



REPORT



ACADEMIC & ADMINISTRATIVE AUDIT OF GAUHATI UNIVERSITY

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INFRASTRUCTURE



Located at the intersection of arterial roads connecting all the four directions of the state, the pioneering university of the northeast India, Gauhati University greatly contributed to the making of the post-colonial Assam; and had in fact influenced the entire region. Accredited 'A' grade by the NAAC, with the last year NIRF ranking of 36, the university has been discharging its premiere role in the academic and cultural reckonings of the vibrant state of Assam.

The university has a sprawling campus of 540 acres of cascading green intercepted by hyacinth-flower decked wetlands, and massive old trees between the national highway on the east and the foothills on the west. With majestic old buildings on both sides of the main thoroughfare, followed by the later-day structures amidst still surviving British type multi-purpose utility houses, the campus presents an interesting blend of the old and the new infrastructures. The absence of high rise, in line with its natural surroundings, makes the campus more attractive. A unique feature of the campus is its Botanical Garden which serves as a carbon sink. The spacious campus is well maintained and looks fairly clean.

A state university, the Gauhati University follows a transparent admission policy; admitting students from Assam and other states on an 80 : 20 basis; statutory reservation rules are adhered to. Sometimes, foreign students are also admitted to graduate and post-graduate courses as per various cultural exchange programmes of the Govt. of India.

INFRASTRUCTURE



Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facility (SAIF)



Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF)



Institute of Distance and Open learning (IDOL)



UGC Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC)



GU Institute of North East India Studies (GUINEIS)



ISRO Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S)



Institutional Biotech Hub (IBH-GU)



Stratospheric-Tropospheric Radar Centre (ST Radar)

The university has developed an extensive teaching and research facilities with latest teaching aids, a fairly high and an even digital access and internet connectivity. The university has altogether 352 teachers; with 57% of the lot engaged in the faculty of Science and Technology; have well equipped laboratories and a wide network of departmental libraries followed by Krishna Kanta Handique Central Library, the premiere university library of the region.

The university has 22 hostels with an intake capacity of 1789 students. The girls' hostels have latest technology induced waste disposal facility. Sports complex with a large partially illuminated playground, indoor/outdoor auditorium are there; besides hospital and medical emergency facilities and a number of canteens for students. Most of its buildings are disabled friendly. The university follows a strict anti-ragging policy closely monitored by a permanent committee and a dedicated squad. There is a placement cell and a pre-examination training centre to cater to students' needs.

The employees' empowerment policy of the Gauhati University is very good. Employees are given due share in decision making, conceded career advancement at regular intervals, and allowed full-pay leave in certain specific cases of ailment.

The IQAC ensures quality advancement. A commendable IQAC move is the introduction of a digitized scholastic data repository called Arohan. Similar other moves are GUCAS for career advancement, ADR for academic data repository, and GU-Connect as the digital platform for alumni management. The way the university fulfills its social responsibilities, almost in a mission mode, is really commendable.

DEPARTMENTS

➤ Anthropology

One of the oldest departments of the Gauhati University, a pioneering one in the northeast, the Department of Anthropology has a remarkable past, due to the achievements of its earlier teachers, their research recognition, departmental library, and the extremely rich collection of objects and artifacts in the departmental museum, with a good record of footfalls.

The faculty strength of the department at present is good; with a steady flow of Ph D scholars including one foreign student. The department regularly publishes a journal, Bulletin of Anthropology. The publication record of the faculty is good; four outstation field works done during the last five years; when the department also completed the UGC SAP on Culture Heritage and Population Ageing. One of the faculties has a Major Research Project from the ICSSR. A Minor Research Project from the IGNCA has also been awarded. The department regularly organizes invited lectures and also publishes a journal. The department thus looks poised for a take-off.

The following areas deserve attention:

- More external exposure
- Low impact factor publications
- More research related revenue generation
- Collaborative research initiative with public/private organisations
- Research collaboration with the universities / institutes of Southeast Asia
- Seminar / workshop / conferences for better interaction

➤ Applied Sciences

The Department has been handling multidisciplinary programmes/ courses, forteaching and research. There are three basic streams of science-- Physical Science, Chemical Science, Mathematical Science, and they have man power from engineering disciplines, such as, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Biotechnology, Electronics, and Instrumentation etc. supported by adequate facilities

- Following points may be considered for improvement.
- Low faculty student ratio.
- Limited physical space
- Publication record is not impressive.
- No major externally funded research projects.
- Placement record is not so impressive.
- Need to encourage students who take up competitive exams.

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➤ **Arabic**

Established in 1969, the Department of Arabic has four teachers headed by Dr. Siddiqui. All the three Assistant professors have good publications and are fairly enterprising. The department runs PG and Ph D courses with limited facilities and space shortage. The department has no journal.

Following areas deserve attention:

- Research projects
- Arabic-Assamese / Assamese-Arabic Translation Projects
- Collaboration with fellow language departments in the campus
- Extension activities on social responsibilities

➤ **Assamese**

The pioneering post-graduate Assamese department of the northeast, Gauhati University department of Assamese has a glorious past distinguished by its eminent teachers. The department at present has adequate number of qualified faculties, with acknowledged research and publication credentials. The departmental journal Anvesan has been included in the UGC Care list. A very good departmental library is also in place. Altogether, 57 Ph D scholars are now pursuing research in different fields.

The peer team is satisfied with the academic activities in the Department of Assamese; as a result, they could come out with the maximum number of paper publications in the UGC Care listed journals other than the publication of books on various aspects of Assamese language and literature.

The following areas deserve attention:

- Lack of externally funded research project
- Collaborative research initiative with other universities
- Research interaction with other departments of Gauhati University
- Digitization of MSS / rare books in private possession with external funding
- Mono/Bi/Multi-lingual Funded Translation projects
- Initiative in familiarizing Assamese literature outside Assam
- Better interaction with the alumni

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➤ Bengali

The department has seven teachers: one professor, one associate, and the rest assistant professors; all having Ph D, but for one, an M Phil degree holder. The department has a very good teacher student ratio of 7 : 7, a workable library with good collections and internet connectivity; but it remained largely a teaching department without much exposure.

The department has no publication; not even a journal. The faculty publication is also not impressive. None of the teachers has research project, major or minor, internally or externally funded. The department also does not have collaborative research projects with fellow departments or external public/private organisation; also no participatory record of extension / social activities.

The following areas need immediate attention:

- Lack of externally funded research project
- Collaborative research initiative with fellow departments of other universities
- Research interaction with other departments of Gauhati University
- Digitization of MSS / rare books in private possession with external funding
- Research publication with greater impact
- Funded Translation projects
- Initiation of Departmental Journal

➤ Bioengineering

The Department of Bioengineering and Technology has been established in the year 2009 to provide state of the art infrastructure for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the field of Biotechnology and research programmes in the arena of Biotechnology and allied areas. Good effort to generate fund from sponsored projects.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Limited physical space.
- Publication record/standard is not so good.
- No significant research collaboration with other major departments.
- Extension activities and institutional social responsibility are limited.
- This department can be merged with the department of Biotechnology

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➤ **Biotechnology**

The Department of Biotechnology was established in the year 1993. A number of research projects have been funded by DBT, DST, ICAR, MOEF, DRDO, UGC, ICMR, NMPB, SERB, GBPIHED, ASTEC and Govt. of Assam that has contributed to biotechnology research and extension. Major funds for infrastructure development were received from DBT and DST (FIST Program) in the last five years. The publication record of the department is quite impressive. Laboratory facilities in the department are quite good. It is one of the performing departments of the University. Good research collaborations.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Low faculty student ratio.
- Limited physical space.
- Placement record is not so impressive.
- No significant research collaboration with other major departments.

➤ **Bodo**

Located in a green surrounding at the foothills, Department of Bodo has only four teachers: two professors and two assistant professors; but with an impressive research and publication profile. Prof. Narzary, who is heading the department at present, has research consultancies. Prof. Chainary published a number of books prior to the period under review. Dr. Barmahalia availed himself of national and internal fellowships. With a good combination of the experienced and young teachers, the department thus looks poised to take-off to further growth

Attention is drawn to following points:

- Field based sponsored research project focussed on the northeast
- Explore Research Collaboration with CIIL, Northeastern Council, IGNCA and ASI
- Sponsored research programmes on indigenous knowledge systems of the
- BodoSponsored Translation Projects
- Digitization of endangered Bodo vernacular sources
- Collaboration with Performing Arts Centre and GUINES for research focussed on different aspects of the Bodo culture
- Certificate and Diploma in Bodo language

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➤ **Botany**

It is one of the oldest science departments of the University. There are well equipped laboratories, museum, herbarium (GUBH accredited to New York Botanical Garden Steere herbarium), seminar hall and departmental library. Department of Botany also has a Botanic Garden covering an area of 62 acres that harbour more than 500 plant species including some rare, endemic, endangered, medicinally and botanically important plants.

Gauhati University's department of Botany has been selected by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India for Financial Assistance under its Infra-structural Development for Science & Technology (DST-FIST Level-I) programmes (2007-12, 2019-24). The publication record of the department is very good. Good number of co-curricular activities conducted by the department. It is one of the most performing departments of the university.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Need more externally funded research projects for resource generation.
- Need more inter-departmental and external research collaborations.
- Learning management system should be introduced and used: Google, Edmodo, and Moodle and online with 24X7 services should be made available to students.
- Need to encourage students who take up competitive exams.

➤ **Business Administration**

The Department is one of the best performing departments in the Gauhati University. The infrastructure is good. The Department has given proper course plan stating the topics and the number of lectures dedicated topic-wise. This practice can be followed by other departments also. Some of the faculty members have consultancy projects. The number of students is found to be lesser than the intake capacity. The department has excellent placement / alumni record.

Attention is drawn to following points:

- Research publication is not impressive
- Modification of fee structure for economically / socially backward students
- Roping in alumni top-brass for the promotion of above category students

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- Better management of assets and capacity utilization
- Promotion of diploma courses for business skill development
- Extension of social responsibility initiatives

➤ Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry, Guwahati University is the oldest postgraduate chemistry department of northeast India. With financial assistance from DST (FIST Level-II) and UGC (DSA-II under SAP) the Department has built up a modest infrastructure for research. Most of the faculty members have external funding from agencies such as UGC, DST, DAE, DBT, BRNS, CSIR and ASTEC. The departmental researchers can access a large number of leading journals of chemistry and allied subjects through INFLIBNET. Faculty student ratio is good, and profiles of some of the faculty members are extremely impressive. It is one of the most performing departments of the University.

Following points may be considered for further improvement.

- Publication standard may be improved.
- Need more externally funded research projects for resource generation.
- Need more inter-departmental and external research collaborations.
- Learning management system should be introduced and used: Google, Edmodo, and Moodle and online with 24X7 services should be made available to students.
- Need to regularly organize workshops, conferences, and popular talks.
- Fire hazard sensitivity in laboratories to be assessed at a regular interval

➤ Commerce

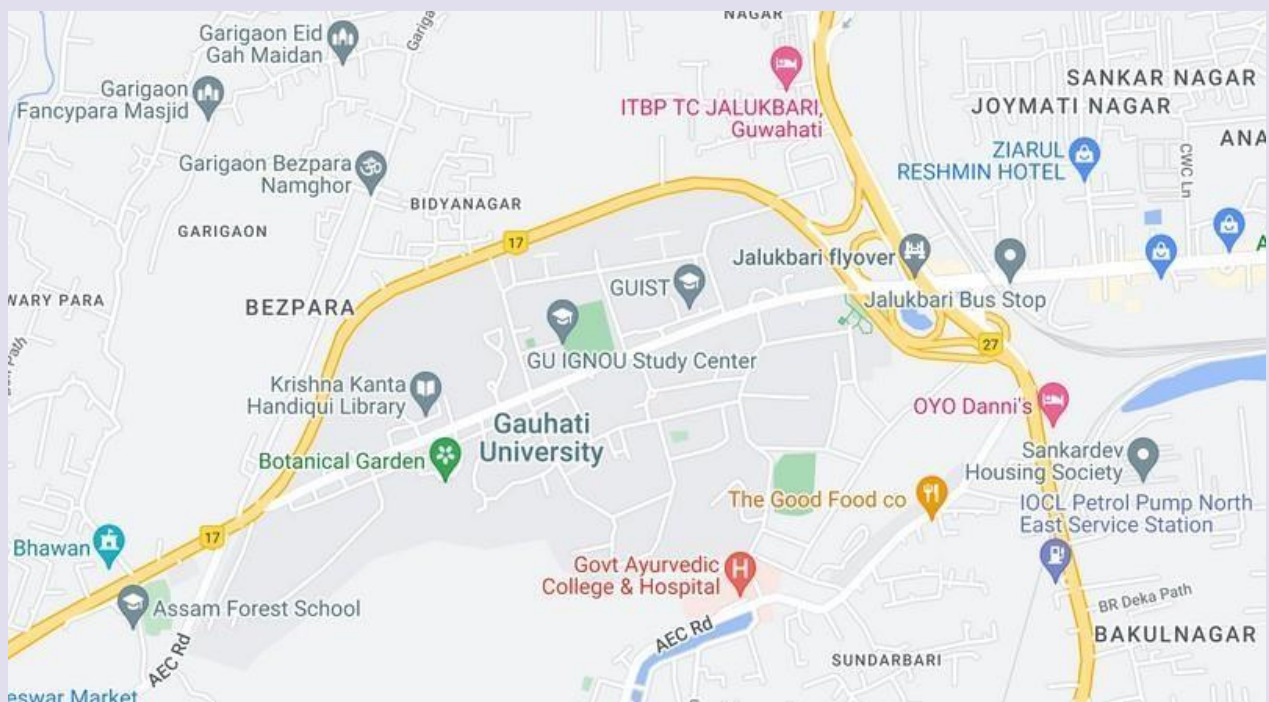
One of the oldest departments of Gauhati University, the Department of Commerce is housed in a majestic old building. The department is privileged to have five professors, six assistant professors three teacher associates. The modest facilities for teaching and research are in place; including a workable library with internet connectivity. The publication record is not impressive. The department at present has no externally funded research projects and no research collaboration or consultancy. The Journal of Commerce is regularly published from the department; but it is yet to be included in the UGC Care List.

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The department runs two programmes viz. M.Com and Five Years' Integrated M.Com. It will be good to have only one programmes keeping in view the NEP 2020, where multiple exits and entries may be provided. In place of the other programmes (M.Com.) contemporary programmes such as Master in International Business can be introduced. The department may also consider launching skill enhancement courses, which may eventually lead to a vocation.

Following areas deserve attention:

- Lack of sponsored research programmes in the
 - departmentExternally-funded research projects for teachers
 - Faculty-Industry multi-sector research collaboration
 - Greater impact factor research publication
 - Capacity building for the UGC research support to the department
- Externally funded major research projects



Gauhati University on Google Map

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➤ Communication and Journalism

At present working with only three Assistant Professors, the Department of Communication and Journalism has nevertheless modest facilities necessary for the course; with sufficient computers for the students, audio-visual studio, and audio-visual editing lab etc. The course structure also has been designed for proper hands on experience along with the provision for internship. However, the actual number of students is lesser than the intake capacity, which may be looked into if it is a trend or an exception for the on-going session. The departmental professor, who is on lien, is a widely recognised person in the field.

Following areas deserve attention:

- Publication profile is not impressive
- Absence of sponsored Research Project
- Professional Linkages needed
- Collaboration with established media house
- Northeast India specific research needed for capacity building
- Extension of social responsibilities.

➤ Computer Science

The department was founded in the year 1985. The department maintains two full-fledged computer laboratories which are well equipped with the following computing facilities and supporting tools. RUSA has funded a state-of-art laboratory in the year 2017. Faculties are engaged in research and papers are regularly published.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Publication record is not so impressive.
- Extension activities and institutional social responsibility are limited.
- No significant research collaboration with other major departments
- Computation facilities are not up to the mark.
- No significant externally funded sponsored projects.
- Limited physical space.
- Low faculty student ratio.

➤ Disability Studies

The department, equipped with disabled friendly facilities, runs two programmes – (i) PG Certificate Course in Disability Studies (6 months) and (ii) PG Diploma in Disabilities Studies (6 months), which is a progression of the first. There is a gap between the intake capacity and the number of enrolment. The Department needs

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The Department should examine the reason for less enrolment and try to revamp and align the course keeping in view the employment demands.

Attention is drawn to following points:

- Name of the department needs to be changed
- Awareness of the relative disabled friendliness in the campus
- Publication of materials on different aspects disability in vernacular for popular awareness
- Community outreach programmes

➤ Economics

The department of economics is housed in the solitary corner of a spacious building; has modest facilities of teaching and research, a workable departmental library, and good computer access with internet connectivity. But, having said all these, the department, with a large number of vacant faculty positions, a few Ph D scholars, no externally funded major research projects, no research collaboration of sort, looks in a state of thaw. The department has a journal, Assam Economic Review, which is yet to be included in the UGC Care List.

Following areas deserve immediate attention:

- Recruitment of dynamic teachers with focussed research attention
- Exploring scopes of research funding in the field
- Industry-academia multi-sector research collaboration
- Greater impact factor research publication
- Capacity building for the UGC research support to the department
- Externally funded major research projects
- Northeast India specific research programmes focussed on marginal areas
- Specific research programmes on tea / rubber plantation

➤ Education

The Department of Education has altogether nine teachers, three associated faculty included; with modest facilities for teaching in research. The publication record of the faculty is not impressive and the department does not have a journal. The record of the workshop / conference / seminar organised by the department is not in place. As per the fact sheet provided, the department runs two Master's programmes simultaneously, viz.

M.A and M.Ed. The students enrolled in the M.A. programmes appear to be a little less than its intake capacity. Further, the utility of having an M.A. course in Education, in addition to M.Ed. programmes, needs to be reviewed. The Department is engaged in extension activities.

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Following areas deserve attention:

- Review of existing course programmes in view of the NEP 2020
- Sponsored Research Projects
- Community outreach activities for the empowerment of children of marginalized groups
- Collaboration with Department of Disability Studies for inclusive development of Devanga wards in general school.
- Northeast India specific research programmes

➤ **Electronics and Computer Technology**

The Department of Electronic Science was established for the first time in northeast India at Guwahati University in 1993 with financial support from Department of Electronics (DoE), Govt. of India. The Department has well equipped laboratories, library, and ICT enabled class rooms with high-speed Internet connectivity. International conferences, Refresher courses, workshops and summer schools are also organized by the department as part of its outreach programmes.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Laboratory facilities should be significantly improved.
- No significant research collaboration with other major departments.
- This department can be merged with the department of ECE.



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➤ **Electronics and Communication**

The department is having sophisticated laboratories, all of which are equipped with audio-visual aids. The department is equipped with uninterrupted power supply and internet connectivity, and has been continuously organizing workshops, conferences, popular talks, training programmes etc. Good external research collaboration. Good laboratory facilities.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Limited physical space
- There are many good publications. However, publication record/standard may be improved in ECE.
- No significant research collaboration with other major departments of the university.
- The department can be merged with the department of ECT
- Laboratory facilities may be improved.

➤ **English**

Beginning in 1955, the faculty in the Department of English continues the rich legacy of their pioneering colleagues, who were acknowledged for their scholarship and research. Two of them also received Sahitya Akademi award. With fifty percent of its teaching strength as professor, the department of English is, at present, well placed in terms of experience and dynamism of young teachers. The modest facilities for teaching and research are in place. The faculty publication record is very impressive and is evenly distributed. The national / international exposition of the faculties, on an average, is also very good.

The department regularly publishes two peer-reviewed journals; both included in the UGC Care List. Conscious of its responsibilities beyond the classroom, the department runs a Gender-equity Cell, Grievance Redress Cell and an Environment Cell. The department has also a Placement Cell but the placement record is not in place. The department organised the First Alumni Meet in 2018.

Following areas deserve attention:

- Major Research Projects
- UGC Research Support to the Department
- Research Collaboration focussed on the northeast with national / international universities
- Sponsored Translation Project on marginal literature of the northeast
- Interactions with other language departments of the GU
- Alumni interactions for capacity building and fund generation

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➤ English Language Teaching

There is a great demand for English Language Teaching in the country, as also abroad. The department of ELT has an important role in promoting English language teaching. We were informed that the ELT department of Gauhati University is primarily engaged in providing language teaching training to school teachers. The facilities can be extended to students of all disciplines phase-wise. That will facilitate them in understanding and teaching their subjects and strengthen their communicative skills and communication in English. The department has a well-equipped language teaching lab at its exclusive disposal. The facility may be extended to other language departments involved in the teaching of languages.

Following areas deserve attention:

- Lack of sponsored research project
- Collaboration with in-campus other language departments needed
- Promotion of Cross Cultural Translation
- Collaboration with ICCR for the placement of English teacher abroad
- Better utilization of the departmental Language Lab
- Research cum Consultancy Collaboration with Northeastern Council
- Publishing popular English teaching books for non-specialized users

➤ Environmental Science

The department offers research facilities to scholars in the field of air, water and soil pollution, environmental meteorology, environmental hazards: earthquakes, floods and landslides, application of remote sensing and GIS in natural resource management and fluvial geomorphology, EIA, etc. The department has conducted several research projects sponsored by DST (FIST), UGC, ISRO, MoES, Guwahati Refinery, Border Roads Organization, WWF etc.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Low faculty student ratio.
- Publication standard/record may be improved.
- Need sponsored research projects for resource generation.
- Need more inter-departmental and external research collaborations.
- Need to regularly organize workshops, conferences, and popular talks.
- Extension activities and institutional social responsibility are limited

➤ Folklore

With 2:2 Professor-Assistant Professor ratio, Folklore is a research department, at present, running only M Phil and Ph D programmes. The department has recently introduced One Year Postgraduate Diploma Course in Classical Music; and developed

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a departmental museum. The department has collaborative exchange programmes with the University Of Tartu, Estonia, under which teachers and students visited that university. The Journal of Folkloristic is annually published from the department. Head of the department, Prof. Bora received the prestigious Sahitya Akademi award for his publication. Alumni Association of the department maintains regular interaction with the alumni.

Following points deserve attention:

- Major research projects
- Collaboration with IGNCA, Sangeet Natak Akademi, ICCR, and similar other organizations
- Media exposure and skill development programmes
- Field based study of marginal groups in outlying areas of northeast
- Linkages with the Northeast India Council
- Exposure to the universities in Southeast Asia

➤ Foreign Languages

The Department of Foreign Languages requires immediate attention of the university so far as the appointment of teachers is concerned. It is recommended that there should be at least two teachers for each foreign language taught at the university. Foreign language teaching has become job-oriented; and there is growing interest among young generation to learn the languages of the country, which are known for their skills and technology, e.g. Korean and Japanese. The university may think of introducing more such languages in the teaching programmes to attract students and professionals of different fields from other states as well.

Following areas deserve attention: Introduction

- of Chinese language teaching
- Lack of sponsored research project
- Collaboration with in-campus other language departments needed
- Promotion of Cross Cultural Translation

➤ Geography

The department of Geography was once known for its stalwarts whose contribution to the field is widely acknowledged. Encouraged by their predecessors, the existing faculties also achieved a high mark both in teaching and research; with publications in Scopus and high index factor journals. The department has some externally funded projects. The research recognitions of the faculties enabled them to have collaborative research programmes with fellow institutions of Japan and Bahrain. The DST-FIST and UGC SAP DRS programmes are

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also ongoing in the department. Faculties are actively attending national seminars and conferences in India and abroad; while national/international seminars, conferences and workshops were organised during the period under review.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Low faculty student ratio
- Explore northeast specific research programmes to draw major research support
- Try to attract corporate social responsibility fund from major enterprises of the northeast for localized research
- Encourage the publication of research themes with general appeal in popular literature
- Rope in your diaspora alumni to build up research infrastructure

➤ Geological Sciences

The department spreads over a large floor area, with modest laboratory and ICT enabled classroom facilities; apart from a well-stocked Geological Museum and a fairly good Departmental Library. Faculties have published in reputed top-rated international peer-reviewed, Scopus and Web Science journals like Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, SEG to name a few. In addition to in-house grants from the university, grants have also been received under FIST programmes of the DST (2003-2008), FIST programmes of the DST (2016-2021) and RUSA programmes of the UGC (2016-17). The Department has a MoU with the Oil India Ltd. (OIL) to collaborate in research under the 'Industry-Academia' initiative of the OIL; and collaborative programmes with Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleo sciences, Atomic Mineral Directorate, BGRL External collaboration is satisfactory. Good extension activities and institutional social responsibility.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Publication standard/record may be improved.
- Interactions with the Geological Survey of India in the northeast region
- More externally funded research projects needed for resource generation
- Need more inter-departmental and external research collaborations.
- Need to regularly organize workshops, conferences and popular talks.
- Need to encourage students who take up competitive exams.

➤ Hindi

With seven teachers and an average fifty students per semester, the department of Hindi is better placed, with a fairly good departmental library, six-unit of computer lab with internet connectivity, and a modest seminar hall. The record of departmental and faculty publications is satisfactory and faculties seem well

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exposed to the national / international seminars. The department regularly runs a mentor-mentee programme and also occasionally organizes parents' meet.

Following areas deserve attention:

- Minor/Major Research Projects needed in the department
- Diploma course in Hindi could be introduced
- Sponsored Hind-Assamese / Assamese-Hindi Translation projects
- Collaboration with public / private institution for the promotion of Hindi in the northeast
- Research collaboration / interaction with in-campus other language departments

➤ History

One of the oldest departments of the Gauhati University, a pioneering one in the entire northeast, the department of history has a glorious past, distinguished by the research recognition of its teachers; Padmashree award included. From the Vice Chancellor to the higher echelon of the administrative hierarchy, university teachers to boot, its alumni have an equally distinctive record.

The good thing about the present structure of the department is the induction of teachers from different universities of India, a fairly balanced gender ratio, and a good mix of the young and old teachers, who are engaged in diversified fields of research. The publication by the faculty is good; but needs wider circulation. The Journal of History and Culture is regularly published from the department; but it is not included in the UGC Care List. The department regularly organizes invited lectures, seminars, and workshops. One of the existing teachers only recently served abroad as India Chair Professor. The placement record of the department is also fairly good.

The following areas need immediate attention:

- Lack of externally funded research project
- Collaborative research initiative with public/private institution
- Increased research focus on the field based studies on the northeast
- Digitization of useful local level sources lying outside the institutional sector
- National / international publication of the research output
- Greater research and ideational integration with other departments of the university

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➤ Information Technology

The Department of Information Technology (renaming the Department of Computer & Information Technology in June 2012) under the Faculty of Technology, Gauhati University was established to facilitate a state-of-the-art infrastructure for different Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Research programmes in the field of Computer and Information Technologies. Good extension activities and institutional social responsibility.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Low faculty student ratio.
- Publication record/standard is not good.
- No significant research collaboration with other departments of the university.
- Computation facilities are not up to the mark.
- Need to regularly organize workshops, conferences and popular talks.
- This department may be merged with the department of CSE.

➤ Instrumentation and USIC

Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facility (SAIF), sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India was established as a Regional X-ray Facility in the department SAIF. This has been rendering analytical services in the field of X-ray Diffractometry (XRD), X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (XRF) and Single Crystal X-ray Diffractometry. SAIF has been regularly participating in the rounds of International Proficiency Test for Analytical Geochemical Laboratories conducted by International Association of Geoanalysts (IAG) and has so far organized six workshops on Theory and Practices of XRD, XRF and SCXRD. Good extension activities and institutional social responsibility. It is one of the performing departments of the University.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Publication standard may be improved.
- Need more externally funded research projects for resource generation.
- Need more inter-departmental and external research collaborations.
- Learning management system should be introduced and used – Google, Edmodo, and Moodle and online with 24X7 services should be made available to students.

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➤ **Law**

The department was found to be lagging behind in many fronts. The time-table submitted, does not have a paper/course on “legal and social research methods/methodology” which is very crucial as the master programmes is meant to teach how to do research. Such a course /paper must be introduced immediately, if not done yet. Further, it is also noted that IPR, including the Patents Act which is as old as 1970, is yet to be introduced in LL.M. It is also noted that only two publications have been done in the last one year even though there are six teachers in total.

The Department has to actively engage in research. It can collaborate with the Department of Statistics in order to teach the students about the different statistical tools that can be used for the purpose of data analysis. It should develop course on ‘Constitutional values and Fundamental Duties’ for the undergraduate students in all fields as part of the implementation of NEP 2020.

➤ **Library and Information Science**

A relatively small department with four permanent faculties and two associates headed by Prof Singh, the Library and Information Science Department runs M Lisc. M Phil, and Ph D programmes with an intake capacity of 30 students per semester. Other than that, the department has nothing to state in its favour: publication, seminar, workshop and conferences or research projects and linkages. The record of alumni interaction is in place. The department needs to explore its potentialities and concentrate on capacity building.

➤ **Modern Indian Languages and Literary studies**

Beginning in 1967, the Department of Modern Indian Language and Literary Studies has crossed important milestones in its journey towards excellence; made its mark felt across similar departments in Indian universities, also abroad. Like many other departments in the university, the department of MILS has only seven teachers; but they have outperformed many. Besides PG and Ph D programmes, the department also runs diploma courses in six major Indian languages.

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The record of the faculty publication is impressive. The department has developed an interaction network with different universities through regularly held visiting lectures by distinguished professors, one from a university of the USA included. In the period under review, the MILS department organised five national seminars in addition to the celebration of its golden jubilee.

Following areas deserve attention:

- Sponsored Research Projects
- Sponsored Translation Projects focussed on marginal literature of the region
- Exposure to national / international research funding agencies
- Specialised Research Programmes on Comparative Connectivity of northeast Indian languages
- Alumni interaction

➤ **Mathematics**

It is one of the most performing departments of the University. The publication record is extremely good.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Contribution to Mathematics Education for schools/colleges of Assam.
- Maintaining ICT enabled class room with all facilities.
- The department has limited extension activities and outreach
- Programmes Computation facilities are not up to the mark.

➤ **Persian**

A small department of three teachers headed by Prof. Rekibuddin Ahmed is located in a heritage-like building. The department has an intake of 30 students. It has a small library equipped with six computers and internet connectivity. The department has two major research projects and nine collaborations, although their nature has not been defined. The department has no publication, but the individual teachers have some publications. Teachers also took part in six national and international seminars during the last five years.

The following areas need immediate attention:

- Digitization of MSS / rare books in private possession with external funding
- Research interaction with in campus other department; e.g. History
- Mono/Bi/Multi-lingual Funded Translation projects
- Institutionalization of administrative collaboration

DEPARTMENTS



➤ **Philosophy**

One of the oldest departments of the university, the Department of Philosophy has altogether seven teachers, two professors included; a good departmental library with internet connectivity and a workable computer lab with nine computers; but, at present, the department is running short of classrooms.

Gauhati University Journal of Philosophy is included in the UGC Care List. Teachers have published altogether nine articles at the national and international levels during the period under review. One Major Research Project has been running and one of the teachers received Visiting Professorship at the ICPR, Delhi, for one year. No significant extension activities undertaken; or seminar, workshop and conference organised by the department during the period.

The following areas deserve attention:

- Lack of external exposure
- Low impact factor publications
- Externally funded research projects needed
- Collaborative research initiative with organizations, like the ICPR
- Focus on the northeast region specific research (in line of the Lokayata darshan)
- Seminar / workshop / conferences for better interaction

➤ **Physics**

The department of Physics was one of the first PG departments the university had started with. Since then, it has continued to be a hub of leading physics education and research activities in the whole of the North Eastern India. The Physics Department has research grants under DRS-III Phase of SAP (Special Assistance Programmes) Grant of the UGC, FIST Level-2 Grant of the DST, and RUSA Grant of MHRD. Good faculty student ratio.

DEPARTMENTS

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Need more externally funded research projects for resource generation.
- Publication standard may be improved.
- Need more inter-departmental and external research collaborations.
- Need to regularly organize workshops, conferences and popular talks.
- Learning management system should be introduced and used: Google, Edmodo, and Moodle and online with 24X7 services should be made available to students.
- Need to encourage students who take up competitive exams.

➤ Political Science

One of the oldest departments of the Gauhati University, the department of Political Science has outperformed fellow departments in the faculty on a number of counts. The department, at present, has 10 teachers, with a teacher: student ratio of 1:15; all of whom have Ph D degrees. The department has completed the UGC-SAP (DRS-2) during 2015-2020. The department has regular journals published on two separate themes. The department also organised in / out-station social awareness programmes with local collaboration; such as the mapping of voting behaviour.

The record of the faculty publication is commendable, both at the national and international levels. They also have a fair record of circulation in seminars and conferences. Prof. Mahanta has completed a number of externally funded research projects. Prof. Mahanta and Prof. Datta have external teaching / research collaborations. Last year, Prof. Mahanta has been awarded NEPNI Excellence Award.

The following areas deserve attention:

- Better digital access and internet connectivity
- Externally-funded major research projects for all
- Collaborative research initiative with public/private institution
- Specialisation in voting and election analysis
- Research focus on the field based studies on the marginal areas of the northeast
- Digitization of the departmental journal
- Research publication with greater impact factor

DEPARTMENTS

➤ Psychology

The Department of Psychology is a small department with three faculties aided by three teaching associates and about 50 students. In spite of being an old department and the immense relevance and applicability of the discipline in the present-day life scenario, the department has not grown in the way it should have. The Department needs to revamp itself and work towards making the programmes more attractive and relevant from the industry's perspective. Following points deserve attention:

Faculty recruitment

Publication not impressive

Research projects Research / Consultancy

Collaboration with private / public institution

Social extension activities

➤ Sociology

Initiated in 2011, the Department of Sociology is in reality a toddler in the family of major departments of the Gauhati University. The department has only four teachers led by Dr. Saikia, Associate Professor, with good exposure to recent trends in sociological research; supported by her three young colleagues.

The positive thing about the department is its relatively young composition with teachers having good academic records; but it is yet to pay dividends. None of the teachers has externally funded research project; no noticeable publication, and no proven record of research activity.

The following areas deserve immediate attention:

- Teacher recruitment
- Research collaborations with departments like the Political Science, Anthropology, History, and GUINES.



DEPARTMENTS

➤ Sanskrit

One of the oldest departments of the Gauhati University, Sanskrit department completed the UGC SAP Phase I; the proposal for Phase II has been already approved by the UGC. The department, at present run mostly by senior teachers, has six vacancies. One of its teachers recently served as the Vice Chancellor of a state university. The alumni placement record is good. The publication by the faculty is fair. The departmental journal, Surabharati, has been included in the UGC Care List. The in-house mentor-mentee programmes, run by the department, is a commendable initiative. Teachers are actively engaged in different types of campus/institutional activities.

The following areas deserve attention:

- Teacher recruitment
- Shift of research focus to marginally explored areas
- Lack of externally funded research project by teachers
- Collaborative research initiative with organizations of corresponding interest
- Sponsored project for Digitization of useful sources (MSS etc.) in private possession
- Research publication with greater impact factor
- Mono/Bi/Multi-lingual Funded Translation projects

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DEPARTMENTS

- Externally funded major research projects for all
- Collaborative research initiative with public/private institution
- Specialisation in voting and election analysis
- Increased research focus on the field based studies on the northeast
- Digitization of the departmental journal
- Research publication with greater impact factor

➤ Statistics

Established on January 26, 1948, the Department of Statistics, Guahati University is known for the glory of its first generation teachers. It is also known in the entire northeast for its Population Research Centre. The Journal of Statistical Approach in Research is regularly published by the department; but it is not included in the UGC Care List. The department has received funding from DST (FIST) and UGC under its Special assistance programmes (SAP): DRS-I. Currently, it is receiving fund under the DST (FIST).

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- Low faculty student ratio.
- Limited physical space.
- Publication record/standard is not good.
- No significant research collaboration with other major departments
- Computation facilities are not up to the mark.
- No externally funded projects.
- Need to regularly organize workshops, conferences, and popular talks.
- Extension activities and institutional social responsibility are limited.

➤ Women Studies

The department of Women Studies is also in a similar situation with two Professors, one Associate Professor and one teaching associate. The department has modest facilities; but the publication record is not satisfactory. The department has no journal, no sponsored research project, no collaboration, and no evidence of in-campus or external research linkages. The department however organizes awareness programmes from time to time.

The following areas deserve attention:

- Recruitment of faculty with focussed research attention
- In-house research collaboration with matching departments

DEPARTMENTS

- Externally funded major research projects
- Collaboration cum consultancy with public/private institution
- Exploration of northeast specific field based research programmes
- Research publication with greater impact factor

➤ **Zoology**

The Department of Zoology was established in 1963. This Department is recognized by the NAAC peer team as one of the best science departments of the University. It is one of the performing departments of the University. The department has been selected as FIST sponsored Department under DST (Govt. of India), Ministry of Science & Technology for building up the infrastructure for postgraduate teaching and research. The UGC has supported the department with the SAP programmes since 2002. The department also runs a society "Zoological Society of Assam", which coordinates seminar, organizes inter-departmental Quiz competition, debates/discussion and field trip etc. The Department successfully completed the first and the second phase of the DRS project from 2002 –2012 on October 2000. The Department was sanctioned the third phase of DRS in 2015 for another five years. It is important to mention that the Department has received a grant of rupees twenty lakhs from the National Fishery Development Board Hyderabad last year for further development of infra-structural facilities in aquaculture and biodiversity centre of the department about 25 research sponsored by UGC, CSIR, ICAR, DST, DoEn, DBT, ASTEC, DRDO and NHPC have already been completed. These projects have a direct relevance to the socio-economic development of the northeast India. The list of publications with impact factor is quite impressive.

Following points may be considered for improvement.

- No significant research collaboration with other major departments.
- Learning management system should be introduced and used – Google, Edmodo, and Moodle and online with 24X7 services should be made available to students.
- Student Personality Development related activities may be enhanced.
- Need to encourage students who take up competitive exams.

CENTRES, INSTITUTES & LIBRARY

➤ **Aquaculture and Biodiversity Centre**

Zoology department has established one Aquaculture and Biodiversity centre to execute all the components of the objectives of UGC funded scheme Special Assistance programmes under DRS from 2002 –2012. The earlier site was in the vicinity of 37 national highways with an area of about 20 acres of natural swampy land. As a result of the construction of the 4 lanes high way the centre was relocated to its present site of 16 acres of land in the heart of the main campus. This is one of the best facilities of NE region of India.

➤ **Centre for Performing Arts and Culture**

The Centre is housed in a newly built on a separate building. Since performances and performing traditions are linked with diverse areas under one discipline, the Centre should be expanded with adequate funding and faculty specialist in dance (classical and folk), drama, and music, both vocal and instrumental. Resources can be generated from various sources, such as organizations supporting the country's art and culture and local industries, particularly the Tea Estates. The Centre has the potential to attract various institutions of the region.

➤ **Radar Centre**

The Guwahati University ST Radar is an advance system with cutting edge indigenous technology in VHF band with open configuration (Antennas, Transmit/Receive Module Modules and Cables), where active phased array concept has been used. It is a coherent pulsed Doppler radar operating in the Doppler Beam Swinging (DBS) mode. It consists of 576 antenna elements arranged in a circle with square grid. Each antenna is connected with its own T/R Module to generate high quality wind data (wind speed and its direction) with high spatial and temporal resolution on continuous basis. This is an extremely good advanced research facility for advanced research in different allied areas.

CENTRES, INSTITUTES & LIBRARY

➤ **Guwahati University Observatory Centre**

It's the place to be for gazing that rare celestial event. Over the past decades, the Guwahati University Observatory, the only one in the Northeast, has provided succor to students and played the ideal laboratory for research scholars. Perched on a hilltop on the university campus, the observatory is operated by the Physics department of Guwahati University. The observatory has five telescopes. Of them, the largest one – a 16-inch diameter (Meade ACF) – is the recent addition and permanently mounted inside the observation dome. It is controlled by the onboard electronics and computers. This is one of the important facilities of the university for advanced research in Physics and other allied areas.

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➤ **Institute of Distance and Open Learning**

The IDOL shows steady growth in terms of number of courses offered since 2017. The number of students enrolled in this department can be increased further using the same facilities. Keeping in view the lack of higher education institution in the far-flung areas of the Northeast, the IDOL can play a pivotal role in providing accessible higher education in the region.

The university and the IDOL should take further initiatives for popularizing their programmes and also revise the course curricula to help students get the best syllabi and help them get duly placed thereafter. IDOL can also think about making recorded video lectures in the studios available in the GU and supplement the self-learning materials.

CENTRES, INSTITUTES & LIBRARY

It can also create MOOCs for different courses which will enable online learning for students in different parts of the state and the country. IDOL can also come up with different pedagogical methods of teaching students through this mode/platform which is best suited to it.

➤ **Gauhati University Institute of Northeast India Studies**

With one assistant professor and a research officer, headed by a rotating director of professorial rank, this is primarily a research institute mandated to help disseminate the multi-disciplinary approach towards better academic understanding of the people and culture of northeastern India. With modest facilities of a single class room, a small library, a digital studio, suitably located at the entry point of the sprawling campus of the university, the institute is, at present, literally a showpiece of its immense possibilities in store. A small but nevertheless significant step in the right direction initiated by the institute has been the introduction of a peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary UGC Care Listed journal, GUINEIS, which has received wide attention. A proactive collaboration programmes with the departments of reckoning in the campus might help the institute diversify its activities and serve as a premiere knowledge feeder to the GOI organizations working on cultural mapping of northeast India.

➤ **Krishna Kanta Handique Library**

Named after Prof. Krishna Kanta Handique, the noted Sanskrit scholar and the founder Vice Chancellor of the university, the Gauhati University Central Library is the richest library in the entire northeast; known for its massive collection of Sanskrit / vernacular manuscripts, rare books, and K K Handique collections. The library is located in a spacious and majestic building with extended facilities in adjunct new building; with fairly updated system of handling books and reading room facilities. The work of software based Digitization of catalogues is in progress. The following areas deserve attention:

- Fire fighting system is inadequate
- Manuscript section need to be air conditioned with moisture control gadget
- Synchronize space and energy utilization with the foot falls per hour
- Introduction of theft controlled mechanism needed
- Digitization of rare books

NEP- IMPLEMENTATION

Key points to achieve

- Multi-disciplinary universities and colleges
- offering higher education in local/Indian languages
- multidisciplinary undergraduate education
- faculty and institutional autonomy
- restructuring curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and student support
- reaffirming the integrity of faculty and institutional leadership position
- governance of Higher Education Institutions by independent boards having academic and administrative autonomy
- increased access, equity, and inclusion

Phase-wise implementation of the NEP-2020 at the university level

- Rationalization of existing programmes/courses in accordance with the NEP-2020 and working out regulations of transition from the pre to post NEP. Preparing (a) a roadmap for the phase-wise implementation of NEP-2020;
- (b) new programmes / courses and structures under NEP-2020 (duly processed by respective Boards of Studies) for approval by the Academic Council or Faculty Council for implementation prior to the commencement of the academic year.

To register (if not yet done) on the ABC (Academic Bank of Credits) portal to

- facilitate credit mobility for students.

Fixing broad-based curriculum comprising a core and a multidisciplinary

- component in every program; provisioning multiple entry and exit within it, to make education more student centric and needs-specific in compliance to the NEP. Skills must be explicitly integrated, prominently exhibited, taught in context, and duly evaluated.

To finalize the exit options, with a certificate or a diploma etc. In any case,

- the credits may be deposited in the ABC for credit mobility. The current exit option after three years, with a B.A. or B.Sc. in the relevant subject must continue and a new exit option after the end of four years with a B.A. / B.Sc. (Honours) be created. To offer an exit option at the end of the first year with the Master's degree, where the university is offering an integrated doctoral programmes.

Framing regulations to accept lateral entry of students from outside the

- university to an ongoing programmes (2-year Master's). Individual academic units may work out prerequisites and entry norms.

NEP- IMPLEMENTATION

To develop additional course/s for the new discipline for students willing to pursue a Master's or a Doctorate degree in a discipline other than the major subject studied in undergraduate programmes, which the student has not pursued in the previously completed course for eligibility.

Level of Preparedness for the implementation of the NEP-2020

It is assuring to see that the Gauhati University is almost in a mission mood to implement the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) from the month of August 2023. This is a praiseworthy move. Not only have the universities of the northeast but in the entire country, only a few universities till date, attained a similar mindset. The Director IQAC confirmed that the work for the Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes (FYUGP) is going on in full swing. The process of getting the university registered to the ABC (Academic Bank of Credits) must have been done by then or is underway.

The implementation of NEP-2020 involves a good deal of rationalization of the university's existing UG, PG and Ph D programmes; retaining the core of the discipline; but incorporating at the same time a truly multidisciplinary approach with both a pedagogic and a market friendly orientation. This would involve a lot of brainstorming by experts across the field and corresponding changes in the policy line up to execute them at the university level. The reason is, the NEP aims to ensure greater mobility of students by allowing them the 'entry' 'exit' options.

The dismal part of the level of preparedness is that the highly motivated mindset found at the higher rungs of the university administration is conspicuous by its absence at other levels. Thus, team members in course of their interactions with teachers in different departments, found them quite complacent. The dominant notion was that the university authorities were taking all steps for the implementation of the NEP-2020. It may be unpleasant to note that the general perception of the NEP-2020 among teacher is very poor; hence they are quite unaware of the important commitment teachers at all layers have to fulfill for the successful implementation of the NEP.

NEP- IMPLEMENTATION

Without the whole hearted involvement of the teachers, rationalization of the course curriculum along the lines suggested in the NEP would be next to impossible. In view of all these, it may be extremely difficult for the university to switch to the NEP-2020 by the August 2023.

What is needed is sustained in-house awareness campaign on the NEP-2020; which could be done by (A) constituting a team of teachers with better understanding of the NEP by the university authority. This team will then arrange discussion with their colleagues of different departments in a phased manner. (B) The university could also organise seminar/workshop by involving outside experts. (C) IQAC should take a lead role in ensuring greater involvement of teachers, seniors in particular, in various phases of the implementation of the NEP-2020 in a holistic way and making all of them aware of the fundamentals of the new policy.

Without the full-fledged participation of the majority of the teaching community, framing of the curricula and syllabi would not be possible. The courses/papers should be framed keeping in mind the learning outcomes prescribed in the National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) and the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). Whenever the task of framing the syllabi is taken up, it is advisable that experts from the relevant industry are part of this exercise so that students after completing the programmes will get suitable employment or be equipped with the skill that would enable them to start their own entrepreneurship.

The involvement of the industry relevant in the discipline and experts associated with it are required to identify the useful skill courses. For the better outcome, the syllabi and curricula of courses of each programme need to be peer reviewed. Teachers are required to train on the pattern and scheme of assessment to be done for different types of courses/papers, as every assessment must test whether the learning outcomes set out for a course have been achieved by the learner.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- The number of permanent teachers needs to be increased in the department with poor teacher student ratio.
- All the departments must present their best practices as well as achievements in a proactive manner. Best practices /achievements like outreach activities, collaborations, awards, green initiatives, skill development of students and neighbouring communities etc. needs to be highlighted.
- SWOC (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges) of each department need to be framed / formulated intelligently and represented properly.
- Teachers of the departments with few or no research projects should be specially trained in writing project proposals as well as be helped with the information about the possible funding agencies to which they can apply.
- All the departments, specially those of the science and engineering faculties, should explore their potentialities for research related resource generation.
- Need to implement outcome-based pedagogy.
- Except a few, most of the departments have no research collaborations at present. In view of this, the mindset towards R&D for Industry-Department collaborations needs to be changed for developing a robust industry-academia linkage in the campus.
- The research ecosystem needs to be developed by encouraging -
 - inter departmental collaborations for multidisciplinary research,
 - industry-academia collaborations,
 - opening up of research facilities to other departments and college teachers,
 - activation of the patent cell,
 - Financial support for publication in high impact journals
 - Award/recognition for publication in renowned journals of the world such as Nature.
- Learning management system should be introduced: Google, Edmodo, and Moodle and online with 24X7 services should be made available to students
- The university's Botanical garden is rich in diverse species and serves as carbon sink. This asset needs better management by using display boards with a brief note of the species. The roads within the garden may be redone for better impact.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- The university should encourage creation of more compost pits in several places in the campus as there are lots of organic and garden wastes that can be converted to organic manure for the farmers.
- The biodiversity facility has been well developed. The training of farmers needs to be highlighted through properly maintained data
- The weather forecast system needs a fresh coat of paints for better maintenance. The stairs to the rooftop observatory need to be changed; to avoid any untoward incident.
- The functioning of the university controller's section is fairly updated and transparent; with stacks of answer script on the passage exposed to weather hazards remaining the only eyesore to the observers. This may be suitably relocated.
- The grievance redress-mechanism should be available online for communication of grievances, sexual harassment of girls in the campus, with special emphasis on the full compliance of the UGC Regulations of 2015.

ROAD MAP

To further add to the already very high mark of academic rating, the university authority may consider the following points for future development. Incidentally, some of the development programmes, mentioned below, may be executed with financial support of the Government of India in view of its renewed emphasis on the Northeast India.

1. Fund support to junior teachers for research at the entry-point:

One-time fund support to junior teachers without any research exposure may be considered to help improve their research creditworthiness, which would enable them to develop their research project and help receive research grants from external funding agencies in future. This may be tagged with service conditionality of a locking period that the person receiving such grant shall have to serve the university for a specified period, say for five years, during which she/he will not be allowed to leave the university.

2. One Teacher One Project:

Let it be the research motto in all the faculties. The university authority should also do their best in making it a point of policy emphasis in its approach to faculties. Inculcating it into the mindset of the teachers, of the arts, commerce, and social science departments in particular, by virtue of a policy push just for five years, could bring about a major change in the existing research scenario of the university and considerably help in resource generation.

3. A Central Museum

This remains a serious shortcoming of the Gauhati University in comparison with most other major universities of the country. The museum in these days is widely recognised as an indispensable part of the academic establishment for its dynamic role in making successive generation of students (citizenry in multiplier impact) aware of the nation's cultural heritage. It is an indispensable tool both for the cultural sustenance as well as cultural regeneration. The state of Assam has a large number of widely scattered purpose-specific small museums; but unfortunately not a major museum with all its academic components in one place.

The Gauhati University is ideally suited to develop one. A multi-faceted central museum will not only be a star attraction of the campus; but will help the university to discharge its larger commitment to the people of the state of Assam in particular and the whole country in general. The existing departmental museums are mainly used as teaching aids; hence fail short of fulfilling their social objective which is indicated by their poor footfalls. The department of History has failed to showcase the historical heritage of Assam through exhibits. All these and many more, such as historical objects and cultural elements could be scientifically arranged in an artistically designed building in accordance with the cultural tradition of the state.

ROAD MAP

4. Switch to Green Energy

The university should adopt a policy decision to switch to renewable energy source for meeting its energy needs in a phased manner. This will be also in agreement with the policy emphasis of the Government of India; hence the management of the requisite fund for the implementation of the scheme over a time period may not be that difficult. Let there be solar panels on all the roof-tops of the campus, thereby creating a precedent in the state to be followed by other fellow institutions.

5. Plastic free Campus

Declaring the campus plastic free could be an important step toward better environment without any involvement of funds. The sale of all plastic packaged food materials should be prohibited within the campus. More than prohibition, what is important is to develop a culture of not using plastic among the larger fraternity of the university.

6. Management of Marsh / Water bodies and Landscaping

The water bodies and marshy lands in the campus are an asset of the university which deserves better management following the precedent created by Biodiversity Centre. This needs an outcome based coordinated effort involving experts from different fields. Appropriate execution of the plan might yield yet another source of revenue generation for the university.

The university should adopt a beautification drive for proper landscaping of the campus. The frontal space and approach way of all departmental/office buildings, the Guest House included, and the sidelines of the main road of the campus deserve better aesthetic treatment by involving horticulture experts. The university could collaborate with the horticulture and gardening department/s of the Government of Assam for a primary cost analysis and a time bound execution of the plan by them.

7. History of the Gauhati University

As a part of its Golden Jubilee celebration, the Gauhati University should adopt an ambitious time bound project of writing the History of the Gauhati University. The project may be given to the Department of History of the university.

8. Centre of Southeast Asian Studies

In agreement with the Government of India's Look East policy, there should be a multi-disciplinary Centre of Southeast Asian Studies in line with the GUINEIS, but on a larger scale. The Department of Political Science, which has a modest unit like this, might take a lead in organising the centre. A number of departments like

ROAD MAP

anthropology, folklore, history, linguistics, Bodo, geography, botany, bioscience, zoology and similar others might be benefitted. All of them could extend their areas of research to a new horizon.

For the state of Assam's historical and cultural linkages to the region, with the city of Gauhati considered the gateway to Southeast Asia, the Gauhati University could approach the Government of India for funds to develop the centre.

9. Tree Census

The Gauhati University campus has a large number of mature trees of different varieties. It's high time the university should undertake a physical census of the trees by systematically numbering each tree with the data of its specie, age, health status, category/categories of use/s kept in digital repository linked to the university website. The project can be given to the department of Botany and Geography (for systematic mapping of location), who can execute it without much involvement of funds.

Once completed, this will significantly increase the university's accessibility to national / international community of researchers in the field and would help draw attention of the government organizations like the Botanical Survey of India and others. It might also help generate research funds in future.

10. Installation of Iconic Statues


The university may consider the installation of more statues, life size or bust, of the iconic regional / national figures in the campus. All major academic departments should have the statue of its iconic figure in the discipline placed at the entry-point; in the way some of the major Indian universities have done. This is the easiest way to encourage the upcoming generation of students to get connected to the field chosen by her/him and inculcate achievements of the great person. This would change the existing ambiance of the campus.

Dated: the 15th February, 2023


Signatures:




(B.S. Mipun)



(P.C. Pattanaik)



(K. Ratnabali)



(M.S. Bhuyan)



(Smritikumar Sarkar)