

Financing Higher Education In India A Study With Special Reference To The Technical Private Institutions In West Bengal

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Abstract: This research work aims to analyze the financing of higher education in India with a special reference to the technical private institutions in west Bengal. It can be said that in India funding of higher education is borne by the state governments by around 35%. On the other hand, the central government also funds education at a significant level. Numerous technical private institutions within are superintended through self-financing. Heritage Institute of Technology, Techno India University, the Institute of Engineering and Management (IEM), and Kolkata can be considered as some top players in this field. The number of private technical institutions is a lot higher in west Bengal just like in other states of West Bengal. On the other hand, the annual fee in those private institutions ranges from 3 lakh rupees to 5 lakh rupees in the case of various courses provided by them. In this case, the students who take admissions to these colleges are the ones financing themselves through their whole education lifecycle within that college. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology affiliates most of these technical institutions. On the other hand, various other universities such as Amity University, Techno India University, and Adamas University atr also there that provides higher education in west Bengal in the Technological sector. Around 88% of higher education technical institutions across India are privately owned colleges. The West Bengal Private Universities Bill came into action in 2012 to encourage private financing and investment in the case of Higher education in West Bengal. This resulted in the enhancement of the GDP of this state at a significant level as several National and International business groups have shown interest in this section and students from all over the country come to study at these colleges. Secondary data will be collected to complete the research from various sources on the internet. This will help in ensuring the successful completion of the study and accurate results can be achieved in this process.

INTRODUCTION

The Technical private institutes in West Bengal have started to increase from the very beginning of this decade. Many researchers have accused the political transformation of West Bengal for the industrial landfall of this state, when Communist Party of India was completely vanquished by the current ruling party in 2011. One of the most important factories in the technical field called *Jessop & Co. had closed its 226 year old Dum Dum Factory production in 2014*. Many researchers have stated this incident as the *beginning of privatization of technical institutes in West Bengal*. This research is aiming to analyze financial aspects of higher education in India especially in West Bengal. In order to reach toward a specific outcome, the researchers have developed a comparative study of fees and Education structure of Government Institutes like *MAKAUT* and Private technical institutes like *IEM, Techno India, Amity* and many more.

Research Aim

Aim of this research is “to analyze the Financing of Higher Education in India with a special reference to the technical private institutes in West Bengal”

Research Objectives

Objective of this research are:

- To develop comparative analysis of fees structure of Government and Private technical institutions
- To develop comparative analysis of administrative structure in Government and Private institutes
- To identify impact of current GDP rate on financing these institutes
- To identify the impact of “West Bengal Private Universities Bill” in higher education of this State

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Approach

Deductive approach has been taken in this research, in which statistical information of the past decade has been assessed to reach a logical outcome (pressbooks.bccampus.ca, 2022¹). The research hypotheses have been assessed in each step of approaching this research.

Research Design

¹pressbooks.bccampus.ca 2022, *Deductive Approaches*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: [pressbooks.bccampus.ca/jibcresearchmethods/chapter/1-7-deductive-approaches-to-research/#:~:text=A%20deductive%20approach%20to%20research,theories%20\(see%20figure%201.5\).](https://pressbooks.bccampus.ca/jibcresearchmethods/chapter/1-7-deductive-approaches-to-research/#:~:text=A%20deductive%20approach%20to%20research,theories%20(see%20figure%201.5).)

The *Descriptive Research design* has been implemented comprehensively as well as systematically describes various aspects of statistical information collected from journals and newspaper reports (scribbr.com, 2022)².

Research Philosophy

Positivism research philosophy has been used in this research in order to get access to the field scenarios of privatization of government institutes. Data collected from secondary sources needs to be interpreted in accordance to social, economic and political situations of that time for getting actual reasons behind development of these fees structures. It also helps to find alternatives easily.

Data Collection Method

Secondary data collection methods have been adhered to this research. Many peer-reviewed journals and newspaper articles have been taken into account for relevant data collection. National Library of India has helped in this secondary data collection by a significant measure (nationallibrary.gov.in, 2022)³. Many online libraries have also helped a lot in this context.

Data Analysis Method

Qualitative data analysis has been taken for exploring non-numeric and conceptual information to reach a specific outcome. This method also helps to omit irrelevant information from collected data lists as per the current and future aspects of these issues.

Ethical Consideration

During collecting information on fees and education structure of private and government institutions in West Bengal "*Information Technology Act 2008*" has been maintained (police.py.gov.in, 2022). No personal information has been taken without taking written permission from any individual.

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Comparative analysis of fees structure of Government and Private technical institutions

The researchers have found an enormous difference between the fees structure of private and government institutes for technical education in West Bengal. The researchers have developed a comparison table of these institutes:

Government Institutes	Total Annual Fees (Highest fees)
"Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology"	1,34,800.00 (M. Sc. in Media Science) (makautwb.ac.in, 2022) ⁴
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)	10,46,000 (shiksha.com ⁵ , 2022)
Jadavpur University (JU)	87,109 (M.Tech.) ⁶ (getmyuni.com, 2022)
"Jalpaiguri Government Engineering College (JGEC)"	88,547 (M.Tech)
"National Institute of Technology (NIT)"	74,000 (M. Tech)
Private Institutes	
Amity University	6,08,000 for 1st Year (MCA) (collegedunia.com, 2022)
Adamas University	3,00,000 for 1st Year (MCA)
Techno India	1,77,000 for 1st Year (MCA)

Table 1: Course Fee Comparison of Private and Government Technical Institutes in West Bengal⁷

This table shows the massive difference between the fees structure of these private and government technical universities. In Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of technology, total fees of M. Sc. in Media Science is 1,34,800 for 4 semesters (two

²scribbr.com 2022, *Descriptive-Research*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: www.scribbr.com/methodology/descriptive-research/

³nationallibrary.gov.in 2022, *The National Library*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: www.nationallibrary.gov.in/

⁴makautwb.ac.in 2022, *Fees Structure*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: makautwb.ac.in/page.php?id=220

⁵shiksha.com 2022, *B-Tech-Colleges-West-Bengal*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: www.shiksha.com/engineering/colleges/b-tech-colleges-west-bengal

⁶getmyuni.com 2022, *Jadavpur-University-Calcutta-Courses-Fees*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: www.getmyuni.com/college/jadavpur-university-calcutta-courses-fees

⁷collegedunia.com 2022, *Courses-Fees*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: collegedunia.com/university/54797-amity-university-noida/courses-fees

years), whereas, in Amity University, course fee for only 1st year is 6,08,000 for MBA and MCA courses. This is one of the most important statistical analyses of fees structure executed by these researchers.

Development of a comparative analysis of Administrative structure in Government and Private Institutes

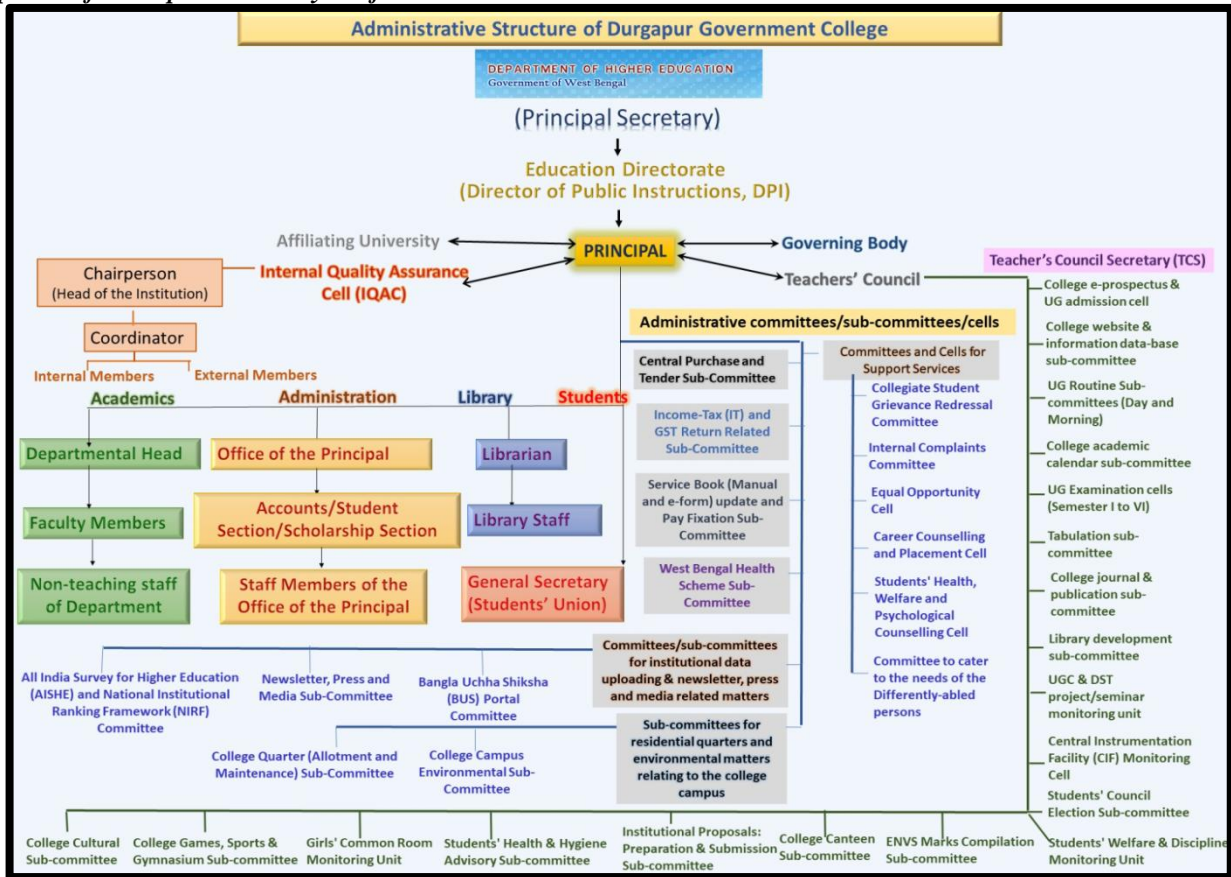
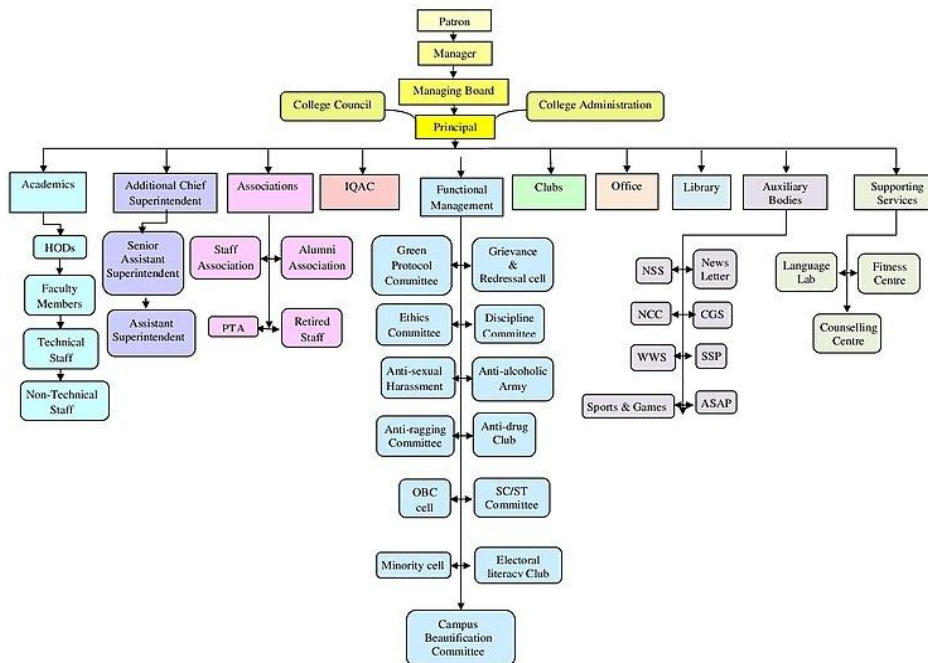


Figure 1: Administrative Structure of Government Colleges in West Bengal⁸

This diagram shows the actual administrative structure of Durgapur Government College. This administrative structure can be stated as a centralized structure where all departments converge to the principal. The principal is linked with the principal secretary of the Education Directorate (Director of Public Instructions). Students' union plays a vital role in resolving social and educational issues by attracting the principal directly. Many political agendas are also fulfilled through these students' unions.



⁸durgapurgovtcollege.ac.in 2022, *Administrative-Structure*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: durgapurgovtcollege.ac.in/administrative-structure/

Figure 2: Administrative Structure of Private Colleges in West Bengal

This diagram depicts a general administrative structure of a private college in West Bengal. This structure is not entirely centralized to the principal department.

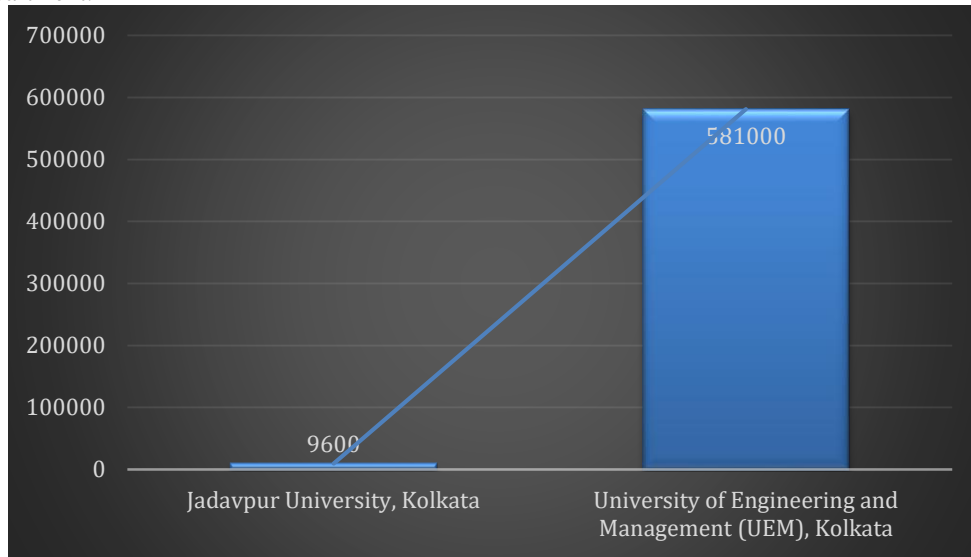


Figure 3: Comparison between the fee structure a government and a privately financed institute of West Bengal

As seen in the above figure there is huge gap within the fee structure between government and private technical institutes of West Bengal. In the case of Jadavpur University which is a government institute the annual fee is 9600 rupees where the annual fee of University of Engineering and Management (UEM), Kolkata which is a private institute is 5.81 lakh rupees.

Identification of impact of current GDP rate on financing these institutes

The researchers have developed a graph on the change of GDP in India in the last 10 years.

Year	Change of GDP (%)	Annual Change of GDP
2012	5.46	0.22
2013	6.39	0.93
2014	7.41	1.02
2015	8.00	0.59
2016	8.26	0.26
2017	6.80	-1.46
2018	6.45	-0.34
2018	3.74	-2.72
2020	-6.60	-10.33
2021	8.95	15.54

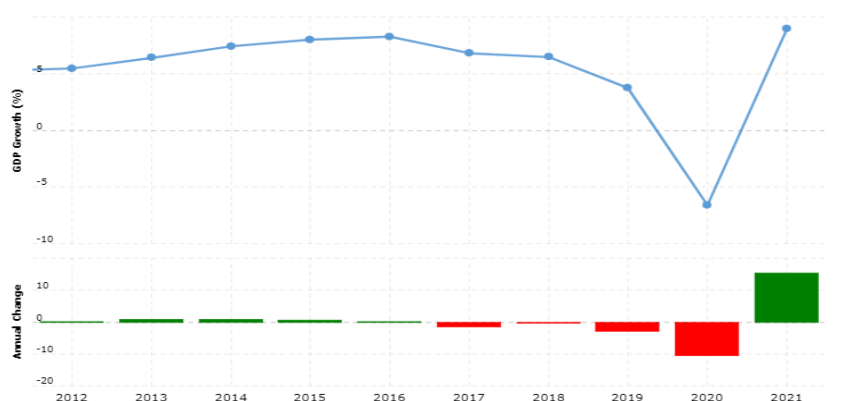


Figure 4: Change of GDP of Indian Economy in Past 10 Years⁹

This figure shows the annual change of GDP in the Indian Economy in the past 10 years. Annual income per capita has not increased thoroughly as per increment of course fees this has led this country especially west Bengal to go through utter unemployment during the past few years. More specifically, Government technical colleges recruit students as per their ranks in WBJEE and JEE Main. There are hardly 10000 to 20000 seats available in Government technical colleges. This led the residual candidates towards private institutions and many middle-class families become bankrupt by paying college fees or repaying education loans year after years.de

Identification of the impact of “West Bengal Private Universities Bill” in higher education of this State

The West Bengal Private University Bill has proposed many government policies and guidelines in order to set up the private universities in West Bengal. The Researchers have assessed these policies in order to develop a feasible way to bring these universities within affordability range of the middle-class. This bill has mentioned “West Bengal’s Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)” in 2021 in higher education, which is 12.6%, whereas the national average ratio is 13.8% (wbhed.gov.in, 2022¹⁰). This State is in utter need to create more than 400000 seats for under-graduate and postgraduate courses in Government Institutes which requires rebuilding the education structure of this state. The private universities are taking this opportunity to target their candidates in both state and national aspects. The West Bengal Private Universities Bill came into action in 2012 to encourage private financing and investment in the case of Higher education in West Bengal. This resulted in the enhancement of the GDP of this state at a significant level as several National and International business groups have shown interest in this section and students from all over the country come to study at these colleges. The researchers have concluded that the “West Bengal Private Universities Bill” has the potential to change this current situation as this bill has proposed binding these private universities within a limitation so that they cannot charge a student who wants to avail technical courses from private universities more than that limit. According to these researchers, there is some political vulnerability, which prevents this bill from being passed in the legislative assembly. Hence, the political structure or malpractices in West Bengal are needed to be minimized for improving the education structure of this state.

CONCLUSION

As per this above analysis it can be concluded that this research team has brought out many important facts that are affecting and influencing the current higher education structure of west Bengal. The methodology adhered to this research is relevant enough to develop a specific outcome in front of the world. India is gradually becoming one of the most powerful country in the world. This pandemic has stunted this growth a little however the economy is bouncing back in a significant measure. Education system is the backbone of a progressing civilization. Hence, making it affordable for all classes of the society is the first and foremost requirement of a country. Making this entire process corruption-free is another vital task for the political forces of this country.

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APPENDICES

⁹macrotrends.net 2022, *Gdp-Growth-Rate*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: www.macrotrends.net/countries/IND/india/gdp-growth-rate

¹⁰wbhed.gov.in 2022, *West Bengal Private University Policy*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: wbhed.gov.in/readwrite/uploads/THE%20WEST%20BENGAL%20PRIVATE%20UNIVERSITY%20POLICY.pdf

Appendix 1: Jessop closes its Dum Dum Plant



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(Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/jessop-closes-its-dum-dum-plant/>)¹¹

¹¹indianexpress.com 2022, *Jessop-Closes-Its-Dum-Dum-Plan*, Retrieved on: 18th October 2022 Retrieved From: indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/jessop-closes-its-dum-dum-plant/