

Current Scenario of Public Universities Vs Private Universities in India: A Brief Discussion

Seema Tiwari,

PH. D Scholar Management,
Sage University Indore (M.P), India.

Dr. Sanjeev Singhal,

Professor Management,
Sage University Indore (M.P), India.

ABSTRACT

A university is an institution of higher education and research which grant academic degree in a variety of subjects. University can be divided into two which are public university and private university. This research paper emphasizes the current scenario of public and private universities about the issue choosing the best of them. Now a day, after completion of senior secondary school one of the biggest problem faced by students is that where should they go private or public university. Because of this problem, we analyse current scenario of public and private universities. This analysis considers many current scenario and issues as- Gross Enrolments Ratio (GER), Faculty Ratio, Number of universities, Enrolment in professional courses and differences of public universities and private universities in India.

This paper descriptive in nature and utilize the data shared by MHRD Report, HEC and its Websites and compare the total scores for research to evaluate issues related to private and public universities.

Keywords: public University, private university, Current scenario, GER, Faculty Ratio, Number of Universities.

INTRODUCTION:

The involvement of private sector in higher education has seen drastic changes in the field. At the time of independence, there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges in the country with 2.1 lakh students in the higher education system. After independence, there has been a phenomenal growth in all these numbers. During the year 2016-17 (last year of the XII Plan) there were 864 Universities (44 Central, 130 Deemed, 345 State Public, 233 State Private and 3 Institutions under Special State Legislature Act) and 42338 Colleges, thus registering an increase of 38.74% in the number of universities and 19.13% increase in colleges during the 5th year of XII Plan in comparison to the figures at the end of XI Plan.

In countries with a democratic system, which have liberalized higher education market, young people have always a dilemma in deciding whether to study in public or private university. While settling on the name of a college to pursue your higher education from, the one thing that bugs most students to no end is whether to opt for a public university or a private university.

The higher education system in India include both private and public universities. The idea that the public and the private sectors are very different has been expressed in organisation theory for many decades. Perry and Rainey (1988) illustrate this fact by recalling the etymological distinction between the terms public and private. In Latin, public means pertaining to the people, in contrast with the term private, which means set apart. Public universities are supported by the Government of India and the state governments, while private universities are mostly supported by various bodies and societies. Private institutions may be partly funded by the government (aided) or entirely self-funded (unaided). Public institutions are established, funded and managed by the government. Private providers of education often step in when the government has limited resources to provide universal access to education. In most markets, the private sector is characterized by a profit-motive.

Knowing the status and accreditation of the college or institute is one of the foremost concerns of the admission seeker. It is important to know the kinds of universities, their status and degrees conferred by the education institutes.

As per the rules of the government, institutes are divided into various classifications, based on the kind of education and courses offered. In India, universities are recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Apart from UGC, there are 15 Professional Councils (till date), which control various aspects of accreditation.

Currently, there are the following numbers of universities in India:

Universities	Total No.
State Universities	345
Deemed-to-be Universities	130
Central Universities	44
Private Universities	233
Institute of national importance	100
Institute under special state Legislature Act	03
Open universities	09
Total	864

State Universities:

Public university also called state universities which are established, run and funded by the state government. State universities are usually established by a local legislative assembly act. According to a UGC consolidated list, there are 345 state universities in the country. State Universities can confer / grant their own degrees to the students.

Private Universities:

Private universities are also UGC approved institutes. However, such universities do not run on central or state funds. They can grant degrees but cannot have off-campus colleges or affiliate an institution/college. "They can establish off-campus centre(s) within the concerned State after their existence of five years and with the prior approval of the University Grants Commission," states the UGC website. Unlike state and central universities which have a 'Chancellor' as the head, a private university is always headed by 'President' or 'Chairperson'. According to a ruling by the Supreme Court of India, private universities need to adhere to UGC rules and regulations for operations. The UGC regularly sends committees to inspect private universities. According to a UGC consolidated list, there 233 are private universities in the country.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Research that has been done in this field can be explained as follows:

Lamanga (2002) has explored three different factors which include measuring the quality of education, teaching and research, and demand for labour in job markets of Bangladesh and he conclude that the students of public universities are more qualified, their teaching environment is better and most of the teacher engage in research activities compared to the private universities in Bangladesh.

Laura Romero and Elena del Rey (2004) has conducted a research on quality, prices and exam in public and private universities and found that public universities have usually higher quality and admission standards than their private competitor. Wilkinson and Yussof (2005) indicates that the public universities spend more on classrooms and libraries, whilst the private colleges spend more on laboratories and computers. Thus, it appears that public universities have better classroom and library facilities, whereas the private colleges have superior laboratory and computing facilities. As a result, students may choose one of this institutions based on these factors.

Micah C. Chepchieng (2006) has explored the influence of campus environments on student's attitude toward social, academic, psychological and physical aspects of the universities and results indicated that there are significant differences in attitude and all the factors negatively affect towards campus environment between students enrolled in public and private universities. Alam (2007) has argued that private universities are creating quality students and they have significant positive impact that public universities have in Bangladesh. In addition, public universities have more political influences, secession delays, and political violence compared to private universities in Bangladesh.

Monaco (2012), analysing data for the academic year 2009/2010, shows that private universities have higher

efficiency values than public ones. Differences in efficiency can be also seen in relation to geographical location: the universities in the North are more efficient than those in the South. Basanta Kumar Barmoh (2012) has indicated that the enrolment process varies from public to private universities because of the accommodation facilities, social security, guardian's financial ability, student's own perspectives and many other related factors. Evelyn Chiyevu Garwe (2012) examine the factors of quality in private universities in Zimbabwe and their effects to achieve the minimum acceptable standards. The research study showed that financial constraints and poor corporate governance were the major factors leading to failure by private universities to uphold high quality standards.

Dr. Abdulla Azizi (2013) has conducted a research on people opinion about how their children should study in public or private university in terms of amount of payment and quality of teaching and conclude that public universities have to be transformed according to new needs of the labour market and market -oriented knowledge on the other hand private universities claim to be a step forward, however do not have the proper experience. E.B Amponsah (2013) has conclude that private universities have ability to provide uninterrupted academic throughout the years, best quality graduates, highly ethical and well- disciplined students. Ina Suryani(2013) has compare private and public universities in terms of the research publications and found that the private universities published a smaller number of documents in Scopus compared to the public universities and also identified that the Malaysian private universities had contribution to publish journal articles, conference preceding, reviews and articles in press. Hasain Manzoor (2013) has conducted a research study on measuring students' satisfaction in public and private universities in Pakistan and found that the sports facilities and the transportation facilities have significant effect on the students' satisfaction in universities, while the accommodation facilities don't have any significant effect on the satisfaction of the students. Quamrul H. Mazumdar (2014) has argued that the cost of higher education at private universities is high compared to lower cost of public universities. In addition, public universities of Bangladesh had lowest level of satisfaction and the private universities of Bangladesh had highest satisfaction.

Saima Yasmeen (2015) was concluded that there was a significant difference between the availability of equipment's in education departments of public and private universities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and that the availability of equipment in education departments of private universities are better than public universities. Also analysed that there is no significant difference in the teacher training and skills in public and private universities. It is evident that both public and private universities need teacher training and skills.

Sung-Kyung- Yang (2016) has examined the student's perception on the quality of administration and curriculum services provided by professors and concluded that the service quality in education affected the satisfaction and loyalty level of both public and private universities students. Also showed that the National/public universities students' loyalty was influenced by contents of liberal art subjects, professors' responsiveness and assurance, and employment support programs, but private universities students were influenced by contents of major and liberal arts subjects, and also administration services. Consequently, the contents of liberal art subjects were important both in National/public and private universities.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the research paper are-

- 1.To analyse the current scenario of public and private universities in India.
- 2.To compare the private and public universities on the basis of different indicators.
- 3.To help potential students access an informed and best choice between public and private.
- 4.To analyse the major differences between public and private universities in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study is descriptive. It is primarily based on secondary data collected from various sources like MHRD Report, HEC, national reports and economic surveys, websites etc. Of national level departments of education. The analysis has been done on the basis of different indicators, like Gross Enrolment Ratio, Teachers position, number of universities, enrolment in professional courses, similarities and differences in public and private universities in India. Descriptive statistical tools like bar graphs, linear charts, pie chart etc. have been used for interpretation of the data.

Difference between Public and Private Universities in India:

Size and Demographics of the university:

A public university has a huge class size and there are less chances of knowing all fellow students personally or even by name. This may result in less direct access to professors and fewer class discussions. Many students come from in-state because of the lower tuition prices and higher admissions rate, so there may be less geographical diversity in the student body.

On the other hand, class sizes are smaller in a private set up. This may result in less direct access to professors and fewer class discussions and one can expect more personalized attention from the faculty, along with better interaction and bonding with fellow classmates. There will also be more geographical diversity in the student body since in-state and out of state students are not given different tuition prices and represent more nationalities, communities and ethnicities.

Infrastructure:

In public universities most of them lack on the note of infrastructure. Poor labs, old furniture in the classes and not so considerable building mark the government institutes. On the other hand, private universities are to make money and funds are fair, the infrastructure is considerable and promotes the studying environment on the psychological front.

Funding and Tuition Costs:

Public universities are mostly funded by state governments. The government pays for the operating costs of public colleges and universities and oversees the operation through boards and trustees. This influx of government money means that students do not pay the real cost of attendance - they pay the cost after significant subsidies from the government. For this reason, public universities can afford to offer lower tuition prices on average.

Private universities, on the other hand, are not funded by the government in any way. They rely on alumni contributors and tuition to pay for their programs. This usually forces students to carry the full cost of their education, leading to higher tuition prices.

Faculty:

In public universities the job security and the recruitment procedure by the government help the making of qualified and the experienced faculties. They are well paid, highly educated, knowledgeable and carry an insight out of their research and the experience that help the students learn from the best. On the other hand, private universities marked by the shortage of the faculties, employing graduates for teaching purpose also deprive the students of learning from the experience.

Number of courses and Program offered:

Public university tend to have a larger student body and offer a wider variety of degrees and programs. Public college has to be able to find any type of major program you want and usually have to be more of a self-starter because there is less direct guidance from advisors. Also public university can offer options in this space, but you will have to check the program offer fulfils your expectations of quality and content.

Private university don't have the same large range of major choices as public university, and they tend to have smaller student bodies overall and can offer a limited number of programs, but it has the advantage of paying extensive and exclusive attention owing to the limited number. Private colleges make up for their lack of scope with more specific curriculum requirements or a specialized focus in liberal arts or engineering. They are also more likely to have excellent advisory systems and allow students to design their own courses of study.

Campus Life:

Public universities usually have vibrant communities with a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities and a thriving party scene. There's something for everyone within the social scene, and you'll find many people who share your interests no matter how obscure they are. At public colleges, there's always something going on.

Private universities may still have very diverse communities and lots of extracurricular opportunities, but everything typically exists on a smaller scale.

Placement:

Placement is a point that is considered largely while selecting the university. It is essential to find out the placement records from the previous years for the obvious reasons.

History reveals that the public universities in the nation have helped the students join better companies at considerable packages after the graduation. Blame the reservation or any another factor that major companies seldom visit such government universities. On the other hand, private universities are help to students in getting placed. Their contacts and the competition in the market that they manage to pull the 100% placements. However, the status of the “shops” here and there in the town is still same and even poorer than the government colleges.

Research Opportunities:

Public universities, due to their abundance of government funding, often have cutting edge research facilities and virtually endless resources. Even with all of these possibilities, it can be difficult to stand out from the crowd and get the support of professors for your research efforts. But if you’re willing to put yourself out there, public universities have some of the best opportunities in the country for intense academic research, especially in the hard sciences.

Private colleges may have less resources and facilities overall, but they make up for it with easy access to professors and individual encouragement of student research efforts. Many private universities specialized research programs and opportunities for students. With small class sizes, you’ll have more of a chance to get close to your professors and potentially work with them on projects.

Current scenario of public and private universities in India:

Growth in Number of Public and Private Universities in India:

Higher Education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of Universities/University level Institutions since Independence. Evidently, the increase in State Private and State Public Universities are very high as shown below in table.

Table – 1: Number of public and Private university from 2011-12 to 2016-17

Year	Public University	Private University
2011-2012	286	105
2012-2013	292	122
2013-2014	309	153
2014-2015	316	181
2015-2016	329	197
2016-2017	345	233

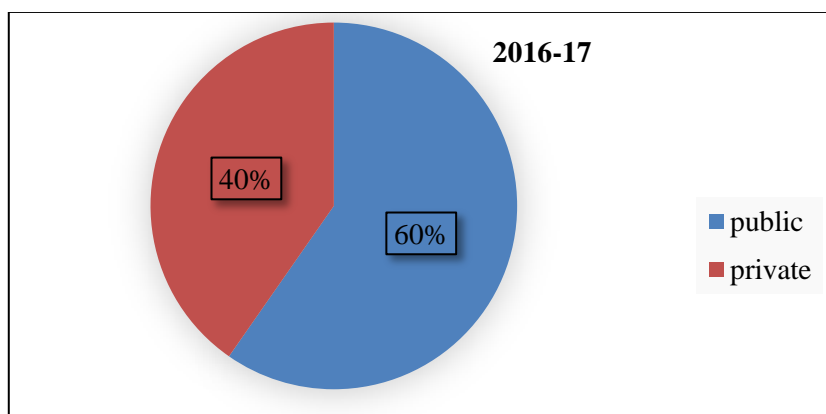


Figure 1

Source: Abstract of All India Survey on Higher Education AISHE Final Report 2016-2017

During the last 6 years’ growth in public university is more than in Private University.

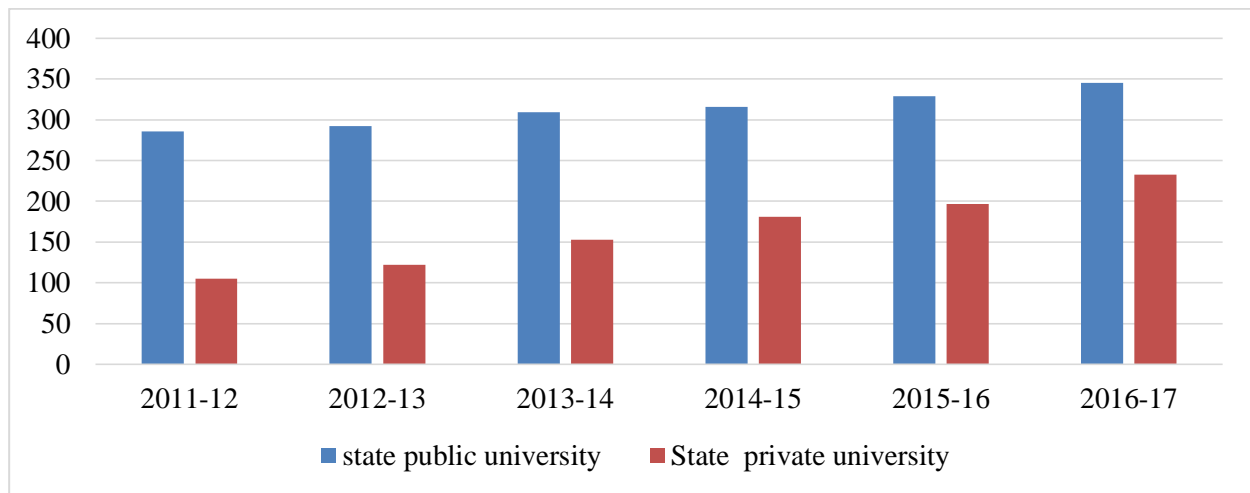


Figure 2

Growth in Student Enrolment:

The enrolment has grown considerably during the last 5 years, which has increased from 3,01,52,417 in 2012-13 to 3,57,05,905 in 2016-17. The overall growth is 18.3%. Enrolment in various types of universities including enrolment in its constituent units has also increased over the years. The increase is quite high in State Public Universities as compared to State private universities as shown in the table

Table – 2: Student Enrolment by Public University at various Levels during last 6 Years

Year	Ph.D.	M.Phil.	PG	UG	PG – Diploma	Diploma	Certificate	Integrated	Total
2016-17	41565	13435	1019626	1451242	70379	103466	28618	33004	2761335
2015-16	36424	132767	1008322	1264659	103840	139158	22743	35551	2624464
2014-15	33312	12223	994158	1233232	101808	132526	33906	34380	2575545
2013-14	32365	13744	1073248	1233245	168896	117244	15978	33620	2688340
2012-13	27886	13813	920270	1184343	91769	122601	15464	21350	2397496
2011-12	30817	13757	961785	1207209	93892	96022	23093	20608	2447183

Source: Abstract of All India Survey on Higher Education AISHE Final Report 2016-2017

Table – 3: Student Enrolment by Private University at various Levels during last 6 Years

Year	Ph.D.	M.Phil.	PG	UG	PG – Diploma	Diploma	Certificate	Integrated	Total
2016-17	10155	851	141474	503256	17137	70891	505	24123	768389
2015-16	7164	864	111056	385396	14585	67597	675	16539	603876
2014-15	6090	660	114794	343621	11710	62507	634	15246	555262
2013-14	5235	646	101053	277538	10259	43303	249	18534	456817
2012-13	3514	763	80353	277135	12446	34221	271	15864	374567
2011-12	2687	639	67202	173383	3246	16649	387	6302	270495

Source: Abstract of All India Survey on Higher Education AISHE Final Report 2016-2017

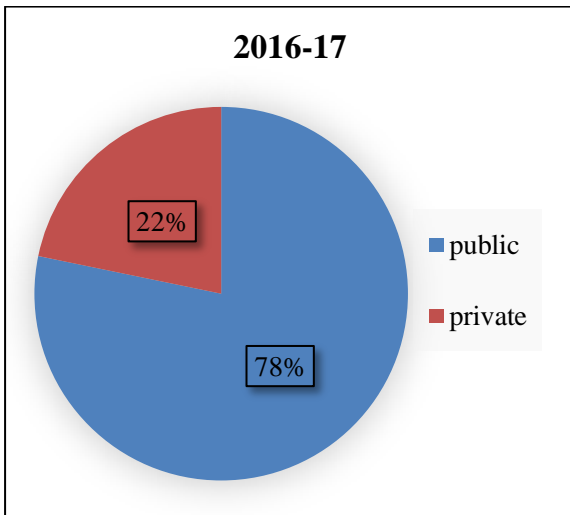


Figure 3

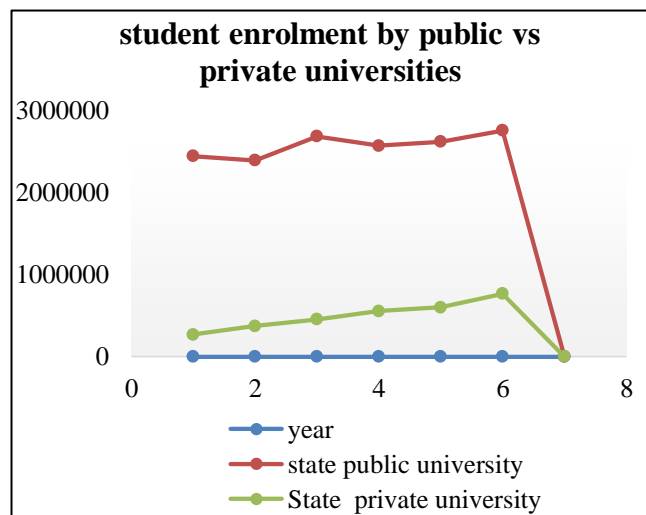


Figure 4

Growth in Number of Teachers:

The number of Teachers has grown from 12,47,453 in 2011-12 to 13,65,786 in 2016-17, but the increase is mainly at entry level i.e. Assistant Professor. scenario over the years in public university and private university as Post-Wise Number of Teachers during last 5 years is shown in table below

Table – 4: Post-Wise Number of Teachers in private and Public Universities Teaching Departments and constitutes units/ off- Campus Centre 2016-2017

Post	Public University	Private University
Professor	11940	4150
Associate professor	6503	4232
Assistant professor	26205	27976
Visiting teacher	851	341
Tutor	1066	1479
Temporary Teacher	4065	339
Total	50630	38517

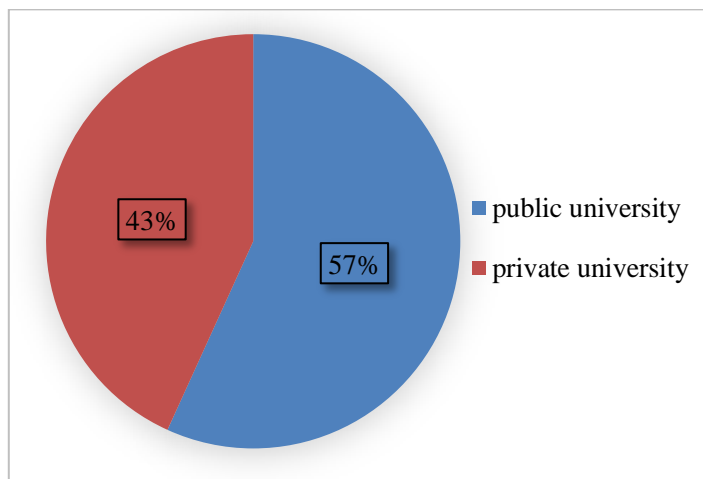


Figure 5

Source: Abstract of All India Survey on Higher Education AISHE Final Report 2016-2017

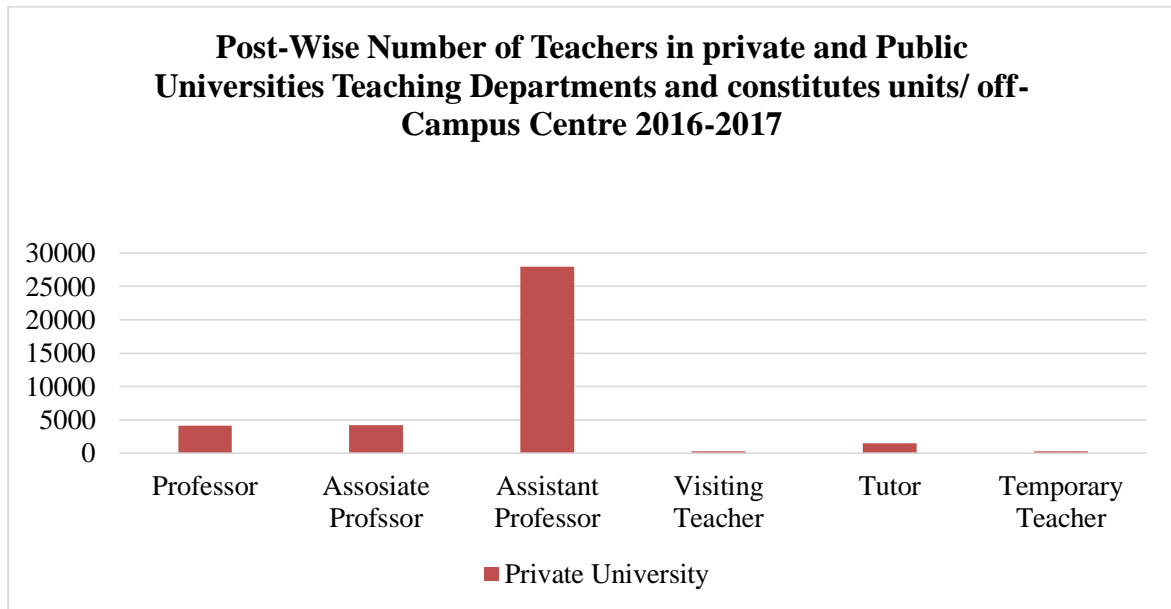


Figure 6

ENROLMENT IN PROFESSIONAL COURSES:

Professional education is defined as higher educational programmes that are designed for learners to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies specific for a particular occupation or grade or class of occupations or trades. Enrolment in professional education at Post Graduate and Under Graduate levels are shown in the statement below.

Table - 5

Management	UG Level	PG Level
Government	203332	683105
Government Aided	800807	126486
Private	6052713	950911

Enrolment in Professional courses is more in Private universities than in Government both at Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels. At Under Graduate level, the share of enrolment in Professional courses is higher than at Post Graduate level; in Private universities the share is much higher.

(Source: Abstract of All India Survey on Higher Education AISHE Final Report 2016-2017)

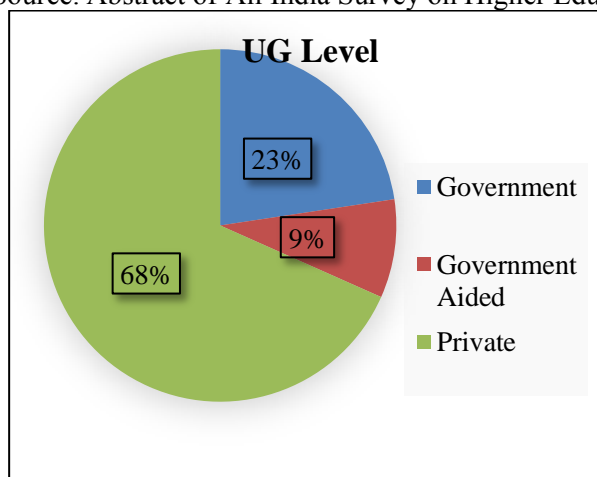


Figure:7

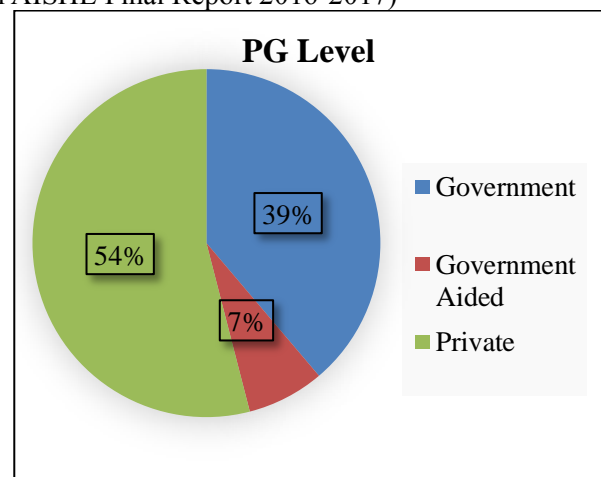


Figure:8

FINDINGS:

Findings from the comparing public and private universities in India (2016-17) are given below

- Total 524 public and private universities in India in which 60% universities are state public university and 40% are privately managed.
- Total enrolment in both of them are 35,29,724 with 78% public university and 22% private universities.
- Overall enrolment in professional courses at UG level and PG level are 10,617,354 in which 32% students in public universities and 68% in private universities are enrolled at UG level and PG level the ratio is 46% in public universities and 54% in private universities. Thus Enrolment in Professional courses is more in Private universities than in public both at Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels.
- The share of PH. D students is highest in state public universities 41565 (80.36%) as compared to private university 10155 (19.63%).
- Faculties position ratio in India at public universities are 57% and private universities are 43%.

CONCLUSION:

In my conclusion, public university and private university have several differences. The differences from both of them are size and demographics of the university, funding and tuition cost, number of courses and programme offered faculty, placement, research opportunities, campus life and infrastructure. Public universities charge low fees and provide a degree guaranteed by the government but such universities often lack in terms of infrastructure, regular access to faculty, Placement services and direct access to professors and class discussions. Whereas private universities do not come with the assurances of public universities in terms of charge high cost and degree but they provide the best platform for the students to explore their talent and offer excellent infrastructure facilities, regular access to all kinds of resources including faculty, guest lectures, industrial visit and all possible help during placement to the students. In my view, the effect from the several differences and findings are to help the students to decrease their problems and to make best choice between public university and private university.

REFERENCES:

- Alam, M, Haque, S, and Siddique, S.F. (2007). Private Higher Education in Bangladesh, *Paris: International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)*.
- Apoorva Shankar, (January 2016). Role of Private Sector in Higher Education.
- Dr. Abdulla Azizi, Tetovo, Macedonia MA Arben Mazreku, (2013). Competition between Public and Private Universities: International Experiences and Case of Macedonia. *Journal of Educational and Instructional Studies in the World*.
- Dr. Basante Kumar Barmon, Amarna Sharmin and Debashish Dey (2012). A Comparative Study of the Cost of Higher Education in Private and Public universities in Bangladesh. *East West Journal of Business and Social Studies*, Vol.3.
- DR. Pulkit Agarwal, (2016). Present Scenario of Higher Education in India. *International Multidisciplinary E-Journal*.
- E. B. Amponsah, Luke N, (2013). The Performance and Challenges of Private Universities in Ghana and Nigeria, *International Journal of Business and Social Science*.
- Evelyn Chiyevo Garwe (2012). Quality assurance challenges and opportunities faced by private Universities in Zimbabwe, *Journal of Case Studies in Education*.
- Hasnain Manzoor, (2013). Measuring Student Satisfaction in Public and Private Universities in Pakistan. *Global Journal of Management and Business Research Interdisciplinary*.
- Ina Suryani, Aizan Yaacob, Noor Hashima, Salleh Abd Rashid & Hazry Desa, (2013). Research Publication Output by Academicians in Public and Private Universities in Malaysia. *International Journal of Higher Education*.
- Lamanga, Z.C (2006). Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education Bangladesh Experience. *World Bank, Learning Seminar*.
- Laura Romero and Elena del Rey, (2004). Competition Between Public And Private Universities: Quality, Prices And Exams. *Economics Series 23*
- Micah C. Chepchieng, Joel K. Kiboss, Aggrey Sindabi, Mary. W. Kariuki and Stephen, N. Mbugua, (2006). Students' Attitudes toward Campus Environment: A Comparative study of Public and Private Universities in Kenya, *Educational Research and Reviews*.
- Monaco L, (2012). Measuring Italian University efficiency: a non-parametric approach. *MPRA Paper No 37949*.
- Mukhtar, U., Anwar, S., Ahmed, U. & Baloch, M. A., (2015). Factors affecting the service quality of public and private sector universities comparatively: an empirical investigation. *Arts, Science & Commerce*, pp. 132-142.

- Quamrul H. Mazumder, (2014). Analysis of Quality in Public and Private Universities in Bangladesh and USA. *International Journal of Evaluation and Research in Education (IJERE)*.
- Saima Yasmeen, Muhammad Tayyab Alam, Muhammad Mushtaq, and Maqsd Alam Bukhari (2015). *Comparative Study of the Availability and Use of Information Technology in the Subject of Education in Public and Private Universities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi*. SAGE Open October-December 2015: 1 –7
- Sung-Kyung Yang, Ji-Young Lee, Seong-Woo Choi, (2016). A Comparative Study of National/Public Universities and Private Universities on Education Service Quality Affecting Satisfaction and Loyalty. *International Journal of Applied Engineering Research*.
- Wilkinson, R., Yussof, I., (2005). Public and private provision of higher education in Malaysia: A comparative analysis, *Higher Education*, 50, 361366
- Sameer Kamat (May 16, 2016). Public (State) university vs Private College: Differences, pros and cons.
