



RESEARCH PROPOSAL
ON
EMPIRICAL STUDY ON EXPLORING COLLEGE DROPOUT RATES
WITH REFERENCE TO NAMRUP COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

UNDER THE SUPERVISION

Of

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INTRODUCTION:

A college dropout is an individual who leave college or University before completing their studies and earning a degree or qualification. College dropout occurs for diverse reasons, including financial hardship, academic challenge, lack of engagement and personal issues and potential department.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Despite numerous educational initiatives in Assam, college dropout rates remain a persistent issue, particularly in semi-urban and rural regions like Namrup. Factors such as economic hardship, lack of infrastructure, social pressures, and limited career guidance contribute to students discontinuing higher education. However, there is a lack of focused regional research that investigates the specific causes and patterns of college dropouts in areas like Namrup. This study seeks to identify the key factors influencing college dropout rates at a regional level in Assam, with a special focus on Namrup, to provide data-driven insights for targeted policy intervention.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

This research will provide valuable insights into the underlying causes of college dropouts in regional Assam, especially in Namrup. By highlighting local socioeconomic, educational, and institutional factors, the study will aid policymakers, educational institutions, and community stakeholders in designing region-specific strategies to reduce dropout rates. It also contributes to the broader discourse on improving higher education retention in underrepresented regions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Global Perspective on College Dropout:

Research emphasizes that dropout is not the result of a single cause, but a complex interplay of academic, personal, and institutional factors (Tinto's interactionist models). Self-efficacy is a critical protective factor students with higher self efficacy are significantly less likely to drop out (MDPI). Several studies link students' socioeconomic status (SES) with dropout rates poorer backgrounds and lack of parental support significantly increase dropout risk. Moreover, institutional features matter: private institutions often show better retention compared to public ones; smaller, rural institutions can create more supportive environments that reduce dropout. Across countries, dropout rates vary widely due to inconsistencies in

measurement and diverse institutional structures. In some EU countries, less than 30% graduate on time, while in the UK, over 70% do MDPI. Across the world, dropout decisions are often tied to curriculum rigidity, lack of support, and misaligned academic pathways.

Regional and National Context: in India & Assam

As per India Today NE (2024), Assam has persistently high school dropout rates, especially at the secondary level: around 29.5%, compared to the national average of 12.6% (2022–23 data). Earlier UDISE data (2020–21) corroborated this trend with Assam observing the highest secondary level dropout in the country (around 31%) (Careers 360, 2022). Poverty, especially in tea-garden and char regions, coupled with inadequate secondary school infrastructure, has been cited by Assam's education minister as core drivers of dropouts. While recent UDISE+ 2024–25 data indicates improvement in retention and transition rates, challenges like infrastructure deficits especially in digital access persist (Times of India, 2025). Moreover, empirical projects in Assam (e.g., by Gauhati University and Cotton University) show that girls' dropouts are influenced by factors like marginal parental income, travel difficulties, and parental illiteracy. Programs such as 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' have been linked to reduced girl child dropout rates (The Sentinel, 2024).

Regional Focus with reference to Namrup

As per Wikipedia, Namrup a semi urban town with above average literacy (~87%) and a multi-ethnic population (Tea tribes, indigenous groups) has limited published research on dropout causes.

From the above literature review, it can be stated that there are very limited or no research conducted to find out the college dropout rates in Namrup College. Namrup College provides a suitable environment for developing academic careers for every student. However, over the years the rate of college dropout is increasing at an alarming rate for which an academic study is required to identify the reasons and suggest suitable solutions for dealing with the prevailing challenge.

Objective:

1. To identify the socio-economic, academic, and personal factors contributing to college dropout among students in Namrup College.
2. To examine the role of institutional factors such as infrastructure, teaching quality, and student support services in influencing dropout decisions.
3. To assess gender- and community-based disparities in college dropout trends within Namrup's educational institutions.

Methodology

This study aims to investigate the reasons of students college dropout. To achieve the above stated objectives, mixed-method approach will be employed, incorporating both primary and secondary data.

Primary data will be collected through:

- 1) Interview: In-depth interviews will be conducted with faculty members to gain insights into their perspective on the reason behind student dropout.
- 2) Questionnaire: A structured questionnaire will be administered to students to collect data on their experiences, challenges and reasons for dropout.

Secondary data will be collected through literature review, a comprehensive review of existing articles, books, and research paper, etc.

Significance of the Study:

This study is significant as it provides localized insights into the college dropout problem in Namrup, a semi-urban area that has received limited academic attention. By identifying the key social, economic, and institutional factors influencing dropout, the study can help educational institutions, policymakers, and community stakeholders develop targeted interventions to improve student retention. Furthermore, the findings may contribute to broader policy discussions on reducing dropout rates in similar regional settings across Assam and northeastern India, where educational inequality and access remain critical challenges.

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