

# Feeling of Unrest among Students in Higher Educational Institutions

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## Abstract

The objective of the paper is to analyze and compare the reasons behind the feeling of unrest among students in higher educational institution. The study was carried out among 90 students of different degree colleges of Assam, India and students were equally divided into three groups on the basis of their streams i.e. arts, science and commerce. Descriptive survey method is used in this study. For collection of data, researcher used a self structure closed ended questionnaire. After analysis of data the result shows that there are many academic and non academic reasons behind the unrest among students in higher educational institution. The disturbances or the unrest of students come due to no future job security, unhealthy competition among peers, faulty internal assessment, limited exposure in library, incompleteness of syllabus on time, over exam oriented and unrealistic curriculum. Result also shows that the reasons of unrest are different among students in terms of arts, science and commerce.

**Keywords:** Higher Education; Lakhimpur; Student; Unrest.

## 1. Introduction

Generally, unrest means a state of trouble or confusion. It is a feeling of dissatisfaction or disturbance [Oxford Languages Dictionary]. Unrest in work indicates a feeling of dissatisfaction or discomfort in doing a particular work. Unrest in higher education is a common problem, which is faced by large number of students due to various reasons. Higher education is the education that is provided in colleges and universities after the completion of secondary education. In present scenario, where the level and status of education for both men and women went high, most of the people do not stop their study by completing secondary school only; rather they continue their further study or engage themselves for higher education in various disciplines. At present, the higher education system became very hectic and the schedules are very tight. After introducing the semester system, students are left with very less time for themselves. They have to complete the syllabus in six months. However in actual terms, they are to complete the whole syllabus within about four months only, if holidays and various co-curricular activities are taken into consideration. Along with end semester examination they are also required to give sessional examination, seminar presentations, workshops, group discussions and number of various practical activities.

The present higher education system depends not only on scholastic activities but also covers co curricular activities for all round development of the students. By engaging in higher education, students can gain more knowledge and experiences. However there are some students who feel unrest in higher education due to various reasons.

Potsangbam & Lawani [1] found that academic reasons were the first priority for causing student unrest. There were other many causes like corruption, lack of cooperation, political interference, poor financial condition etc which created unrest among students. The behavior of employees and transparency, placement services, educational problem and involvement in student union election also created unrest among students. Male students were more in favour of student union election than female students, Singh [2]

According to Omodan [3] student's unrest have been linked to university management styles with various accusations that university authorities are mostly autocratic in dealing with subordinates. Khaleduzzaman [4] revealed that student unrest in higher education had a huge impact on their family, parents as well as society.

According to Singh [5], there was no significant difference in the level of student unrest between male and female students. There is no relationship between student unrest and their intelligence and no relationship between student unrest and student adjustment. The study also found that there is more unrest among the students of non professional stream in comparison to the student of professional stream.

Student unrest is one of the common problems seen in higher education. The reason of unrest may vary from person to person. It may be academic, non academic, behavioral etc. As higher education is very important for all, it is thus of key importance to know the reasons behind the student's unrest in higher education. From these reviews it can be said that there are many reasons of unrest among students in different educational institutions like corruption, lack of cooperation, political interference, poor financial condition, behavior of employees and transparency, placement services, educational problem and involvement in student union election etc. Since none of these studies provided a clear picture of student's unrest in higher educational institutions of Assam. Therefore it is significant to carry out the study to fill this gap.

### 1.1 Objective of the present study

The main aim of the study is to analyze the reasons behind the unrest among students in higher educational institution and also compare the reasons in terms of arts, science and commerce stream.

	Total	90	100%
Economic Condition	Non – BPL	58	64.44%
	BPL	32	35.56%
	Total	90	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

### 1.2 Delimitations

This study is limited to only the under graduate students of different non professional degree colleges of Assam.

### 2. Materials and Method

Descriptive survey method is used in this study. The study was conducted among different students of higher educational institution of Assam. The data required for the study has been collected from the primary sources. The researcher used a self structured closed ended questionnaire having with five-point Likert scale with responses Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree and Strongly Agree. A pilot study was carried out to know the feasibility of the questionnaire. The data were collected from 90 participant students. The researcher used stratified random sampling technique and purposive sampling technique to select the sample. At first, 3 strata i.e. Art stream, Science stream and Commerce stream were designed and after that 6 degree colleges were selected by using simple random sampling technique. 15 students were selected from each college to constitute the sample of the study with the help of purposive sampling technique. Therefore, total sample is 15\*6=90 students, equally divided into arts, science and commerce stream.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The demographic details of the students were collected to know their backgrounds like age, gender, economic condition etc. The following table explains the demographic background of the respondents.

Table 1: Demographic profile of the respondents

Variables	Divisions of Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Stream	Arts	30	33.33%
	Science	30	33.33%
	Commerce	30	33.33%
	Total	90	100%
Age	Below 18 years	6	6.67%
	Age from 18 to 21 years	80	88.89%
	Above 21 years	4	4.44%
	Total	90	100%
Gender	Male	50	55.56%
	Female	40	44.44%

Table 1 indicates the demographic profile of the respondents, which shows that the numbers of respondents are equally divided in three streams i.e. arts, science and commerce. The majority of the respondent's ages are from 18 to 21 years (88.89%). The table also shows that 55.56% respondents are male and 44.44% respondents are female. Majority of respondents (64.44%) are under non-BPL category and 35.56% are under BPL category.

#### 3.1 Unrest due to future job security

Present education system does not give assurance about future job. After completion of higher education there is great unemployment in our country. Therefore we consider that future job insecurity may be a cause of unrest among students in higher educational institution.

Table 2: Unrest due to future job insecurity

Stream	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Arts	Strongly Disagree	1	3.33%
	Disagree	0	0%
	Neutral	5	16.67%
	Agree	10	33.33%
	Strongly Agree	14	46.67%
	Total	30	100%
Science	Strongly Disagree	8	26.67%
	Disagree	3	10%
	Neutral	9	30%
	Agree	3	10%
	Strongly Agree	7	23.33%
	Total	30	100%
Commerce	Strongly Disagree	3	10%
	Disagree	4	13.33%
	Neutral	4	13.33%
	Agree	11	36.67%
	Strongly Agree	8	26.67%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From table 2, total 80% respondents of arts stream agreed that future job insecurity is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution and only 3.33% respondents found to disagree with that. On the other hand 16.67% respondents were found to be neutral. Again, total 33.34%

respondents of science stream agreed, 36.67% respondents disagreed and 30% respondents were found to be neutral. In case of commerce stream total 63.34% agreed, 23.33% disagreed and 13.33% were neutral against this statement. Therefore, we can say that, regarding the statement on unrest due to future job insecurity, majority of respondents from arts (80%) and commerce (63.34%) agreed, but there is a difference seen among the respondents of science stream where disagreed percentage (36.67%) is little higher than agreed (33.34%). Thus, the students of arts and commerce are more insecure about their future job in comparison to science students.

### 3.2 Unrest due to faulty in internal assessment:

The internal assessment provides a feedback on teaching learning process. It is designed in such a way that the faculty can monitor the student learning and provide grades in terms of their performance. In some educational institutions there is a faulty seen regarding the internal assessment system due to teachers favoritism or preferential treatment to a student or group of students. Thus it can be consider as a reason of unrest among students in higher educational institution.

Table 3: Unrest due to faulty in internal assessment

Stream	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Arts	Strongly Disagree	1	3.33%
	Disagree	6	20%
	Neutral	9	30%
	Agree	9	30%
	Strongly Agree	5	16.67%
	Total	30	100%
Science	Strongly Disagree	2	6.67%
	Disagree	4	13.33%
	Neutral	3	10%
	Agree	13	43.33%
	Strongly Agree	8	26.67%
	Total	30	100%
Commerce	Strongly Disagree	4	13.33%
	Disagree	5	16.67%
	Neutral	7	23.33%
	Agree	8	26.67%
	Strongly Agree	6	20%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From table 3, total 46.67% respondents of arts stream agreed that faulty in internal assessment is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution and 23.33% respondents found to disagree with that. On the other hand 30% respondents were found to be neutral. Again, total 70% respondents of science stream agreed, 20% respondents

disagreed and 10% respondents were found to be neutral. In case of commerce stream total 46.67% agreed, 30% disagreed and 26.67% were neutral against this statement. Therefore, we can say that majority of respondents from arts (46.67%), science (70%) and commerce (63.34%) were agreed that faulty in internal assessment is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution. There were no differences of opinion seen among the students of different streams on this statement.

### 3.3 Unrest due to unhealthy competition among peers:

Competition is natural. A healthy competition is helpful motivator for students to do their best. But unhealthy competition can lead to a scarcity mindset. The effect of peer pressure is undeniable and it plays a great role in creating an environment of negative competition among friends. Thus it can be consider as a reason of unrest among students of higher educational institution.

Table 4: Unrest due to unhealthy competition among peers

Stream	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Arts	Strongly Disagree	2	6.67%
	Disagree	5	16.67%
	Neutral	4	13.33%
	Agree	12	40%
	Strongly Agree	7	23.33%
	Total	30	100%
Science	Strongly Disagree	6	20%
	Disagree	2	6.67%
	Neutral	3	10%
	Agree	6	20%
	Strongly Agree	13	43.33%
	Total	30	100%
Commerce	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Disagree	7	23.33%
	Neutral	5	16.67%
	Agree	9	30%
	Strongly Agree	9	30%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From table 4, total 63.33% respondents of arts stream agreed that unhealthy competition among peers is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution and 23.34% respondents found to disagree with that. On the other hand 13.33% respondents were found to be neutral. Again, total 63.33% respondents of science stream agreed, 26.67% respondents disagreed and 10% respondents were found to be neutral. In case of commerce stream total 60% agreed, 23.33% disagreed and 16.67% were neutral against this statement. Therefore, we can say that majority of respondents from arts (63.33%), science (63.33%) and commerce (60%) were

agreed that unhealthy competition among peers is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution. There were no differences of opinion seen among the students of different streams on this statement.

### 3.4 Unrest due to no exposure in library

A library is a collection of books, materials and media that are easily accessible for use. Most of students depend on library to explore knowledge in different fields. Also poor students cannot buy all study materials by their own; rather they have to depend on college library. Students have to face problems if the study materials are not available in library. Thus it can be consider as a reason of unrest among students in higher educational institution.

Table 5: Unrest due to no exposure in library

Stream	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Arts	Strongly Disagree	5	16.67%
	Disagree	3	10%
	Neutral	5	16.67%
	Agree	10	33.33%
	Strongly Agree	7	23.33%
	Total	30	100%
Science	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Disagree	2	6.67%
	Neutral	4	13.33%
	Agree	10	36.67%
	Strongly Agree	13	43.33%
	Total	30	100%
Commerce	Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Disagree	1	3.33%
	Neutral	3	10%
	Agree	14	46.67%
	Strongly Agree	12	40%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From table 5, total 56.66% respondents of arts stream agreed that no exposure in library is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution and 26.67% respondents found to disagree with that. On the other hand 16.67% respondents were found to be neutral. Again, total 80% respondents of science stream agreed, 6.67% respondents disagreed and 13.33% respondents were found to be neutral. In case of commerce stream total 86.67% agreed, 3.33% disagreed and 10% were neutral against this statement. Therefore, we can say that majority of respondents from arts (56.66%), science (80%) and commerce (86.67%) were agreed that no exposure in library is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution. There were no differences of opinion seen among the students of different streams on this statement.

### 3.5 Unrest due to unrealistic syllabus

The unrealistic syllabus doesn't fulfill its projected aims and nor will it provide the students any sensible talent which might build them capable of developing their need and interest. Thus unrealistic syllabus can be considered as a reason of unrest among students in higher educational institution.

Table 6: Unrest due to unrealistic syllabus

Stream	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Arts	Strongly Disagree	7	23.33%
	Disagree	9	30%
	Neutral	4	13.33%
	Agree	6	20%
	Strongly Agree	4	13.33%
	Total	30	100%
Science	Strongly Disagree	3	10%
	Disagree	4	13.33%
	Neutral	7	23.33%
	Agree	8	26.67%
	Strongly Agree	8	26.67%
	Total	30	100%
Commerce	Strongly Disagree	2	6.67%
	Disagree	5	16.67%
	Neutral	5	16.67%
	Agree	11	36.67%
	Strongly Agree	7	23.33%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From table 6, total 33.33% respondents of arts stream agreed that unrealistic syllabus is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution and 53.33% respondents found to disagree with that. On the other hand 13.33% respondents were found to be neutral. Again, total 53.34% respondents of science stream agreed, 23.33% respondents disagreed and 23.33% respondents were found to be neutral. In case of commerce stream total 60% agreed, 23.34% disagreed and 16.67% were neutral against this statement. Therefore, we can say that, regarding the statement on unrest due to unrealistic syllabus, majority of respondents from science (53.34%) and commerce (60%) agreed, but there is a difference seen among the respondents of arts stream where disagreed percentage (53.33%) is much higher than agreed (33.33%). Thus, the students of science and commerce feel unrest due to unrealistic syllabus in comparison to arts students.

### 3.6 Unrest due to incomplete syllabus on time

Due to large and long curriculum teachers rush to complete the total curriculum. They fail to complete the whole curriculum on given time. Thus students have to face problems in understanding each and everything of the whole curriculum. Therefore it can be consider as a reason of unrest among students in higher educational institution.

Table 7: Unrest due to incomplete syllabus on time

Stream	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Arts	Strongly Disagree	5	16.67%
	Disagree	5	16.67%
	Neutral	3	10%
	Agree	10	33.33%
	Strongly Agree	7	23.33%
	Total	30	100%
	Science	Strongly Disagree	6
Disagree		4	13.33%
Neutral		6	20%
Agree		8	26.67%
Strongly Agree		6	20%
Total		30	100%
Commerce		Strongly Disagree	1
	Disagree	3	10%
	Neutral	8	26.67%
	Agree	11	36.67%
	Strongly Agree	7	23.33%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From table 7, total 56.66% respondents of arts stream agreed that incomplete syllabus on time is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution and 33.34% respondents found to disagree with that. On the other hand 10% respondents were found to be neutral. Again, total 46.67% respondents of science stream agreed, 33.33% respondents disagreed and 20% respondents were found to be neutral. In case of commerce stream total 60% agreed, 13.33% disagreed and 26.67% were neutral against this statement. Therefore, we can say that majority of respondents from arts (56.66%), science (6.67%) and commerce (60%) were agreed that incomplete syllabus on time is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution. There were no differences of opinion seen among the students of different streams on this statement.

### 3.7 Unrest due to over exam oriented curriculum

After introducing the semester system, students are left with very less time for themselves. Along with end semester examination students are also required to give

sessional examination, seminar presentations, workshops, group discussions and number of various practical activities. Examination oriented curriculum negatively affects on students academic aspiration. Thus it can be consider as a reason of unrest among students in higher educational institution.

Table 8: Unrest due to over exam oriented curriculum

Stream	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Arts	Strongly Disagree	3	10%
	Disagree	1	3.33%
	Neutral	3	10%
	Agree	6	20%
	Strongly Agree	17	56.67%
	Total	30	100%
	Science	Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree		0	0%
Neutral		4	13.33%
Agree		15	50%
Strongly Agree		11	36.67%
Total		30	100%
Commerce		Strongly Disagree	3
	Disagree	5	16.67%
	Neutral	6	20%
	Agree	8	26.67%
	Strongly Agree	6	20%
	Total	30	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

From table 8, total 76.67% respondents of arts stream agreed that over exam oriented curriculum is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution and 13.33% respondents found to disagree with that. On the other hand 10% respondents were found to be neutral. Again, total 86.67% respondents of science stream agreed, 0% respondents disagreed and 13.33% respondents were found to be neutral. In case of commerce stream total 46.67% agreed, 26.67% disagreed and 20% were neutral against this statement. Therefore, we can say that majority of respondents from arts (76.67%), science (86.67%) and commerce (46.67%) were agreed that over exam oriented curriculum is a reason of students unrest in higher educational institution. There were no differences of opinion seen among the students of different streams on this statement.

## 4. Major Findings

The followings are the major findings of the study:

- Majority of students from arts and commerce streams believe that general graduation courses like B.A., and B.Com. cannot provide any guarantee job for future

security. Therefore, most of the students feel unrest during higher education. But there is a difference seen among B.Sc. students that they are less insecure about their future job than students of B.A. and B.Com.

- ii. Majority of students among all streams i.e. arts, science and commerce feel unrest in higher education due to faulty in internal assessment. No difference can be seen among the opinions of students of different streams.
- iii. Majority of students among all streams i.e. arts, science and commerce feel unrest in higher education due to unhealthy competition among peers. No difference can be seen among the opinions of students of different streams.
- iv. Maximum students feel unrest in higher education due to no exposure in library. No difference can be seen among arts, science and commerce students in terms of feeling of unrest among them due to no exposure in library.
- v. In comparison to arts students, the science and commerce students feel unrest in higher education because of unrealistic syllabus.
- vi. Majority of students in all streams feel unrest in higher education due to incomplete syllabus on time. No difference can be seen among arts, science and commerce students in terms of feeling of unrest among them due to incomplete syllabus on time.
- vii. Most students feel unrest in higher education due to over exam oriented curriculum. No difference can be seen among arts, science and commerce students in terms of feeling of unrest among them due to over exam oriented curriculum.

## 5. Conclusion

After analysis and interpretation of data, it is clearly seen that there are various reasons behind the unrest among students in higher education. No doubt, higher education provides experiences and knowledge, but it also creates much disturbances, restlessness and unrest among students. There are many academic, non academic, political, economical, behavioral and environmental reasons behind the unrest among students in higher education. But good environment, proper guidance and cooperation of teacher, parents and peer can definitely minimize the feeling of discomfort or dissatisfaction or unrest from the minds of the students. It is the responsibility of all the stakeholders – students, teachers, parents, elders, peers, etc. to make the system of higher education successful in every sense.

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