

Higher educational institutions engaged in disseminating knowledge in post-independence era - A case study of South Kashmir

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Abstract

The present study was investigated to assess the higher educational institutions engaged in disseminating knowledge in post-independence era. The sample for the study was taken from the South Kashmir region of Kashmir valley (J&K). After Independence there was a sudden growth in the emphasis for education in Kashmir and South Kashmir was not an exception in it. This led to the development in both the Government and Private Educational Institutions in both lower and higher levels. In this process the Private sector fared much better during this period in terms of both infrastructure development as well as improving teacher pupil ratio. The present study tries to trace the Historical Background of Higher Education System in our area of study with clear purpose and objectives. The investigator used the data collected from different Government and Private Colleges -both academic as well as non-academic as his primary source in addition to the secondary sources. The study tries to find out the reason behind the growth, progress and development of Higher Education in the Private Sector in comparison with the Higher Education in the Government Sector. The study will enlighten the policy makers and funders to control and supervise the direction of higher education system and oversee the qualitative and quantitative dimensions of this phenomenon.

Keywords: Higher Education, South Kashmir, Independence, College

Introduction

After passing the Higher Secondary Examination (10+2), students may enrol in various under graduate academic courses in arts, commerce, science or professional degree programmes such as engineering, law or medicine. India's higher education system is the third largest in the world after China and the United States. The main governing body at the tertiary level in India is the University Grants Commission (UGC), which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between the centre and the state. Accreditation for higher learning is overseen by 12 autonomous institutions established by the University Grants Commission. In India, education system is reformed. In the future, India will be one of the largest education hubs.

To begin with the first college in Srinagar was established under the auspices of the central Hindu college of Banaras in 1905 and was named Shri Pratab Hindu College. The land over which the college building was erected was donated by the State Government. In south Kashmir the first government Degree College was established in the district of Anantnag in 1950 which proved the first ray in south Kashmir's higher education sector. Due to the vast feeding area and the response which the institute received, the second college was established in the south Kashmir in 1981 and in 2000 the number of colleges has reached to six with one private professional college established in 1995. The first and current decade of the 21st century showed a dramatic growth in higher education sector in both academic and non-academic, government and private colleges in this area.

Objective

The main objectives of the present study were as follows:

1. To access the various private and public higher educational institutions engaged in disseminating knowledge in South Kashmir;
 - a. Students Enrolment- Gender-wise;
 - b. Gender-wise Teachers;
 - c. Pupil Teacher Ratio.
2. To Study the reasons for the growth of private Higher Educational institutions.
3. To gain insight into the state of affairs and provide factual information to the planners and policy makers of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Methodology Involved in the Collection of Data for the Study.

❖ We have used both Primary and secondary data for the said study

❖ Primary sources include

1. Visit of all Government as well as private institutions of higher education studying their decade wise, gender-wise and rural urban enrolment data, Pupil Teacher Ratio, and Gender ratio among the teachers.

❖ Secondary Sources include:

1. Study of books, magazines, newspapers and the works of other scholars who have done research earlier in this area.
2. Prepared information blank to complete the study regarding infrastructure.
3. Another interview schedule was prepared for the interviews of various prominent people in the field of higher education in both private as well as government sectors regarding the growth of private Higher Educational institutions.

Data Base

The investigator collected the data from various Government and Private academic as well as non-academic Colleges of higher education of South Kashmir.

Tools and Techniques

The data for the present study was collected through Information blank. Following tools and techniques were employed for the present investigation:

Information Blank

Information Blank was used to collect the data decade-wise along with their total enrolment, gender-wise enrolment, Total No. of Teachers, gender-wise teachers from different Government Degree Colleges in South Kashmir.

Analysis and Interpretation

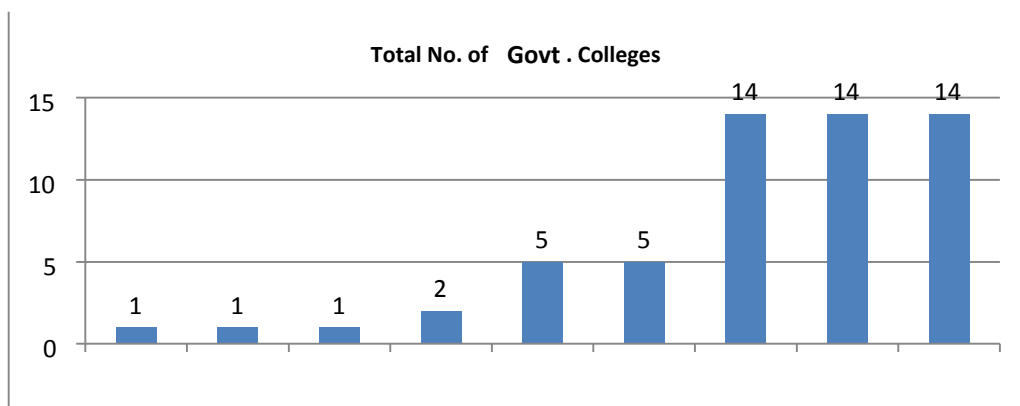
Table 1: Showing the total No. of Government Degree Colleges in South Kashmir (1948-2013)

Year	Total No. of Colleges	Total No. of Enrolment	Male	Female	Total No. of Teachers	Male	Female	Pupil Teacher Ratio
1951	1	86	80	6	8	8	-	11:1
1961	1	128	124	4	15	15	-	9:1
1971	1	347	321	26	28	28	-	12:1
1981	2	808	702	106	42	39	3	19:1
1991	5	2729	1745	984	99	80	19	28:1
2001	5	9229	5427	3802	204	140	64	45:1
2011	14	29133	16451	12682	528	386	142	55:1
2012	14	30063	16036	14027	567	404	163	53:1
2013	14	31286	16785	14501	627	458	169	50:1

Source: Field Survey

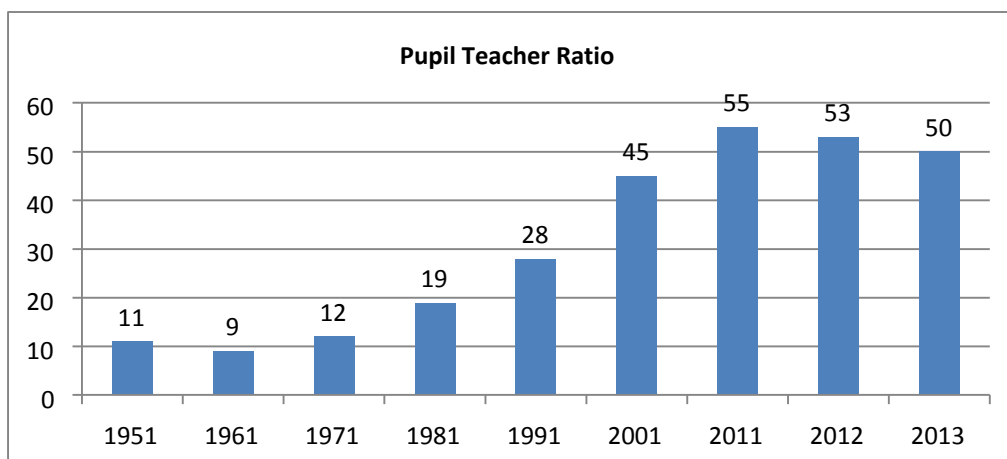
The perusal of the above table shows the total number of Government Degree Colleges in South Kashmir. The table revealed that in year 1951 the total number of Govt. Degree Colleges was only one with total enrolment of students 86 and

total numbers of teachers 8 and pupil teacher ratio was 11:1. In the year 2013 the number of colleges reached 14 with total enrolment 31286 and total number of teachers 627 and pupil teacher ratio 50:1.

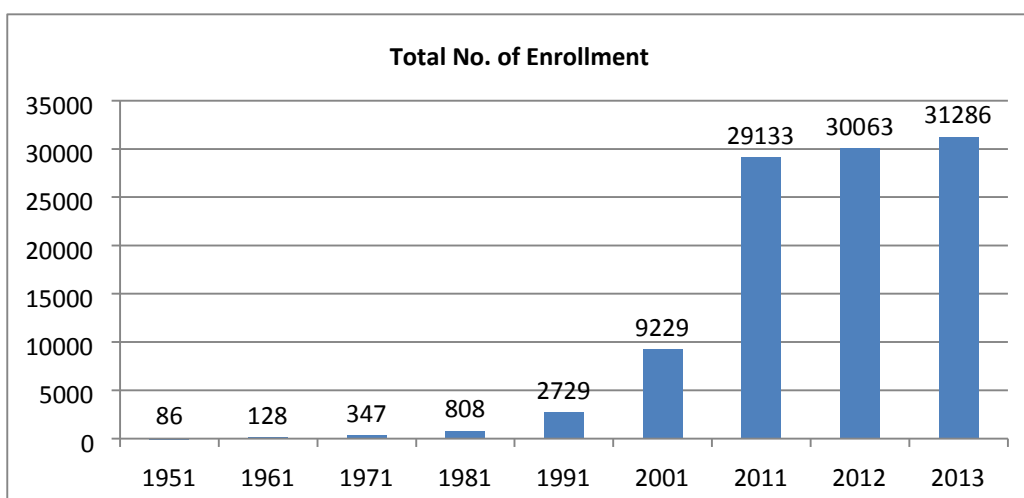


1951 1961 1971 1981 1991 2001 2011 2012 2013

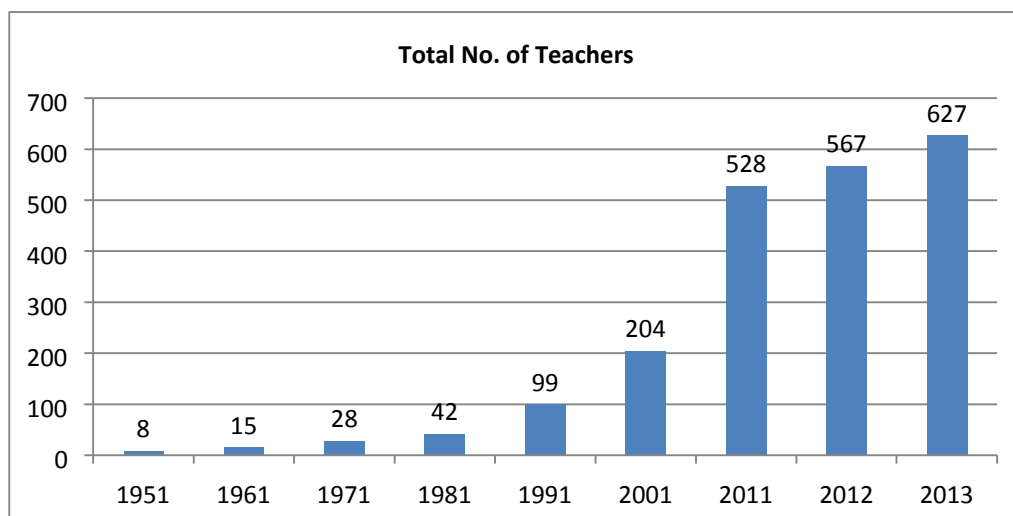
Bar Graph-1st -Showing the Number of Government Colleges from 1951-2013



Bar Graph-2nd - Showing the pupil Teacher Ratio of Government Colleges From 1951-2013



Bar Graph-3rd – Showing the Enrolment of Students of Government Colleges from 1951-2013



Bar Graph-4th – Showing the Total No. of Teachers of Government Colleges from 1951-2013

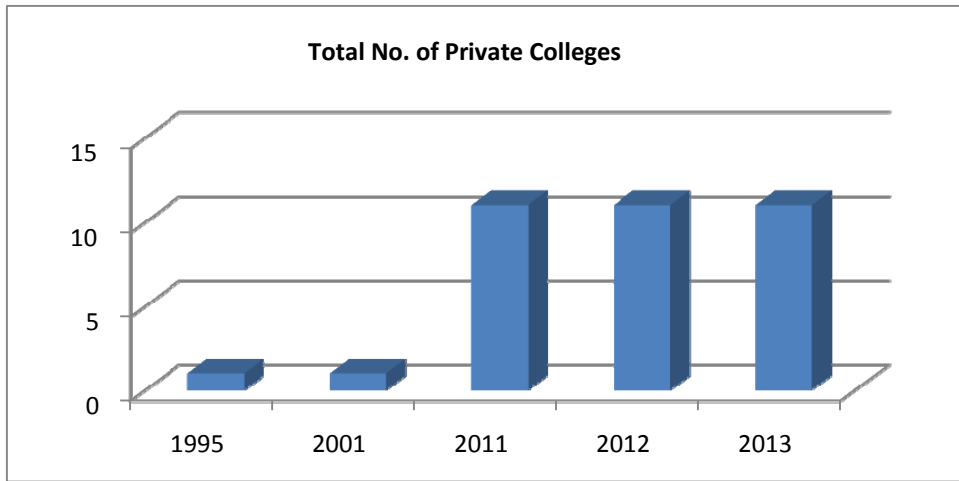
Table 2: Shows the total No. of Private Colleges in South Kashmir (1995-2013)

Year	Total No. of colleges	Total No. of Enrolment	Male	Female	Total No. of Teachers	Male	Female	Pupil Teacher Ratio
1995	1	160	81	79	15	9	6	11:1
2001	1	185	99	86	15	9	6	12:1
2011	11	2957	1690	1267	174	103	71	17:1
2012	11	3098	1779	1319	183	105	78	17:1
2013	11	3254	1983	1271	191	112	79	17:1

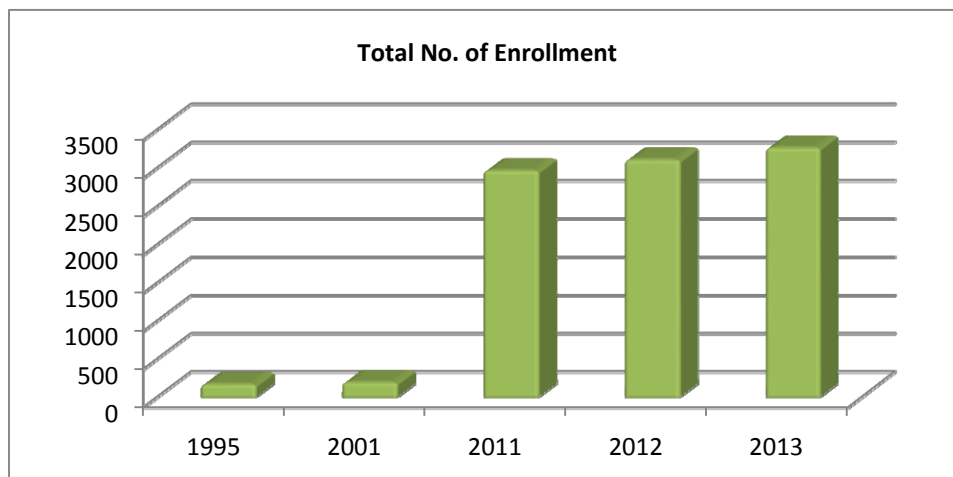
Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that there has been an increase in the number of Private colleges from 1 in 1995 to 11 in 2013 and also there has been a dramatic increase in the number of

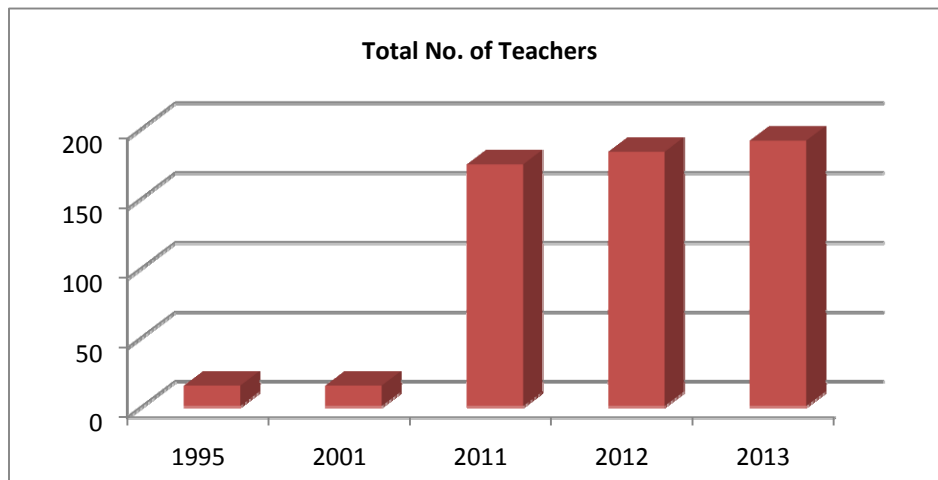
students enrolled in these colleges from 160 in 1995 to 3254 in 2013. This shows the growing interest among the students in higher education.



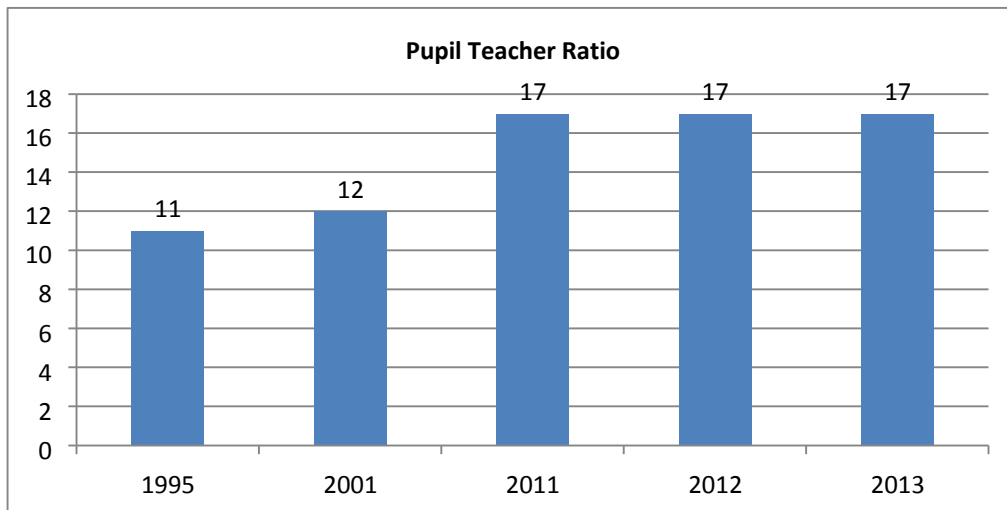
Bar Graph 5th –Shows Total Number of Private Colleges from 1995-2013



Bar Graph 6th –Shows the Students Enrolment in Private Colleges From 1995-2013



Bar Graph 7th –Shows the Total Number of Teachers Working in the Private Colleges from 1995-2013



Bar Graph 8th –Shows the Pupil Teacher ratio of Private Colleges From 1995-2013

The Situation of Higher Education in South Kashmir before Independence

- The Higher education was almost lacking not only in South Kashmir but also in the whole state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- There was neither any university nor any college in the field of higher education in the South Kashmir area during the course of study.
- There were only two colleges in the whole of valley before independence and these two colleges were located in Srinagar City.
- So all the students who wanted to pursue their higher studies from the valley including the people of south Kashmir had to travel all the way to Srinagar to pursue the same. This was the main reason behind people not taking interest in pursuing higher studies.

Situation of Higher Education in South Kashmir after Independence

- There was a sudden growth in the emphasis for education in South Kashmir.
- The first government degree college in South Kashmir was setup in Anantnag District in 1950.
- The birth of private sector in the Higher Education sector happened in this period around the year 1995.
- The first full-fledged technical University in the area of South Kashmir was established in the year 2006.
- The south campus of Kashmir University was setup in Anantnag in the year 2008.
- Till today there is no full-fledged academic university offering a wide range of courses in the region of South Kashmir. This shows the lack of interest of the government towards this part of the state.

Growth of Private Sector in the Higher Education:

- The first private college was setup in the year 1995 and by 2011 there were 14 colleges who were imparting higher education in the South Kashmir Region.
- The political instability and the other problems plaguing the state before 1995 made it tough for the private investments to flow into this sector.

- The private sector fared much better than the government sector during this period in all aspects like infrastructure, Pupil Teacher ratio, results etc.
- This led to a lot of people choosing to go these institutions choosing them over the public run higher educational institutions.

Main Findings of the Study

- In today's time the Private Educational Institutions are much better than public institutions.
- There is a huge difference in the Pupil Teacher ratio which is 17: 1 in private sector and 50:1 in the public institutions.
- There is a huge Difference in the pass percentage among the students of private institutions compared to the ones from public institutions.
- In the private sector, the colleges are well maintained as there is an inspection done regularly by the Ministry of Higher Education whereas the same is not done at all in the public institutions as a consequence of which the maintenance is very bad in these institutions.
- Earlier the male female ratio was 10:1 now it is almost equal.
- Due to the few higher educational institutions in the South Kashmir area, the area lagging behind the rest of the state in the literacy rate to the tune of around 4-5% as compared to the state average.

Conclusion

To conclude we can say that the Private sector is growing faster than government sector and government is lacking in establishing newer institutes and bringing investment into this sector. Inadequate accountability in the government sector seems one of the causes of the lagging behind of the government sector as compared to the private one. The equalisation of male female ratio is almost equal because of private involvement in this sector.

Suggestion

A full-fledged university with a wide range of courses may be opened in the South Kashmir while keeping in view population and the distance of the area from the main campus

of Kashmir University. Besides a professional colleges for the women is the need of the hour keeping in view the social scenario of the Kashmir society?

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