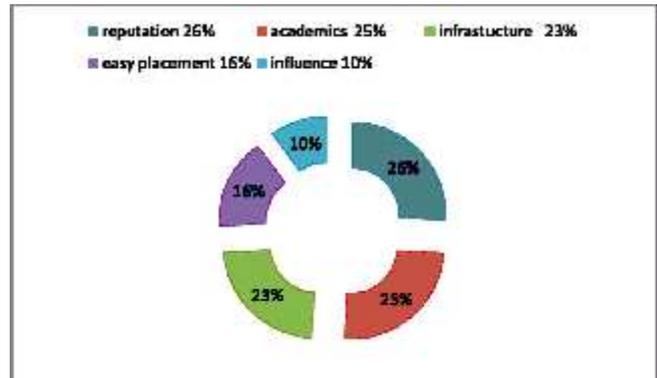
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STUDENTS

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	NO. OF INSTITUTES
SELF FINANCING	3
SCHOLARSHIP	9
BOTH	8



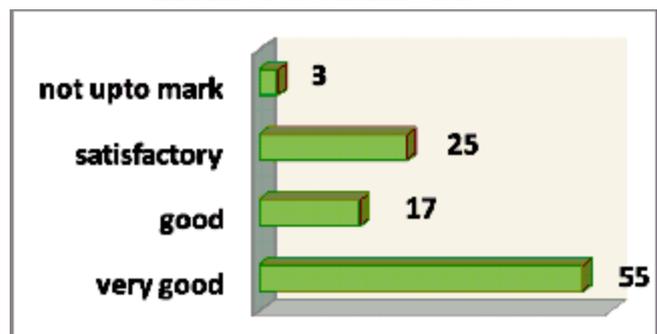
*45% of institutes provide scholarship on merit basis, 15% institutes do not provide any financial assistance from their end, the students are either self financed or approach banks for education loans, while 40% institutes provide both, subject to various conditions, like family income profile, merit etc.

REASON FOR PREFERENCE



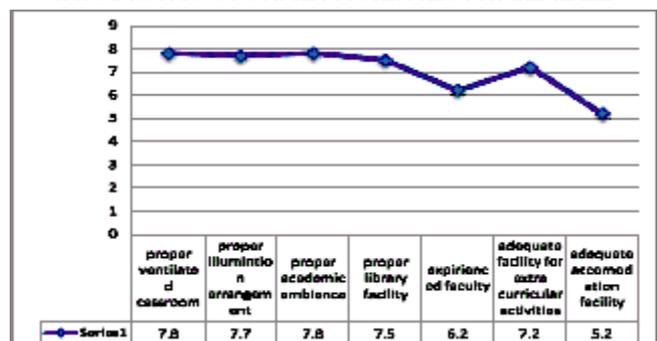
*As per our research, 26% of students preferred to study in the institutes in Bihar because of their reputation, 23% gave preference due to infrastructure, 25% due to the academic ambience, 16% due to easy placement provided here, and 10% were influenced by others to study here.

LEVEL OF ACADEMIC INPUT



*It reveals the satisfaction of students towards the level of academic input provided by the institution. While 55% of respondents rate their institution's academic input as very good, 17% think of it as good, 25% think it is satisfactory though improvements are necessary, and only 3% think it as not up to mark.

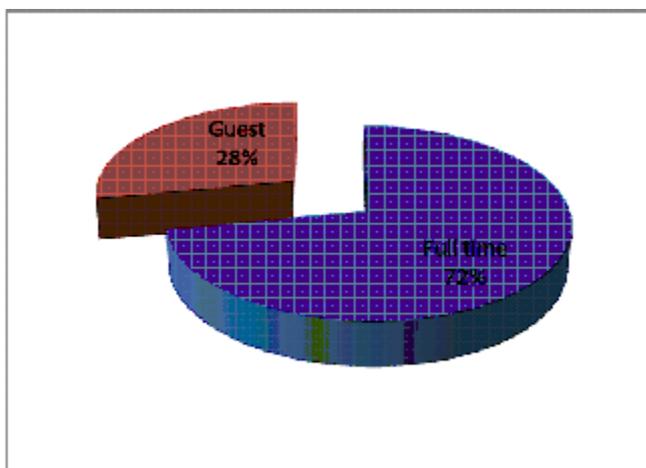
INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE



*Another finding was regarding the infrastructural facilities available in the higher education institutes in Bihar. Almost all the institutes provide basic facilities like proper classrooms and academic ambience library etc, however, there is lack of experienced faculty and a need to provide adequate accommodation to its students .

FACULTY COMPLIMENT SYSTEM

Faculty system	Percentage(%)
Full-time	72
Guest	28



*The pie-chart above shows that 72% of the faculty compliment system comprises of full time teachers, whereas 28% comprise of guest lecturers.

Conclusion :

The conclusion drawn from this research study specifies and highlights the recent development in Higher Educational Infrastructure in Bihar. We came to know about various institutions offering a variety of courses. We also came to know about the real time teaching standards.

These are the major findings which form a basis of our impression write-up.

As per our research, 26% of students preferred to study at the institutes in Bihar because of its reputation,23% gave preference due to

infrastructure,25% due to the academic ambience,16% due to easy placement provided here, and 10% were influenced by others to study here. We also found that the students pursuing higher education in Bihar are generally from middle income group.

Another finding was that 45% of institutes provide scholarship on merit basis,15% institutes do not provide any financial assistance from their end, the students are either self financed or approach banks for education loans, while 40% institutes provide both, subject to various conditions, like family income profile, merit etc.

On an average, about 200 students per institute are enrolled in Bihar. This shows that there has been a considerable check on “Brain Drain”. However there is still inadequate industrial setup in Bihar to absorb this Human Resource.

The entire research study was an eye opener and could be utilised as a basis for further research and development in this area.

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