

Determining the Unit Cost of Higher Education: A case study of Baksa and Udalguri District of B.T.A.D, Assam

Subhash Saha
Research Scholar
CMJ University, Meghalaya

Abstract:

The study is an attempt to access and evaluate the unit cost of higher education in two district of BTAD under general course of study. Its evaluate the cause of increasing the cost of per unit identifying the factor influencing the cost fluctuation. It also monitors the irrelevant expenses on unsuccessful students. The analysis is based on primary and secondary source and on existing study in two districts of BTAD, focusing on unit cost of higher education.

Introduction:

BTAD with its headquarter Kokrajhar has speed up the infrastructural development of the area. Its network for higher education has created and attention of a central government for inspiring student across the country. The presence of institution including the Government college Kokrajhar, the Beneswar Brahma engineering college, Central Institute of technology and Bodoland University etc. These on the whole make BTAD the top educational destination both at state and national level which is improving gradually amid all social and cultural problems. The study explores the issues related to unit cost of higher education. In most of related analyze and studied of unit cost of higher education refer to per student expenditure which has increased over time. Educational institution in two district of BTAD, Assam in the table below shows various level of educational institution which is an outcome after long struggle.

Table shows the various educational Institutions in Baska and Udalgari District of BTAD, Assam

Sl. No.	District	Primary school	Middle school	High School	Higher secondary school	Junior college	College
1	Baska	1115	203	256	15	3	9
2	Udalguri	203	112	266	44	5	6

Source: (i) Directorate of Secondary Education, Assam

(ii) Directorate of Higher Education, BTC

Objective:

1. Estimation of primary cost and opportunity cost of student.
2. Identifying factor influencing the total unit cost of student.

Hypothesis:

- H₁** Annual unit costs per student vary from one to one institute.
- H₂** Infrastructural cost has enhanced the unit cost.

Methodology:

The sample for the presence study consists of primary and secondary data. The data were collected from various source of annual account of various college administration and admission records, stock register of college office collected through questionnaires from BTAD area .The composition of various cost influencing unit has been studied and the charging rate is tried to identified.

Unit cost of higher education in BTAD (study area):

The study was conducted with a view to ascertain the cost incurred by various higher educational institution in BTAD area considering various cost such as staff salary, infrastructural cost, private cost, opportunity cost and miscellaneous cost commonly formatted in account books of all the institute. Data collected is represented converting it in percentage form to compare the factor analysis which has mostly uplifted the unit cost per student in the two Districts.

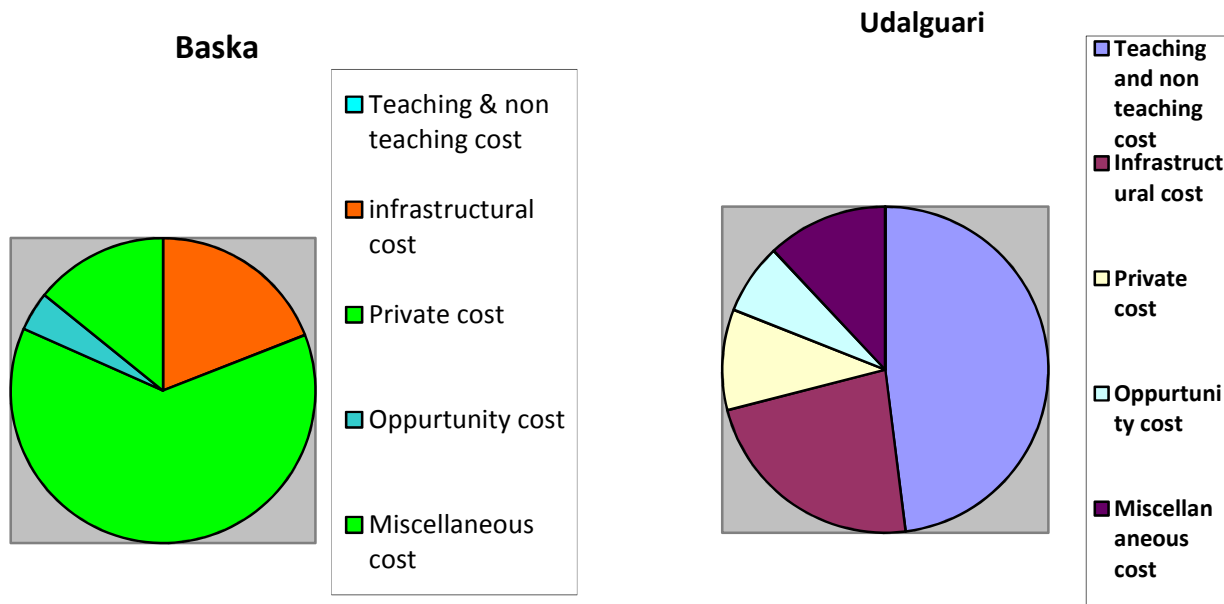
Chart showing Unit cost incurred in BTAD (study area) for Higher education.

District	No of College	Status of the Institution	Staff Salary Teaching and Nonteaching	*Infrastructural Cost	Private Cost	Opportunity Cost	Miscellaneous Cost	Total
Baska	4	Provincialised-2 Deficit-2	46%	21%	16%	6%	11%	100%
Udalguri	5	Provincialised-3 Deficit-2	48%	23%	10%	7%	12%	100%

Source –Field Survey

***Infrastructural cost refer to depreciation charged on fixed asset of the institution as per income tax act 1961 prescribe rate.**

Diagram presentation of unit cost of Baska and Udalguri District, BTAD, Assam.



The table tried to reveal the higher education of BTAD, in its two district baska and udalguri .the study included the colleges which are under the status of provincialised and deficit. The study shows the enrolment of various institutions in higher secondary and degree level in various stream, arts, commerce and science in the session 2009-2010. Total (9) nine higher education institutions are taken into consideration throughout the survey and the enrolment and the success of the student is converted to percentage and presented in the tabular form for convenient study the data is also used for representing through pie diagram for better comparison.

Enrolment and success of educational institution in BTAD (study area):

District	Number of institution	Enrolment		Successful		unsuccessful	
		Hs	Degree	Hs	Degree	Hs	Degree
Baska	4	45%	55%	76%	59%	24%	41%
Udalguri	5	40%	60%	67%	66%	33%	34%

Source- field survey.

Graph representing enrolment, successful and unsuccessful student of Baska and Udalgari in BTAD.

Graph showing enrolment:

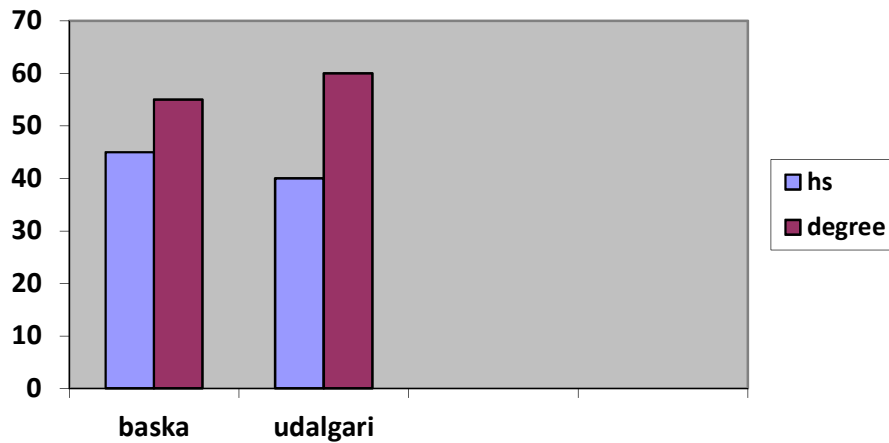


Diagram showing successful and unsuccessful student in BTAD in Higher secondary:

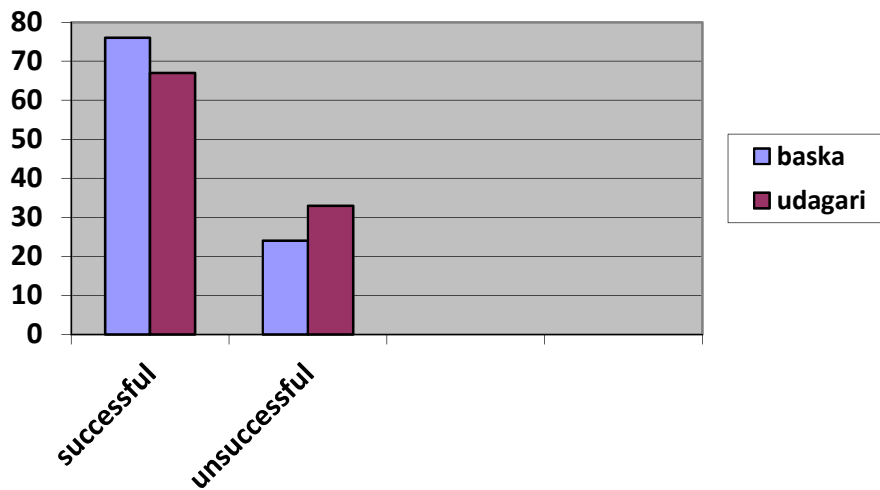
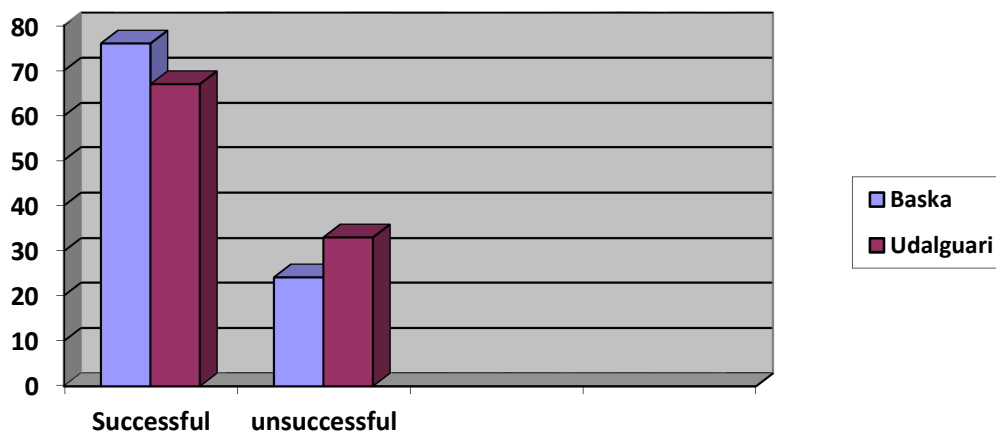


Diagram showing successful and unsuccessful student in BTAD in degree level



Unit cost of higher education in Baska and Udalguri:

The paper has tried to reveal the unit cost of higher education in BTAD. The data collected has been converted to percentage and as for better review presented in various diagram.

Unit cost of student = Total cost / Total enrolment, taking 100 as an expenses and if enrolment is considered to be 100 the result is 1 but the result doesn't remain the same as the successful student as compare to it enrolment is not that 100% hence it has lead to increase in unit cost of student. Unit cost of successful student fluctuate to a large higher difference and so it is considered that unit cost vary with the factor mainly the success and unsuccessful student of any institute of any other region where BASKA no exceptional.

Conclusion:

The above study clarify that the expenses incurred on the student Enrolment and its utilization for outcome is not satisfactory and the difference can be easily studied form the discussion in the above part. Though the utilization was somewhat equal in case of utilization of resource in all the institution more or less but the result shows dramatic change its outcome of the result. The successful student is minor in case of its enrolment if

studies keenly. This shows the expenses on the development part of student or all other expenses does not bring any radical change in the result output what was seen is just the flow of student just for a satisfactory that the enrolment has enhanced with development of infrastructure but the main output is not satisfactory . So the concept of investment or the unit cost of student will never be equal nor will it be easily ascertain till when the result outcome is pulled up.

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