

HIGHER EDUCATION IN MANIPUR (1980–2001): A DECADE OF CHANGE

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ABSTRACT

Higher education is important to Manipur because it provides a diversified pool of people with the knowledge and skills to advance socioeconomically. Furthermore, it promotes cultural awareness and revives social values. Higher education also fosters interethnic harmony and creates a knowledge-based society. As the global economy evolves, Manipur must provide its people with additional educational opportunities to grow and flourish. Students enter, leave, and re-enter the education system. Students with different socioeconomic and educational backgrounds enroll in different schools, introducing a variety of learning demands into each classroom. Manipur University has contributed to higher education in the region. All colleges are connected. This study examines numerous parameters to evaluate higher education expansion in Manipur. The book covers the development of many institutions and organizations over decades.

Keywords: Manipur University, D.M. College, Gauhati University, IGNOU, UGC, Aided College

The Development of Higher Education in Manipur

The establishment of Dhanamanjuri College in Imphal fulfilled Manipur's higher education dream. College was founded August 6, 1946. The college is named after Manipur's king Sir Churachand Maharaj's daughter Princess Dhanamanjuri Devi. The donor provided Rs.10,000 to start the college. New college in our state. The Governing Body's authenticity grows the college. Initiative engaged Manipur youth learners. This college was associated with Calcutta University till Intermediate. Gauhati University affiliated with the college in 1948. Gauhati University first graduating arts students in 1950. Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre of Post-Graduate Studies founded in 1972 in Imphal. The college's affiliation was switched again in 1980 after becoming Manipur University.

Foundation of D.M. College marked Manipur's higher education history. State higher education benefited from its quick advancement system development. It improved and became a residential college. Rapidly advanced towards the widely accepted college standard. D.M. College would be Manipur's best government Science and Arts college with many facilities after government-led renovations. Residential colleges have academic buildings, teacher apartments, student dorms, playgrounds, gymnasiums, indoor stadiums, libraries, athletic and common rooms, and social organisations. It started out ahead of competitors. The D.M. College simulated college life and classes. A communal auditorium hosts student and cultural acts at the campus. Students also engage in seminars, symposia, exams, debates, and constitutional annual magazine paper publication. College students' union organises co-curriculars under faculty supervision. College administration, staff, and student unions organise topic clubs, debate, and theatre groups. Other institutions offer indoor and outdoor games. Other than D.M. College, the colleges were privately funded, aided and unassisted. People built Imphal College (1952–53), Manipur College (1958), Oriental College, and Modern College (1963). These schools were developed to fulfil the state's expanding higher education demands. These colleges advanced Manipur's higher education.

D.M. College was the state's lone school until 1951-52. In 1952-1953, Shri Laishram Achou Singh was Principal of Imphal College, the first private intermediate college. The school offered evening classes. D.M. College, Manipur's only government college, became a day college in 1953–54, benefiting the working class. Manipur College started small in 1958. These schools have plenty of land but poor architecture. Private organisations in Manipur promoted higher education throughout the Second Five Year Plan. The Oriental and Modern Colleges in Imphal were among various educational projects started in 1963-1964. Two more schools opened in Thoubal and Moirang simultaneously. The first hill region arts college opened in 1967-68 at Churachandpur, Manipur South District. Only D.M. College offers Arts and Science. The

college added B.T., B.Com., and post-grad extension programmes. The B.T. programme began in 1959 and post-grad classes in 1962. Oriental College, Manipur College, and Imphal College offer arts and science undergraduate programmes. Due to ad hoc support, these colleges are aided. Modern, Moirang, Thoubal, Seilmat Christian, and Churachandpur were unaided hill district colleges. The state's first women's college opened in 1965-66. Shri Hidangmayum

Dwejamani Deva Sharma gave Rs. 1 lakh to the remembrance of his mother, Ghanapriya Devi. Manipur's government approved Ghanapriya Women's College after Smt. Ghanapriya Devi. Nambol Sanoi College and Maharaja Bodhachandra College were private schools founded in 1966 and 1969. Between 1960 and 1970, the number of colleges reached 12. This statistic excludes government-affiliated D.M. College and G.P. Women's College. According to the Planning Commission, 41,936 Manipur people were 16–20. This age group has 15.62% higher education, per the source¹.

An Rs. 80,000 community donation helped build Kha-Manipur College in Kakching in 1966-67. Recent completion of Sheimlet College's Churachandpur dormitory. Boarding, lodging, and a common room are available for 60 hostellers. University Grants Commission funded colleges. Thoubal College began building and added 10 P.U. Arts and 8 B.A. courses that year. In 1969–70, Imphal, Modern, and Manipur colleges received "Recurring grant-in-aid" support, while the other four received ad-hoc funds. This year, Sheimlet College joined with newly founded Churachandpur College. G.P. Women's College provided 1970-71 English, Education, and Political Science honours. The college added a science track to Pre-University. Nine private colleges received 90% shortfall grants and two non-recurring grants. Scientific equipment stipends went to science colleges.

Thus, by 1970-71, the state had 12 colleges—one in the hills and the rest in the valley. Due to its dense population and various municipalities, including the state capital, the valley boasts many colleges. Manipur's rising educational institutions suggest a demand for advanced learning. Maharaja Bodhachandra, Y.K., and N.G. Colleges got a Rs.20,000 non-recurring prize this year. This year, Moirang, Thoubal, and Churachandpur Colleges received pre-university financing. Educational trips were financed by Rs. 25,000 for 11 aided and 3 unaided colleges. U.G.C. and Central Government contributed Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 20,500/- to boost library resources in 3 government institutions and 9 aided colleges. D.M. Arts and Commerce withdrew from Science in 1975. Manipur had 19 colleges 1976-77. The state has 24 colleges in 1980-81².

In Manipur, 1:180 are college students, compared to 1:300 in Assam and 1:350 in India. Manipur is more literate than Assam and the nation. Low career prospects have increased high school and college enrollment. Established colleges have admissions and education challenges due to the lack of pre-existing methods to control the influx. D.M. College had 68 students in 1946-47. The student body reached about 3,000 by 1975. Rapid growth necessitated Arts and Commerce departments at the college. D.M. College of Arts and Commerce and Science were founded on a common campus.

Private colleges like Imphal, Manipur, and Oriental have faced arts and science enrollment concerns. Second women's college was founded by volunteers. It was founded in 1969-70. State years 1969-70 to 1980-81 had at least one private college founded by voluntary organisations. Valleys house most institutions. Tamenglong lacks private colleges.

Prioritise hill region institutions notwithstanding restrictions.

Previously, state-sponsored volunteer organisations owned most institutions. Recently, the government took over most of these institutions. Old Manipur colleges were all related to Gauhati University. Everyone's associated with Manipur University. Many of these schools teach and test in English. Few schools provide subject-specific Honours programmes. Most colleges provide Honours. Final exams evaluate students. All schools pre-test before finals. The preliminary testing before final examination system implementation is faster now. D.M. schools remain the state's top despite government and private school growth. According to the N.C.E.R.T. Survey Report, the D.M. College in Imphal is the largest college in the state, offering 26 undergraduate courses. That school has honours programmes. G.P. Women's College and Ideal Girls' College in Imphal are government-affiliated. Most colleges are coeducational. In 1987, Manipur University discontinued +2 (Pre-University) courses, which became 10+2. Thus, 13 government colleges ceased +2 courses that year. Few colleges teach +2. With an unanticipated rise in pupils completing the Board of Secondary

¹ Th. Mangoljao Singh, *Western Education in Manipur*, Vol.III (1986), p.43.

² Statistical Handbook of Manipur, 1992, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Manipur, Imphal, 1983, p.30.

Education's H.S.L.C. Examination in 1991, Higher Secondary Schools struggled to meet Class XI admission demand. Rural and hilly government colleges that had abandoned +2 programmes had a huge Class XI candidate pool. Therefore, Manipur's higher education would prioritise consolidation to increase quality and meet societal needs.

Background on Manipur University

Post-World War II educational achievements led to Manipur University. Mid-20th century Manipur advanced education institutions grew. The first Manipur college opened 1946. Other general education undergraduate institutions were founded by Gauhati University. In those days, Manipur graduates studied abroad. Many Manipur university requests have been submitted since 1959. In its 1964 report, the Wadia Committee recommended founding the North Eastern Hill University in Imphal on D.M. College, the region's largest and most established college. Manipur created a post-graduate centre in D.M. College. The result disappointed state inhabitants. Manipur has proposed a post-graduate university centre in Imphal to the UGC. This centre would expand Gauhati University, which includes all Manipur colleges. The University Grants Commission chose Prof. M.V. Mathur, Director of the Asian Institute of Educational Planning and Administration in New Delhi, to chair a seven-member group. This committee investigated. To examine university building needs, the Committee visited Imphal in April 1968. The Committee highlighted the state's rapid higher education expansion over the previous twenty years and concluded that a methodical development of higher education facilities to meet local demands would benefit the region and the nation³.

Comprehensively reviewing Manipur's resources proposes enhancing D.M. College's departments. The objective is to hire part-time qualified instructors from other private universities to deliver high-quality post-graduate education. They suggested a temporary university centre. Manipur residents and the state administration wanted a comprehensive university. New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University agreed to open a post-graduate centre in Imphal to accommodate demand. Jawaharlal Nehru University developed the Centre of Post-Graduate Studies in Imphal in 1971 at the Indian government's request⁴.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre was a crucial step towards a Manipur university. To establish a Manipur university and provide sophisticated learning resources, the JNU Centre was formed. This Centre opened in 1971 in the D.M. College Youth Hostel. Kolkata's Jadavpur University professor Asim Kumar Dutta ran the Centre. Since September 24, 1972, the Centre has offered post-graduate programmes. The school moved to Canchipur Basic Training.

Institute of Education.

Manipur has designated 317.31 acres for a post-graduate centre. At the foot of Langthabal hill. The college is on National Highway 39 west in southern Imphal City. The Centre took over D.M. College's post-graduate English, History, Maths and Economics departments. Master's programmes in Political Science, Manipuri Language and Literature, and Applied Biology are available. When the Centre opened, 7 Divisions employed 37 educators. The approved process appointed few teachers; others were deputed or part-time. The 37 instructors included 13 deputies, 8 contractual, 4 part-time, and 10 regular. The first M.A., M.Sc. students in Mathematics, Economics, Political Science, Manipuri, and Applied Biology graduated in 1974. The Post-graduate Centre has eight departments at the end of the 5th Five Year Plan: Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Life Sciences (formerly Applied Biology), Economics, Political Science, History, English, Manipuri, and Hindi. Schools have several departments. English, Hindi, and Manipuri are taught at Language School. The Social Sciences School offers History, Economics, and Politics. Finally, the School of Sciences includes Math, Chem, Phys, and Life. Last eight divisions fit BTI. The Physics and Chemistry Divisions have separate blocks. Language laboratory block building complete, libraries added. Other teacher quarters were built throughout the Plan. Boys' dormitories were built throughout the Plan and finished early in the 6th. University Grants Commission approved 75 5th Plan faculty seats. Dr. D. Shrinivasachari in 1973, Professor C.N. Chakravati in 1973-74, Dr. H.L. Sarkar from November 1974, and former Indian Administrative Service officer Mr. H. Ranbir Singh managed the P.G. Centre.

³ Mathur Committee Report (1969).

⁴ University Grants Commission, Letter No. F.5-27/74 (P.59), 16th December 1975, addressed to the Registrar, J.N. University, NewDelhi.

Gauhati University had problems giving exams in 1980-81 due to protests. Emergency pushed Manipur to create an independent university. The affiliation with Gauhati University, which encompassed all colleges and technical institutions, stalled the academic development of many Manipur undergraduates. Bills to establish Manipur University were enacted by the legislature. Act 8 of 1980, Manipur University Act, resulted. The Act was passed on June 5, 1980, and Manipur University commemorates its Foundation Day. Manipur University fulfilled people's educational and research ambitions. Shri H. Ranbir Singh (IAS Retd.), Director of the Canchipur P.G. Centre, appointed Acting Vice-Chancellor of the new university. On June 20, 1980, he became Vice-Chancellor and P.G. Centre Director. Manipur University Act created several rules and regulations to affiliate all institutions, even professional ones, and oversee academic assessments. On December 1, 1980, Professor T. Rathor became the University's first vice-chancellor. April 1, 1981, Manipur University took over the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre of Postgraduate Studies. The Manipur University Act of 1980's post-graduate education and research requirements took effect that day⁵.

Manipur University acquired buildings, equipment, chemicals, vehicles, furniture, and other assets worth around Rs.75 lakh after the transition to the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Centre of Post-graduate Studies. 69 teachers and 77 non-teachers were transferred to Manipur University. The newly founded Manipur University took over all Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre assets.

Post-graduate studies at the university had roughly twice as many students as at JNU. To accommodate the state's population and respond to the Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre's semester system cancellation, the University has added seats. Student selection is based on admission and degree exams. Manipur University, formed in 1980-81 and funded by the University Grants Commission, ICAR, and CSIR, has attracted many unique researchers. To support research, the State Government offers various junior research fellowships across departments. Creating a university in Manipur marks a new era in higher education. Imphal got its university, fulfilling a community desire.

Population of Faculty in Higher education institutions, 1947-2001:

In 1946-47, seven men taught college. In 1955-1956, colleges had 39 male professors and few female ones. Between 1946 and 1960-61, college teacher recruitment rose. Teacher employment rose in 1965-66. That year had 274 teachers, 14 of whom were women. Recruitment and hiring of male and female educators grew between 1965-66 and 1985-86. There were 25% fewer girls than men. College professors fell 11.88 percent from 1229 in 1985-86 to 1088 in 1990-91. From 1995-1996, college lecturers rose 2.5 times. Women made up 85.40 percent of these academics (976). Women's education began later, impeding development.

In Manipur, women did not dominate higher education until the 1960s. The 1951, 1971, 1981, and 1991 female enrollment was 7, 243, 2385, 7712, and 16,597. Moreover, 4 female teachers were employed in 1961, 35 in 1971, 234 in 1981, and 339 in 1991. Girls' education is poor. No women taught in Manipur colleges until 1956. Female teachers and pupils have been underrepresented for 50 years. We must continue to encourage female college enrollment. The administration has maintained the teacher-student ratio despite a considerable enrollment rise. Colleges had 36 students per instructor in 1990-91, twice India's 1:17 ratio. 15.70% of institutions employ part-time teachers, a 1:5 ratio in 2002-2003.

Valley districts have many colleges. In 1996-97, Jiribam, Thoubal, and Bishnupur's Imphal West and East valley districts had 78% of the state's colleges. Imphal West has 24 colleges—including junior colleges—out of 69. This district has about one-third of colleges. Jiribam is part of Imphal East, which comprises 13 schools and a junior college. With nearly 1/6 of college distribution, it ranks second. Senapati, Churachandpur, and Chandel have more colleges—6 (8.70%), 5 (7.25%), and 3 (4.35%). Only one college serves steep Ukhrul and Tamenglong districts.

The College Development Council oversees higher education institutions' National Education Policy implementation. Separating pre-university education from degree colleges has begun. Since 1995-96, the D.M. College of Science has offered many postgraduate courses. Academic fields of Life Sciences, Mathematics, and Anthropology. Under Section 2(1) of the UGC Act, the UGC has invited college suggestions for adding vocational courses to undergraduate programmes. The University welcomes qualified colleges to propose. This result is from 17 colleges offering vocational studies in many

⁵ Manipur University Annual Report (1980-81), pp. 6-7.

trades since 1996-97. In 2002–2003, the State Government approved vocational programmes in 20 government, 5 government-aided, and 4 private colleges. These jobs UGC financed programmes throughout the Ninth Five-Year Plan. Manipur University offers non-credit vocational degrees⁶.

The table presented below displays the comprehensive count of colleges and universities included in the dataset obtained by the researcher. The data encompasses institutions falling under the categories of Government, Government Aided, and Private Colleges in the region of Manipur.

Table No.1

Sl.No.	Colleges/University	No.
1.	Central University	1
2.	Affiliated Government colleges	25
3.	Affiliated Government aided colleges	7
4.	Affiliated Private colleges	26
Grand Total:		59

The following table indicates District-wise distribution of colleges including professional institutions of Governments, Aided and Private colleges⁷:

Table No. 2

Sl.No.	Districts	Affiliated colleges	Total
1.	Imphal East	15	15
2.	Imphal West	22	22
3.	Thoubal	09	09
4.	Bishnupur	08	08
5.	Churachandpur	07	07
6.	Senapati	06	06
7.	Chandel	03	03
8.	Tamenglong	01	01
9.	Ukhrul	01	01
Total :			72

The following table illustrates the number of distribution of colleges region-wise urban, rural and hills area.

⁶ College Statistics, College Development Council, Manipur University, 1992-93 & 1995-96.

⁷ Source: Consolidation form for numerical data of colleges and university in Manipur, College Development Council, Government of Manipur.

Table No.3

Sl.No.	Region	Category	No. of colleges
1.	Valley	Urban	15
2.	"	Rural	38
3.	Hills		19
		Total	72

The following table shows Manipur colleges by district. The table shows the number of educational institutions, including professional schools, and the population-to-college ratio in certain regions.

Table No. 4

District	Area Sq.km.	Population 2001	Govt College	Aided College	Private College	Total No. of College	Population per College	Area per College Sq.m.
(a) Valley								
1. Imphal East		393780	4	4	7	15	28127	35
2. Imphal West	1228	439532	14	2	6	22	20930	35
3. Thoubal	514	366341	4	1	4	9	40709	57
4. Bishnupur	496	205907	3	1	4	8	22878	55
Valley Total	2238	1405560	25	8	21	54	26520	42
(b) Hills								
1.Churachandpur	4570	228707	2	X	5	7	32672	653
2. Senapati	3271	379214	2	X	4	6	63202	545
3. Chandel	3313	122714	1	X	2	3	40904	1104
4. Ukhrul	4544	140946	1	X	X	1	140946	4544
5.Tamenglong	4391	111493	1	X	X	1	111493	4391
Hill Total	20089	983074	7	X	11	18	54615	1116
State Total	22327	2388634	32	8	32	72	33643	314

The presented table provides information regarding the count of colleges that have been acknowledged under Section 2(f) and 12(b) of the UGC Act, 1956 in the state of Manipur, specifically within the jurisdiction of Manipur University. In our State, there exists a total of 41 colleges that have been granted recognition under Section 2(f) and 12(b) of the relevant legislation⁸.

⁸ Source: "Consolidation form for numerical data of colleges recognized in Manipur for the year 2002-2003". Manipur University, Canchipur, Imphal

Table No. 5

Sl.No.	District	Under Section 2(f)	Under Section 2(f) and 12(b)
1.	Imphal West	01	13
2.	Imphal East	-	06
3.	Thoubal	-	07
4.	Bishnupur	-	07
5.	Churachandpur	-	02
6.	Senapati	-	02
7.	Chandel	-	02
8.	Ukhrul	-	01
9.	Tamenglong	-	01
Total		01	41

Teachers in different institution in Manipur

The presented table illustrates the count of educators employed at the university and government colleges, with the exclusion of private colleges, in the region of Manipur over the period spanning from 1980 to 2001.

Table No. 6

Year	University		College for general education	
	M	F	M	F
1980-81	-	-	881	234
1984-85	117	9	888	338
1989-90	141	14	761	322
1990-91	135	13	765	260
1991-92	140	15	832	278
1991-93	141	19	832	278
1993-94	167	22	1,483	760
1994-95	164	30	1,499	760
1995-96	164	32	1,639	902
1996-97	160	31	1,686	1,009
1997-98	188	36	1,811	1,087
1998-99	158	31	1,811	1,087
1999-2000	156	30	1,763	1,087
2000-2001	159	30	765	502

Source: *Ibid.*, 1980-2001.

Table 7 presents the categorization of colleges in Manipur based on their year of foundation. According to the data presented in the table, it can be observed that there was a total of eight colleges in existence prior to the year 1960. The table reveals that during the years 1960 and 2003, there were a total of 72 colleges.

Table No. 7

Sl.No.	Category	No. of Colleges
1.	1960 and before	8
2.	1996 – 1970	13
3.	1971 – 1980	14
4.	1981 – 1990	25
5.	1991 – 2000	10
6.	2001 – 2003	02
Total:		72

Table 8 presents data on the teaching staff's capacity in government, aided, affiliated private institutions, and authorised private colleges connected with Manipur University for the years 2002 and 2003.

Table No. 8

Sl.No.	Colleges	Regular	Part-time	Total
1.	Government colleges	1392	523	1915
2.	Government Aided Colleges	595	15	610
3.	Affiliated Private Colleges	1028	45	1073
4.	Permitted Private Colleges	189	14	203
5.	Grand total	3204	597	3801

Conclusion:

The development of higher education in Manipur continues. The university faces undergraduate and postgraduate educational issues. Manipur undergraduate colleges were once affiliated with Gauhati University. The old Jawaharlal Nehru University Postgraduate Centre is now Manipur University. The main goal is to maintain high-quality bachelor's and master's degrees while balancing domestic and worldwide standards. New government colleges and universities need buildings, libraries, labs, dormitories, staff quarters, and other infrastructure. The lack of regional language development necessitates picking a teaching medium.

One problem is inefficiency, especially among highly qualified people who are under-utilised and unemployed. A student support system is being considered. Helping research in certain contexts. Various forms of professional training and other issues are at hand. Selecting qualified and experienced candidates is the issue at hand. A financial issue. Universities and colleges face financial issues due to the expensive resources they need, but their cash sources are limited. Student tuition and donations cannot support more than half of private and government-aided colleges' expenses.

From the start, Manipur University must retain academic rigour to build and preserve its reputation. This standard must be followed at all levels, undergraduate and postgraduate. The admittance process should be limited and diverse across courses while meeting state human resource needs. Diverse professional courses tailored to local demands are needed. Additionally, typical educational courses that worsen unemployment must be stopped. Both connected schools and the University need buildings, staff quarters, libraries, laboratories, workshops, dormitories, parks, and gymnasias. To preserve higher education, the move from English to a regional language should be gradual and deliberate. A merit-based admissions process and fair distribution of students across a wide range of professional disciplines that match their aptitudes and interests can reduce waste in many ways.

Research can be facilitated by matching people's skills and interests to specific problems. A wide range of professional courses in agriculture, forestry, indigenous system medicine, oil technology, communication technology, and space physics is recommended. Universities must actively contribute to the community to improve society.

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