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Challenges of unit cost Control of higher education in B.T.A.D

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Abstract

The paper tries to evaluate the problem of unit cost control for graduating a student in BTAD. The study conducted in the various higher education institute in the 4 district of B.T.A.D(Bodoland territorial area districts) brought to light various cause and reasons for increasing of cost of educating a student in the institute of BTAD area. The study evaluated that the cost of higher education is higher in BTAD because of various factor and lack of management ability of the institute to impart education in the area.

Introduction

B.T.A.D always has been in one or other crisis. The educational upliftment is in going process in the four districts under B.T.A.D. The level of education in the area as compared to level of country is still long way to go. The higher educational institute in B.T.A.D is limited and the entire populations depend on the few available in the area. The cost incurred by an institute for graduating a student is unstable and largely high, because of the low number of successful student as compared to the student enrolment. The institutions calculate unit cost considering the factor such as infrastructural cost, teaching staff salary, nonteaching staff salary, development expenses. The institution of B.T.A.D is under construction so for the last few years the infrastructure cost has raised to its height, which has lead to the increasing in the unit cost along with the development activities as funded by central, state or other authority for development of the area.

The unit cost is calculated with a formula as under

$$\frac{\text{Total expenses}}{\text{Total successful candidate}}$$

Unit cost control in B.T.A.D is the challenge for the entire education system as the strategy adopted for the purpose is not able to bring out the success so far. B.T.A.D education system has not been able to fulfill the necessity of the area, for the various problems influencing it. Unit cost measurement with the factor determining in the area is not only a challenge but a move towards the dark without any route further on. The study so conducted brought to light the pro and con of the cause of the failure of the B.T.A.D education system.

The finding of the study indicated that the cause of the increasing of unit cost of various institute vary with the time and reason. If B.T.A.D are to cut of “the unit cost of higher education” the strategies are to be designed studying the problem prevailing in the area.

Objective

1. To determine cause of high unit cost
2. To determine factor influencing the unit cost

Position of higher education of B.T.A.D area

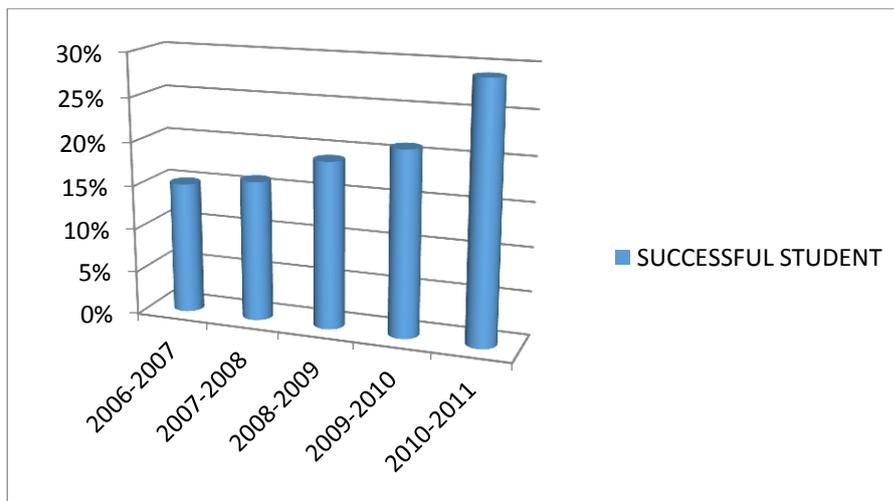
B.T.A.D area is economically backward near about 95% of people lives under village, cut off from all the basic facilities as needed. Education is lagging behind as number of institution as needed is not available or the

facilities need to be provided is not equally distributed. The number of college imparting education in B.T.A.D is less than 35 in number. The higher education institution in BTAD are under various status like government, private, provincialised and deficit grant-in –aid system. So, the benefit enjoyed by all the institution is not same at a time. At the same time the institutional cost or cost incurred for salary or development activity are also not same.

The average percentage of successful student for the last five years is highlighted in the table below:-

Serial number	Period	Successful Student
1	2006-2007	15%
2	2007-2008	16%
3	2008-2009	19%
4	2009-2010	21%
5	2010-2011	29%

Chart showing successful student (for five year period) in BTAD.



Source: field survey (institution report of B.T.A.D) Considering the total pass student in the five year period successful candidate percentage is determined.

The low percentage of successful student is for various causes such as

1. Weak education system
2. Lack of trained staff
3. Lack of environment for education
4. Weak development facilities

Education environment is still to be developed if the successful number is increase, the study viewed that along with the system of education prevailing in B.T.A.D. the facilities to be provided for staff and student is always not available so if the turn over is needed to be developed the promotional step are to be designed in among the system in education.

unit cost is by increasing number of successful student. For increasing the number of successful student both student as well as staff needs to be aware of the problem, so that it can be controlled. Cost included for calculating unit cost of higher education is never been same it changes with the environment and the factors of the system in education and the external part of education in B.T.A.D. The controlling factor is to be designed according to the necessity of the area as the present scenario of education in the area is much backward to that of the countries education position.

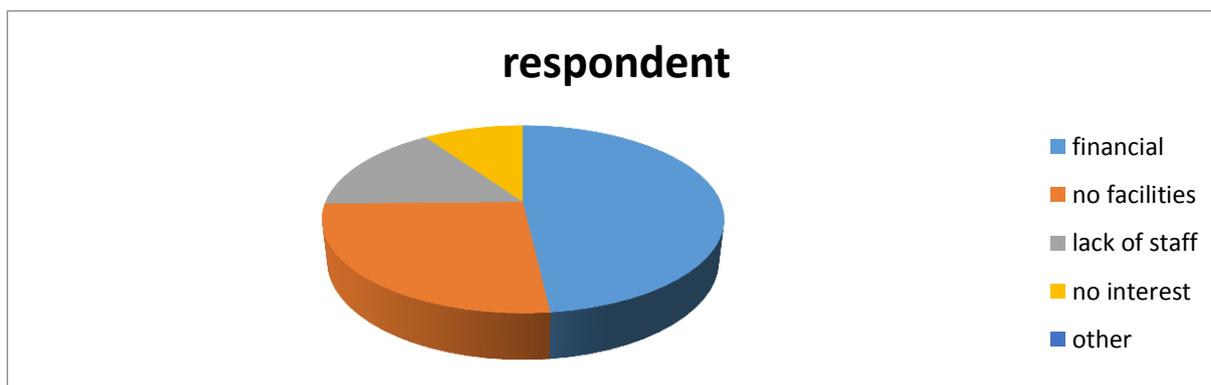
Control of higher education unit cost

The cost incurred cannot be deducted as expense incurred for infrastructural development is must for providing facilities for the student. The only means to cut off

The problem as estimated during the study from the respondent are

Serial number	Problem	Respondent in percentage
1	Financial	40
2	No facilities	22
3	Lack of staff	13
4	No interest	8
5	Other	17

Chart showing the problem of higher education:-



Source: field survey

Finding

The region is economically poor. So, most of the student had to put emphasis on earning then learning, which lead to drop out or unsuccessfulness.

Causes behind high unit cost of higher education in BTAD are

1. Low successful candidate
2. Weak management ability

As shown in the above table it's very clear that the student successfully passing out degree from the institute of B.T.A.D is very low. Management ability also comes to question as even after huge investment for institutional cost the expected result is not outlet. As responded most of the institute has a high expense for development and

even some of the institute keep no proper record of their expense. So, it turns us to think that if unit cost of higher education is high, institution inefficiency is one of the main causes.

Suggestion

The education needs instant improvement, if B.T.A.D is to develop all other sector of the area.

1. Quality based education from elementary level should be encouraged
2. Development and awareness program must be conducted to encourage student
3. Training to staff must be conducted to understand the student better
4. Government must take initiative to set up more educational institute
5. Development facilities should be provided
6. Security of earning after learning must be taken care of by the government.

The study so undertaken is just a step to point out the real picture of B.T.A.D, increasing cost of educating student. The above suggestion can be a step that can be taken by government as well as the administrative body to control the unit cost of higher education in B.T.A.D.

Conclusion

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The higher educational institutes in B.T.A.D are in need of quick growth. For better performance of the higher education, the elementary level of the education system needed to be developed, as because the weak categories of student turn over towards the college cannot be expected to bring out the best result in higher education. Lacking of awareness was seen among the B.T.A.D student in the matter of importance of education or the improvement criteria for better result. So it becomes absolutely necessary to take a step for development through encouragement of student. The unit cost is higher as investment on infrastructural cost has increase recently but it could have been much lesser if the vast difference prevailing in between enrolment and successful student would not be higher. On the part of all people engaged in higher educational program in BTAD it became compulsory to think innovatively to create an atmosphere of learning in among the student. Along with all step possible to be taken for student development management of the institute must be efficient enough to utilise the resource without wastage.

BTAD education system need quick look, and to develop the system necessary facilities needed to be developed by institute or by government interference. Problem of dropout or disturbance can be seen in among the student continuing in higher education for financial crisis or for lack of security after study. Immediate step to secure them needed to be taken by government to prepare the student mentally to get successful in higher education.

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