



Comparative Review and Analysis of objects inscribed in the Acts of the universities established in Sikkim: An Exploratory Study

Dilip Kumar Darjee

Section Officer, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Regional Centre Gangtok, Sikkim-737102, India
Email: dilipkumar1974@gmail.com

Abstract: Sikkim has fifteen universities located in the different districts of the state covering three main categories and types. Every university established through Acts of legislature mentioned their objects under a specific and dedicated section. This paper makes a comparative review and critical analyses of their objects. Given the variation in category and type, their objects were expected to be different. However, some universities with distinct objects make their individual identity as unique while few as generic. Whereas, majority of the State Private Universities not only carries gross similarities in their objects but are precisely identical. Further, the appearances of several common components are found incorporated in the objects of the respective universities.

Key Words: Central University, Government of Sikkim, Higher Education, objects of the university, Sikkim Government Gazette Extraordinary Notification, Sikkim State Legislative Assembly, State Private University, State Public University, types of universities.

1. INTRODUCTION :

In the span of three decades counted from the year 1992 to 2022, a total of fifteen universities were established/incorporated in the State of Sikkim. These universities made a fillip to the growth, development and advancement in the higher educational system or/and the scenario of higher education of Sikkim has been changed drastically after their establishment. Owing to their variation in categories and types, the objects of these universities are expected to be different and unique. In this context, this paper is an attempt to find out, examine, review and analyse the objects inscribed in the Acts of entire universities located in Sikkim.

2. Objectives of the Paper :

This paper reviews and analyses objects of different types and categories of universities established in Sikkim. The main objectives considered appropriate and relevant for study are listed below:-

- To find out and review the objects of different categories or types of the universities established in Sikkim.
- To find out and review common components incorporated in the object(s) of the universities.
- To find out, review, critically examine and analyse the similar object(s) of the universities, and
- To find out, review and summarize uniqueness of the universities and their objects.

3. Methodology :

No investigation is found carried out for review or/and analysis on objects of the universities inscribed in their Acts pertaining to only those universities established in Sikkim. Accordingly, an exploratory study is adopted exclusively based on the secondary information. The required data for this study were collection from various sources comprising official Gazette notifications, journal articles and information published in the official websites of the Education Department, Government of Sikkim and respective universities. The review, analysis and findings of the current study carried out as per the objectives are summarized in the following paragraphs.

4. Literature Review :

Darjee (2023a) observed that the establishment of one Central University, two State Public Universities and twelve State Private Universities in the state during last three decades (1992 to 2022) made huge impetus to the growth, development and advancement in the higher education of Sikkim.

Darjee (2023b, p-2121) further observed that the establishment of universities in Sikkim fulfilled a list of major objectives and purposes as furnished in the Box-1 below:-



Box-1: Major objectives and purposes fulfilled through establishment of universities in Sikkim

- (a) Affiliation of the standalone colleges and higher educational institutions of the state under Sikkim University or/and Khangchendzonga State University (*erstwhile* Sikkim State University). The creation of the affiliating Universities in the state itself was a long pending demand towards affiliation of standalone government institutions and colleges of Sikkim.
- (b) Bringing academic upliftment in all sphere of knowledge and disciplines of studies of higher education with skill and entrepreneurship courses.
- (c) Creation of educational opportunities through establishment of several institutions and colleges under universities for development and advancement in the higher education of Sikkim.
- (d) Establishment of a state-of-art institute of higher education at par with national and global standards under PPP model.
- (e) Growth, development and advancement in the higher education of the state with establishment of various types and categories of the universities under different districts.
- (f) Improvements in the healthcare and medical services with establishment of a referral teaching hospital and institutions for the technological, medical, paramedical and allied health sciences.
- (g) Promotion of quality skill education, industry relevant education and internship, entrepreneurship and professional training on different disciplines of study through various mode namely regular, external, part time, blended, online and distance education mode.
- (h) Creation of a national level institution of excellence specific to legal education and research.
- (i) Growth in skill oriented disciplines with state of art educational and skill development facilities for the youth.
- (j) Creation of facilities for instruction and training in different disciplines of professional, vocational studies and liberal sciences including quality training and development of State Government Officers.
- (k) Establishment of unique higher educational institution for quality programs and-training in Buddhism studies.
- (l) Boosting socio-economic development of the remote districts of the state with establishment of universities.

Source: Darjee, D. K. (2023b). 'Objectives and Purposes for Establishment of the Universities in Sikkim with Special Reference to Preamble of respective University Acts', International Journal of All Research Education and Scientific Methods, ISSN: 2455-6211, Volume 11, Issue 4, Page No pp.2121, April 2023.

5. Objects of Universities as Enumerated under Respective University Acts :

The detailed objectives of the university are enumerated in the respective Acts under a specific section under the heading titled 'Objects of the University'. In order to understand the original purpose for establishment of the university in Sikkim, the objects inscribed in the main or first Act are considered and any changes in the object(s) after subsequent amendments (if any) are not considered for review and analysis in this study paper. Accordingly, with the brief introduction about the universities established in the state of Sikkim, their objectives initially enshrined under relevant section in the respective Acts are reproduced below under broad three categories :-

5.1 State Public University: The State Public University is such a university owned, managed and funded by the State Government or Union Territory in India. Under this type and category, only two universities were established in Sikkim through the Acts approved and passed by the Sikkim State Legislative Assembly. Upon assent of the Governor of Sikkim, these Acts were notified in the Sikkim Government Gazette Extraordinary Notification with their objects as furnished in the Table-1 (Universities) and Box-2 (objects of Universities) below:-

Table -1: Universities established in Sikkim under the category of State Public University.

Sr	Name of the University	University Act	Gazette Notification No.
01	Khangchendzonga State University (<i>erstwhile</i> Sikkim State University or Sikkim University)	The Sikkim University Act, 2003 (Act No. 5 of 2003)	195 dated: 24 th June 2003
02	Sikkim National Law University, Gangtok	The Sikkim National Law University Act, 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018)	122 [05/LD/18] dated: 22 nd March 2018

Source: The Author

Box-2: State Public University established in Sikkim: Objects inscribed in the respective University Acts.

- I. List of objects of the **Khangchendzonga State University** (*erstwhile* Sikkim State University) incorporated under Section 4 (Objects of the University) of the Sikkim University Act, 2003 (Act No. 3 of 2003).



1. To disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in any branches of learning;
2. To organize post –graduate programmes in various mountain specific and emerging areas with a view to produce high quality personnel;
3. To organize under-graduate/post-graduate courses of study in the affiliated institution and centers of the University;
4. To accord affiliation and provide academic support and guidance to colleges/institutions within the jurisdiction of the University;
5. To create awareness in key areas like environmental issue, conservation of bio resources, use of information technology, bio-technology, floriculture, entrepreneurship, capacity building, history, language and cultural developments etc.;
6. To educate and train manpower for the development of the state of Sikkim as well as the Himalayan regions;
7. To pay special attention towards improvement of the social and economic condition and welfare of people of the State, their intellectual, academic and cultural development; and
8. To evolve a curriculum to absorb the repeatedly expanding new knowledge.

II. List of objects of the **Sikkim National Law University Gangtok** incorporated under Section 4 (Objects of the University) of the Sikkim National Law University Act, 2018 (Act No. 05 of 2018).

1. To evolve and impart comprehensive legal education including distant and continuing legal education at all levels to achieve excellence;
2. To organize advanced studies and promote research in all branches of law;
3. To disseminate legal knowledge and legal processes and their role in national development by organizing lectures, seminars, symposia, workshops and conferences;
4. To promote cultural, legal and ethical values with a view to promote and foster the rule of law and the objectives enshrined in the Constitution of India;
5. To improve the ability to analyze and present for the benefit of the public contemporary issues of public concern and their legal implications;
6. To liaise with institutions of higher learning and research in India and abroad;
7. To publish periodicals, treatises, study books, reports, journals, magazines and other literature on all subjects relating to law;
8. To hold examinations and confer degrees, titles, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions;
9. To promote legal awareness in the community for achieving social and economic justice;
10. To undertake study and training projects relating to law, legislation and judicial institutions; and
11. To do all such things as are incidental, necessary or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the objectives of the University.

5.2 Central University: The Central University is such a university owned, managed and funded by the Government of India through Ministry of Education. Only one university is established under this type and category in the state of Sikkim through the Act approved and passed by the Parliament of India. Upon assent of the President of India, the Act was notified in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II with objects as furnished in the Table-2 (particulars of university) and Box-3 (Objects of University) below:-

Table -2: Central University established in Sikkim: Name and Legislative Source

Sr	Name of the University	University Act	Gazette Notification No.
01	Sikkim University	The Sikkim University Act, 2006 (Act No. 10 of 2007)	S.O. 1053(E) dated: 29th June 2007

Source: The Author

Box-3: List of objects of the Sikkim University as incorporated under Section 4 (Objects of the University) of the Sikkim University Act, 2006 (No. 10 of 2007)

1. To disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in such branches of learning as it may deem fit;
2. To make provisions for integrated courses in humanities, natural and physical sciences, social sciences, forestry and other allied disciplines in the educational programmes of the University;



3. To take appropriate measures for promoting innovations in teaching-learning process, inter-disciplinary studies and research;
4. To educate and train manpower for the development of the State of Sikkim; and
5. To pay special attention to the improvement of the social and economic conditions and welfare of the people of the State, their intellectual, academic and cultural development.

5.3 State Private University: The State Private University is such a university owned, managed and funded by the sponsoring bodies or trust. Under this type and category, a total of twelve universities were established in the state of Sikkim through the Acts approved and passed by the Sikkim State Legislative Assembly. Upon assent of the Governor of Sikkim, these Acts were notified in the Sikkim Government Gazette Extraordinary Notification as furnished in the Table-3 below:-

Table -3: Universities established in Sikkim under the category of State Private University

Sr	Name of the University	University Act	Gazette Notification No
01	Sikkim Manipal University (<i>erstwhile</i> Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences)	The Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences Act, 1995 (Act No. 9 of 1995)	184 dated: 30-October-1995.
02	The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University, Sikkim	The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University Sikkim Act, 2004 (Act No. 9 of 2004)	9/LD/2004 dated: 15-October-2004
03	Sikkim Alpine University (<i>erstwhile</i> EIILM University Sikkim)	The Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management (EIILM) University Act, 2006 (Act No.4 of 2006)	28/LD/2006 date: 3rd April 2006
04	Sikkim Professional University (<i>erstwhile</i> VMSU)	The Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University (VMSU) Act, 2008 (Act No.11 of 2008)	11/LD/P/2008 dated:29-July-2008
05	Shri Ramasamy Memorial University Sikkim	The Shri Ramasamy Memorial University, Sikkim Act, 2013 (Act No. 13 of 2013)	13/LD/P/13 dated: 22-October-2013
06	Khangchendzonga Buddhist University	The Khangchendzonga Buddhist University, Sikkim Act, 2020 (Act No. 15 of 2020)	15/LD/2020 dated: 07-October-2020
07	Medhavi Skills University	The Medhavi Skills University, Sikkim Act, 2021 (Act No. 12 of 2021)	14/L&PAD/2021 dated: 24-Jun-2021
08	Sikkim International University	The Sikkim International University Act, 2021 (Act No. 13 of 2021)	15/L&PAD/2021 dated:28-June-2021
09	Sikkim Skill University	The Sikkim Skill University Act, 2021 (Act No. 17 of 2021)	29/L&PAD/2021 dated:16-Dec-2021
10	Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence	The Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence Act, 2022 (Act No. 9 of 2022)	01/L&PAD/2022 dated:11-Apr.-2022
11	Capital University	The Capital University Act, 2022 (Act No. 10 of 2022)	01/L&PAD/2022 dated:20-Apr.-2022
12	Mahatma Gandhi University	The Mahatma Gandhi University Sikkim Act, 2022 (Act No. 21 of 2022)	11(656)L&PAD/21/ 15 dated:15-Sept.-2022

Source: The Author

Darjee (2023b, p-2113) found that the names of three State Private Universities were changed through amendments in their respective Acts as detailed below:-

- (a) **Sikkim Manipal University:** The university's name 'Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences' was changed to 'Sikkim Manipal University' through the Sikkim Government Gazette Extraordinary Notification No. 13/LD/P/2010 dated: 8th April 2010.
- (b) **Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University:** The University was renamed as Sikkim Professional University through the Sikkim Government Gazette Extraordinary Notification No 101 [09/LD/20] dated: 12th May 2020.
- (c) **Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management University, Sikkim:** The name of the university was changed to Sikkim Alpine University through the Sikkim Government Gazette Extraordinary Notification No. 158 [16/L&PAD/2021] date: 29th June 2021.



The detailed list of objects of the State Private Universities inscribed in their respective University Acts under relevant sections are furnished in the Box-4 below:-

Box-4: State Private University established in Sikkim: Objects as contained under their respective University Acts.

<p>I. List of objects of the Sikkim Manipal University incorporated under Section 4 (Objects of the University) of the Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences Act, 1995 (Act No. 9 of 1995)</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create a centre of excellence for providing health, medical care, educational and research facilities of a high order in the field of medical science and technology including continuing medical education, hospital administration, technological education and education in facilities like dental, nursing or any other subject to be started from time to time with the prior approval in writing of the respective accrediting bodies, if any, in the Union of India; 2. To develop patterns of teaching in the under-graduate, post-graduate levels and super-speciality of a high standard of medical education and also to develop patterns of teaching in under-graduate and post-graduate levels of technology; 3. To provide for training in para-medical and allied health sciences; 4. To provide for training in technological sciences and allied fields; 5. To function as referral hospital and a specialized technical institution; and 6. To provide for under-graduate, post-graduate and post-doctoral teaching and conduct of research in the relevant discipline of modern medicine and other allied sciences including inter-disciplinary fields of physical, biological and technological sciences.
<p>II. List of objects of the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University Sikkim incorporated under Section 7 (Objects of the University) of the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University, Sikkim Act, 2004 (Act No. 9 of 2004)</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide instruction, teaching, training and research in specialized fields of Finance and Management including Financial Analysis (leading to the CFA Charter and Designation), Accounting (leading to the CPA Certificate and Designation), Banking, Insurance, Financial Services, Financial Management, Business Management, Law, Education, Medical Sciences, various branches of Science and Technology and related subjects and make provisions for research, advancement and dissemination of knowledge therein; 2. To establish a campus in the State of Sikkim and to have study centers, campuses and examination centers at different places in India and abroad; 3. To offer continuing and distance education programs; 4. To institute degrees, diplomas, charters, certificates and other academic distinctions on the basis of examination or any other method of evaluation; 5. To collaborate with other colleges or universities, research institutions, industry associations, professional associations including the Council of Chartered Financial Analysts and the Society of Certified Public Accountants or any other organizations, in India or abroad, to conceptualize, design and develop specific educational and research programs, training programs and exchange programs for students, faculty members and others; 6. To disseminate knowledge through seminars, conferences, executive education programs, community development programs, publications and training programs; 7. To undertake programs for the training and development of faculty members of the university and other institutions in India or abroad; 8. To undertake collaborative research with any organization in India or abroad; 9. To create higher levels of intellectual abilities; 10. To provide consultancy to industry, Government and Public Organizations; 11. To ensure that the standard of the degrees, diplomas, charters, certificates and other academic distinctions are not lower than those laid down by the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, Bar Council of India, the Distance Education Council, the Dental Council of India, the Indian Nursing Council, the Medical Council of India, the National Council for Teacher Education and the Pharmacy Council of India and other National Accreditation bodies; 12. To do all things necessary or expedient to promote the above objectives; and 13. To pursue any other objective as may be approved by the State Government.
<p>III. List of objects of the Sikkim Alpine University (<i>erstwhile</i> Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management University Sikkim) incorporated under Section 7 (Objects of the University) of the Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management University Act, 2006 (Act No.4 of 2006)</p>



1. To provide instruction, teaching, training and research in specialized fields of Business & Management, Engineering & Technology (with emphasis on Hydel Power-Training & Development), Computing & Information Technology, Entrepreneurship, Rural Development, Biotechnology, Biosciences & Environmental Sciences, Architecture, Media & Communication, Film & Television Production, Basic Sciences, Humanities, Judicial Sciences, Life Sciences, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Performing Arts, Nursing, Quality Training & Development of State Government Officers etc. and related subjects and make provisions for research, advancement and dissemination of knowledge therein;
2. To establish a campus in the State of Sikkim, and to have study centers, campuses and examination centers at different places in India and abroad;
3. To offer continuing and distance education programs;
4. To institute degrees, diplomas, charters, certificates and other academic distinctions on the basis of examination or any other method of evaluation;
5. To collaborate with other colleges or universities, research institutions, industry associations, professional associations in India and abroad, to conceptualize, design and develop specific educational and research programs, training programs and exchange programs for students, faculty members and others;
6. To disseminate knowledge through seminars, conferences, executive education programs, community development programs, publications and training programs;
7. To undertake programs for the training and development of faculty members of the university and other institutions in India and abroad;
8. To undertake collaborative research with any organization in India or abroad;
9. To create higher levels of intellectual abilities;
10. To provide consultancy to industry, government and Public Organization;
11. To ensure that the standard of the degrees, diplomas, charters, certificates and other academic distinctions are not lower than those laid down by the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, Bar Council of India, the Distance Education Council, the Dental Council of India, the Indian Nursing Council, the Medical Council of India, the National Council for Teacher Education and the Pharmacy Council of India and other National Accreditation bodies;
12. To do all things necessary or expedient to promote the above objectives; and
13. To pursue any other objective as may be approved by the State Government.

IV. List of objects of the **Sikkim Professional University** (*erstwhile* Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University) incorporated under Section 7 (Objects of the University) of the Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University Act, 2008 (Act No. 11 of 2008)

1. To provide instruction, teaching, training and research in Medical, Dental, Homoeopathy, Naturopathy, Nursing, Paramedical, Engineering, Management, Arts and Science, Education, Law, Agriculture, Physical Education, Veterinary Science, Fashion Technology, Vocational and allied courses and related subjects and make provisions for research, advancement and dissemination of knowledge therein;
2. To establish a campus in the State of Sikkim, and to have study centers, campuses and examination centers at different places in India and abroad;
3. To offer continuing and distance education programs;
4. To institute degrees, diplomas, charters, certificates and other academic distinctions on the basis of examination, or any other method of evaluation;
5. To collaborate with other colleges of universities, research institutions, industry associations, professional associations in India or abroad, to conceptualize, design and develop specific educational and research programs, training programs and exchange programs for students, faculty members and others;
6. To disseminate knowledge through seminars, conferences, executive education programs, community development programs, publications, and training programs;
7. To undertake programs for the training and development of faculty members of the University and other institutions in India or abroad;
8. To undertake collaborative research with any organization in India or abroad;
9. To create higher levels of intellectual abilities;
10. To provide consultancy to industry, Government and Public Organization;
11. To ensure that the standard of the degrees, diplomas, charters, certificates and other academic distinctions are not lower than those laid down by the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, Bar Council of India, the Distance Education Council, the Dental Council of India, the Indian Nursing Council,



the Medical Council of India, the National Council for Teacher Education and the Pharmacy Council of India and other statutory bodies and other National Accreditation bodies;

12. To do all things necessary or expedient to promote the above objectives; and

13. To pursue any other objective as may be approved by the State Government.

V. List of objects of the **Shri Ramasamy Memorial University Sikkim** incorporated under Section 6 (Objects of the University) of the Shri Ramasamy Memorial University, Sikkim Act, 2013 (Act No. 13 of 2013)

1. Providing an open, flexible and continuous learning framework that offers innovative ways for learning and acquiring qualifications through professional and practical programs;

2. Engaging with industry partners and educational institutions, for establishing educational and training institutions and learning centers with the aim of providing workplace training and familiarization with industry practices;

3. Collaborating with industries and other institutions for providing learning opportunities aligned with the needs of the industrial and other development sectors;

4. Establishing an open and flexible professional education that is relevant and matches contemporary needs; and

5. Striving to fulfil the above objects by a diversity of means of distance & continuing education, make full use of latest scientific knowledge and educational technology to offer a high quality education which matches contemporary needs.

VI. List of objects of the **Khangchendzonga Buddhist University** incorporated under Section 6 (Objects of the University) of the Khangchendzonga Buddhist University, Sikkim Act, 2020 (Act No. 15 of 2020)

1. The objects of the University shall be to promote knowledge, understanding and growth in all members of the community by providing reflective educational opportunities, as well as research opportunities, and by promoting and creating innovative educational models in higher education.

2. The University shall pioneer an approach of 'intentional hybridity' where perspectives, approaches and tools from a wide variety of sources from all over the world shall be gathered, discussed and thoughtfully selected and arranged to create a culture of joyful learning. The University shall, in organising activities, have due regard to the following objects which the creators have deemed essential to the highest quality educational experience, namely:-

2.1 Universal ideals of Buddhism as a Guiding Force:-

i. to cultivate, explore and study the wisdom philosophy of the Buddha, ancient and modern, with humility and for the benefit of all sentient beings;

ii. to reflect on the Buddha's teaching and their application to the modern world;

iii. to make the Buddha dharma philosophy accessible to youth in Sikkim, India and the world;

iv. to ensure the University community is guided by the following principles:

(a) Rang Sem Rang-ki Tawa: translates as 'Your Mind, Yours to Observe'. We understand this to mean that one should look at one's own mind to find wisdom.

(b) Karuna: translates as 'compassion'. We understand this to mean that one should have compassion, empathy for all sentient beings.

(c) Lay-Guydray: translates as the law of 'cause and effect'. We understand this to mean that there is the principle of cause and effect, action and its results that defines the order of things in the world.

(d) Samaya: translates as 'sacred bond'. We understand this to mean that there is a sacred bond between oneself and others, parents, lopons and friends.

2.2 Mission and educational philosophy shall be:-

i. to empower and prepare students to transform their own lives and professions through an education that makes breakthroughs possible;

ii. to create a 'learning-centric' community where everyone, young and old, local and foreign, lopon, student and facilitator, shall be treated as a learner with immense potential, both for self-growth and to catalyze the growth of others;

iii. to create a learning University based in the value of compassion for the struggle of personal and community wide transformation;

iv. to create a new model of higher education in a way that is meaningful and impactful and that inspires the development of other University;

v. to ensure that quality higher education should be available to all those who are able to benefit from it, including by serving those who have been historically underserved and/or marginalized in Sikkim and India; those who either did not have access to higher education, who did not feel it was relevant or who refuse to conform to the current system;



- vi. to focus on the improvement of the social and economic welfare of the people of Sikkim and India as well as promote their intellectual, academic and cultural growth;
- vii. to seek common fellowship with other cultures from around the world through dialogue, meditations and inquiry;
- viii. to promote fundamental skills like reading, critical thought, discussion, writing and conducting research, all which are embedded in curriculum;
- ix. to encourage great transformation for students by learning from the expertise of educators in India and around the world; and
- x. to cultivate karuna and samaya and thus to enable the community to appreciate the sacred bonds within the school, within Sikkim and with peoples worldwide.

2.3 Institutional focus shall be:-

- i. to maintain academic freedom and innovative research, scholarship and teaching;
- ii. to take appropriate measures for promoting high-quality approaches in the educational process and in interdisciplinary studies;
- iii. to achieve equality of opportunity and diversity throughout the University;
- iv. to create and sustain a campus with international standards of education;
- v. to create centers of excellence with state of the art facilities;
- vi. to carry out teaching and research and offer continuing education programs;
- vii. to innovate pedagogy, learning tools and technologies that encourage student engagement with their own learning process;
- viii. to support international educational standards of learning within the University;
- ix. to establish links with industry and society so that the programs so offered are relevant to society at large;
- x. to open study centers, off-campus within or out of the State of Sikkim with approval from the State Government and in compliance with the laws of the applicable regulatory bodies and concerned State Government(s);
- xi. to collaborate with any organization, institution or association in India or abroad; and
- xii. to design, develop and offer educational, training and exchange programs for students, faculty members and others.

2.4 Administration of the university shall be:-

- i. to provide examinations and confer degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions or titles onto those people, subject to the conditions as the University may determine;
- ii. to issue certificates, qualification levels and other academic recognitions, as the University may determine; and
- iii. to ensure that the standard of degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions meet the minimum standards laid down by the applicable regulatory authorities of the state of Sikkim and the Government of India.

2.5 Governance shall be:-

- i. to protect the collective student interest through good governance;
- ii. to provide full and transparent accountability for public and all other funding;
- iii. to provide accurate and transparent information that is publicly accessible, but maintains reasonable individual privacy and obeys relevant laws;
- iv. to set up high standards of governance and accountability for its stakeholders;
- v. to create a professional environment where the authorities and officers of the University develop a shared understanding of the University's governance and operational expectations and how they wish to promote those expectations; and
- vi. to pursue any other objective as may be approved by the Board of Governors.

VII. List of objects of the **Medhavi Skills University Sikkim** incorporated under Section 6 (Objects of the University) of the Medhavi Skills University, Sikkim Act, 2021 (Act No. 12 of 2021)

1. To become the leading institution for delivering excellence in quality skill education recognized by industry, locally, nationally and internationally;
2. To develop competent, skilled and capable youth imbued with skills, learning and the spirit of entrepreneurship to meet the world-wide demand for skilled workforce;
3. To encourage and promote uptake of skill education in an integrated and holistic manner with higher education to ensure pathways for progression and mobility,
4. To develop a credit-based framework for competency skills and vocational education;



5. To engage and collaborate with industry partners and educational institutions, for establishing training institutions, training centres and Centre of excellences with the aim of providing workplace training and familiarization with industry best practices;
6. To provide opportunities for flexible learning, online learning, recognition of prior learning, competency-based modular courses and credit accumulation or transfer across educational streams for continuous learning;
7. Collaborating with industries for facilitation of On the Job Trainings, Apprenticeships and Job Placements;
8. Develop as a hub of skilling activities including - offering skills based programmes, fostering apprenticeships, on-the-job trainings & placements, counselling, conducting Training of Trainers & Training of Assessors, development of National Skills Qualifications Framework aligned curriculum etc.;
9. To ensure that the standards of degree, diploma, certificates and other academic distinctions are not lower than those laid down by statutory regulatory authorities in India; and
10. To pursue any other objects, as may be prescribed and to strive to fulfil the above objects by a diversified means of flexible, collaborative, industry-led, technology-enabled approach to higher education for scale, outreach, impact and sustainability.

VIII. List of objects of the **Sikkim International University** incorporated under Section 4 (Objects of the University) of the Sikkim International University Act, 2021 (Act No. 13 of 2021)

1. To design and run courses at Pre-University Certificate, short term certificate, Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degree levels in the University, institutes, college, campuses and study centers established by the University in and outside the country;
2. To provide instruction, teaching, training and research to provide instruction, teaching, training and research in various branches and specialized fields of vocational Education, Skill Development, Engineering, Physical Science, Life Sciences, Technology, Medical Science and Paramedical Management, Technical, Finance and Accounting, Commerce, Humanities, Languages, and Communication, Applied and Performing Arts, Sports, Education, Law, Social Science, Agriculture, Veterinary and related areas and subjects and to make provisions for research, advancement and dissemination of knowledge therein;
3. To conducts courses and programs on a priority basis under the following faculties like
 - i. Faculties of Engineering and Technology for conducting Bachelor of Technology, Master of Technology and Doctor of Philosophy/Doctor of Science level programs in different branches of engineering;
 - ii. Faculty of Medical Sciences for conducting Bachelor in Medicine, Master in Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy/Doctor of Science and different level programs in modern Medical Sciences. Besides, Degree and Diploma level programs in Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy and other indigenous/alternative/complementary/Polytechnic system of treatment and Para-medical sciences including medical laboratory technology, radiology imaging technology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, optometry, healthcare and hospital administration;
 - iii. Faculty of Applied Science for conducting Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree level programs in the area of Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Ecology, Environment, Disaster Management, Sustainable Development, Bioinformatics, Geo-informatics, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, etc.;
 - iv. Faculty of Social Science for conducting Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degree level programs in the area of History, Geography, Political Science, English, Hindi, Public Administration, Education, Journalism and Mass Communication, Economics, Computer Science, Business Administration, Hotel Management, Sociology, Social Work, Governance, Tribal Development, Rural Development, Library & Information Science, Counselling, Applied Psychology, Agriculture, Veterinary, etc.;
 - v. Faculty of Law and Judicial Science for conducting Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Business Administration/Bachelor in Computer Application etc., Master, Bachelor and Diploma in education, Master of Arts/Master of Science/ Master of Commerce/Master in Business Administration/Master of Law etc. and Doctor of Philosophy/Doctor of Law level programs in different areas of laws including Human Right, Intellectual Property Rights, Anti-terror Law, besides, Diplomas and degree program in Para-legal services and confer inter-disciplinary Doctor of Philosophy/Doctor of Letters level programs in different areas, also pre-university foundation which is equivalent to Secondary School Certificate and Pre-University Certificates (Arts) which is equivalent to Higher Secondary School Certificate (Arts), Pre-University Certificates (Commerce) which is equivalent to Higher Secondary School Certificate (Commerce), Pre-University Certificate (Science) which is equivalent to Higher Secondary School Certificate (Science), Diploma of vocational education, Bachelor of Vocational Education, Master of Vocational Education.



4. To establish a campus in the State of Sikkim and to have study centres, campuses, examination centres, off campus centres, off-shore campuses and Regional Centres, Community colleges, Constituent Colleges, Information and Counselling Centres at different places in India and abroad, subject to Board of Management norms as may be applicable from time to time;
5. To transfer the appropriate technology developed by the University or its institution to institution in India as well as other countries and to introduce e-governance with effective management system;
6. To implement publication and educational programs for motivating educating and for benefiting both the teaching community and the student in particular and the society in general;
7. To provide regular and external education program in India and abroad through offline, online, correspondence and all modes of education (Learning Management System/Computer Based Tutorial etc.). Study Centre shall be opened to run Distance Education program in India and abroad, through any mode of technology assisted learning for academic, research and training in any field under blended learning pattern, etc.
8. To institute degrees, diplomas, pre-university certificates, certificates and other academic distinction on the basis of examination, or any other methods of evaluation;
9. To collaborate with other colleges or Universities, research institutions, industry associations, professional associations or any other organizations in India or abroad; to conceptualize, design and develop, run specific educational and research programs, training programs and exchange programs for students, faculty members and others;
10. To disseminate knowledge through seminars, conferences, executive education programs, community development programs, publication and training programs;
11. To undertake programs for the training and development for faculty members and teacher of the University and other institutions of India and abroad;
12. To undertake collaborative research with similar organization in India and abroad;
13. To create higher level of intellectual abilities through various Directorates, Development councils, Education committees, etc.;
14. To provide consultancy to industry, Government, public and private organization;
15. To create an industry-Academia partnership by inviting industry in the University campus and University centers for mutual benefits and for the benefits of External students enrolled by the University;
16. To recognize any institution or organization which conducts specified studies, by the Board of Management as a community college for such purpose and in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the statutes;
17. To conduct examination on demand through offline as well as online mode in India and abroad for regular campus, external and distance education programs and to establish and maintain within the University or elsewhere, such class rooms, laboratories and libraries, as the University may consider necessary;
18. To start industry integrated and collaborative programs through training centres, Community Colleges, Colleges, Campuses, and e-learning centres;
19. To impart instruction relating to a course or program of study through one or more modes which may include formal, non-formal, face-to-face, research, part-time, open, online, virtual, distance, external, continuing and regular modes of teaching and learning;
20. To pursue any other related objective as may be prescribed by the state Government or the University;
21. To engage in any kind of educational activity for the betterment of the society;
22. To confer honorary degrees;
23. To award associate degrees, diplomas and certificate programs through various modes of learning and examination methods;
24. To decide the syllabus on CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) method for the Pre-University foundation course which is equivalent to Secondary School Certificate and Pre-University Certificate which is equivalent to Higher Secondary School certificate of Sikkim State Education Boards and other education boards of India and abroad and also of Pre-University Certificate (Part 1) which is equivalent to part one (standard 11) of Higher Secondary School Certificate of Sikkim State Education Boards and other education boards of India and abroad;
25. To give external education to student from India and abroad who cannot do regular studies due to lack of financial resources, socio-economic problem or non-availability of time to attend full courses as they stay at remote place far away from the University, its Constituent Colleges and affiliated Colleges;



26. To establish Community Colleges for alternative system of education, which aim to empower the individuals, through appropriate skill development leading to gainful employment and to admit institutes of higher Learning to the privilege of the University as approved according to statutes and regulations made under this Act; and
27. To do all things necessary or expedient to promote the above objectives.

IX. List of objects of the **Sikkim Skill University** incorporated under Section 3 (Objects of the University) of the Sikkim Skill University Act, 2021 (Act No. 17 of 2021)

1. To emerge as one of the foremost institution of quality in skill education recognized by industry, nationally and internationally;
2. To develop qualified youth with skill proficiency and competency at different levels as per National or State qualifications of skill education;
3. To establish facilities for education and training;
4. To promote skill education in an integrated and holistic manner with higher education pathways for progression and mobility;
5. To carry out teaching, research and offer continuing education programmes;
6. To create centres of excellence for research and development, relevant to the needs of the State and for sharing knowledge and its application;
7. To establish campus in the State;
8. To establish examination centres;
9. To institute degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions on the basis of examination or any other method of evaluation while doing so, the University shall ensure that the standards of degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions are not lower than those laid down by the regulating bodies;
10. To set up campus centres, subject to applicable rules or regulations;
11. To engage in areas of specialization with proven ability to make distinctive contributions to the objectives of the University education system that is academic engagement clearly distinguishable from programmes of an ordinary nature that lead to conventional degrees in skill education, vocational education, arts, science, engineering, medicine, dental, pharmacy, management routinely offered by conventional institutions;
12. To provide opportunities for flexible learning systems and skill development;
13. To frame credit framework for competency based skill and vocational education;
14. To exchange expertise and best practices in support of skill developments efforts with any other college, institution, organization, university, etc.;
15. To disseminate knowledge or skill through seminars, conferences, executive education programmes, community development programmes, publications and training programmes;
16. To undertake programmes for the training and development of faculty members and teachers of the University and other institutions;
17. To undertake collaborative research with other organizations;
18. To create entrepreneurs by providing necessary skill and support;
19. To establish broad-based, and viable under-graduate, post-graduate and research programmes in several disciplines with firm interdisciplinary orientation and linkages;
20. To create an industry Academia partnership by inviting industry and institutions for mutual benefits; and
21. To pursue any other objects, as may be prescribed.

X. List of objects of the **Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence** incorporated under Section 4 (Objects of the University) of the Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence Act, 2022 (Act No. 9 of 2022)

1. To perform:-
 - (a) All Educational functions.
 - (b) Sponsored Research and Consultancy functions.
 - (c) Continuing Education and Extension functions.
 - (d) Development and Service functions.
 - (e) Management functions.
2. To impart education with strong inter-disciplinary and innovative programmes with matching research capabilities and to achieve peer recognition and verifiable scholarly attainment and research output.
3. To introduce liberal studies-based and non-conventional programmes of study along with professional courses that result in higher employability.
4. To engage in areas of specialization with proven ability to make distinctive contributions to the objectives of the university education system that is- academic engagement clearly distinguishable from programmes of an



ordinary nature that lead to conventional degrees in Liberal Arts, Science, Design, Engineering, Medicine, Dental, Pharmacy, Management, etc. routinely offered by conventional institutions.

5. To provide for high-quality teaching and research and for the advancement of knowledge and its dissemination through various research programmes undertaken in-house by a substantial number of full-time faculty/research scholars (Ph.Ds. and Post-Doctoral) in diverse disciplines.
6. To provide with the prior permission of Regulatory bodies, facilities and offer opportunities for instruction and learning in areas of Liberal Arts, Science, Engineering Technology, Management Studies, Medical Sciences, Para-Medical Courses, Dental Sciences, Health Sciences, Travel and Tourism Studies, Legal Studies, Design and Fashion Technology, Visual Communication, Yoga and Health Education and related academic courses in the levels of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate and research programmes which are relevant to the current needs of the society, alive to the long term requirements and responsive to the anticipated changes and developments in terms of breadth of diversity and depth of specialization. Such educational and research opportunities will be offered to all the deserving students desirous of pursuing such a course of study, without any discrimination of nativity, religion, caste or creed.
7. To formulate and maintain standard curriculum and system of education at par with national and global standard in all academic areas which the University offers.
8. To become a consortium of eminent minds from myriad walks which helps shape promising young minds and fosters holistic development.
9. To appoint Professors, Associate Professors, Asst. Professors, Consultants and Research Assistants for teaching, training and to carry on academic work, research and also administrative staff of the University.
10. To promote such objectives within the campus and if necessary, outside the campus, particularly where special training facilities are available or required.
11. To appoint national and international Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Consultants and Research Assistants for teaching, training and to carry on academic work, research and also administrative staff of the University under this Act.
12. To conduct faculty exchange programmes and organise lectures of mutual interest and benefit both at National and international levels.
13. To serve as a centre for fostering co-operation and exchange of ideas between the academic and research community on the one hand and the industrial and Government machinery on the other and to promote entrepreneurship among the students.
14. To organize lectures, seminars, symposia, and conferences.
15. To undertake sponsored Research & Development and continuing education providing knowledge-based advice and consultancy, preparation/publication of educational material like books/study reports/research papers and extending services to society.
16. To cater to the local, national and global needs through a focus on critical development areas of global relevance.
17. To put the Eastern Himalayas at the apex of global education.
18. To inculcate necessary values, awareness of heritage, and ethos in learners.
19. To harness the diverse natural, cultural, architectural, and intellectual resources and heritage of the hills and the mountain regions.
20. To network, integrate, and collaborate with communities, best universities, non-profit institutions, educational and professional institutes of the world.
21. To execute cross-nation exchange programs, internships, study and research opportunities.
22. To design and practice global learning practices aiding blended and collaborative teaching and learning.
23. To set up state-of-the-art research laboratories and centres, simulated environments, e-resources-based libraries, archives and museums, biodiversity parks, gene pools, and germplasm gardens and strive to make these accessible for individuals external to the Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence (NSCBUE).
24. To provide world-class learning spaces and accommodation facilities for all learners, researchers, faculty, and staff.
25. To gain national and international accreditation for the pursuit and recognition of excellence.
26. To have a greater interface with society through extra-mural, extension and field action related programmes.
27. To develop a sense of ethos in the University community, making it conscious of its obligations to the society, State and to the nation.

XI. List of objects of the **Capital University** incorporated under Section 6 (Objects of the University) of the Capital University Act, 2022 (Act No. 10 of 2022)



The objects of the University shall be to disseminate and advance knowledge and skill by providing instructional, research and extension of facilities and in such branches of learning as it may deem fit and the University shall endeavour to provide to students and teachers the necessary atmosphere and facilities for the promotion of :-

1. innovations in education leading to restructuring of courses, new methods of teaching, training and learning including online learning, blended learning, continuing education and such other modes and integrated and wholesome development of personality;
2. studies in various disciplines;
3. inter-disciplinary studies; and
4. National integration, secularism and social equity and international understanding and ethics.

XII. List of objects of the **Mahatma Gandhi University** incorporated under Section 6 (Objects of the University) of the Mahatma Gandhi University Sikkim Act, 2022 (Act No. 21 of 2022)

The objects of the University shall be to disseminate and advance knowledge and skill by providing instructional, research and extension of facilities and in such branches of learning as it may deem fit and the University shall endeavour to provide to students and teachers the necessary atmosphere and facilities for the promotion of :-

1. innovations in education leading to restructuring of courses, new methods of teaching, training and learning including online learning, blended learning, continuing education and such other modes and integrated and wholesome development of personality;
2. studies in various disciplines;
3. inter-disciplinary studies as per New Education Policy, 2020;
4. national integration, secularism and social equity and international understanding and ethics;
5. engage and collaborate with industry partners and educational institutions, for establishing training institutions, training centres and centre of excellences with the aim of providing workplace training and familiarization with industry best practices;
6. collaborating with industries for facilitation of on the job trainings (OJTs), apprenticeships and job placements: and
7. Develop as a hub of skilling activities including - offering skills based programmes, fostering apprenticeships, on the Job trainings and placements, counselling, conducting training of trainers and training of assessor, development of National skills qualifications Framework (NSQF) aligned curriculum.

6. Review on Quantum of Objects of the University :

In the respective University Acts, the objectives enlisted under the relevant section titled 'objects of the university' were examined. In order to consider original purpose and aims for establishment of the university, the objects inscribed in the main Acts were considered and any changes in the object(s) after subsequent amendments are not taken into account in this section of study paper. Every object listed in the Acts under a particular number is considered as one objective of the university irrespective of number of sentences and words contained therein. The items of the objects of every university counted in quantitative terms have been summarized in the Table-4 below:-

Table -4: The numbers of the objectives/objects enlisted under the respective Acts of the Universities.

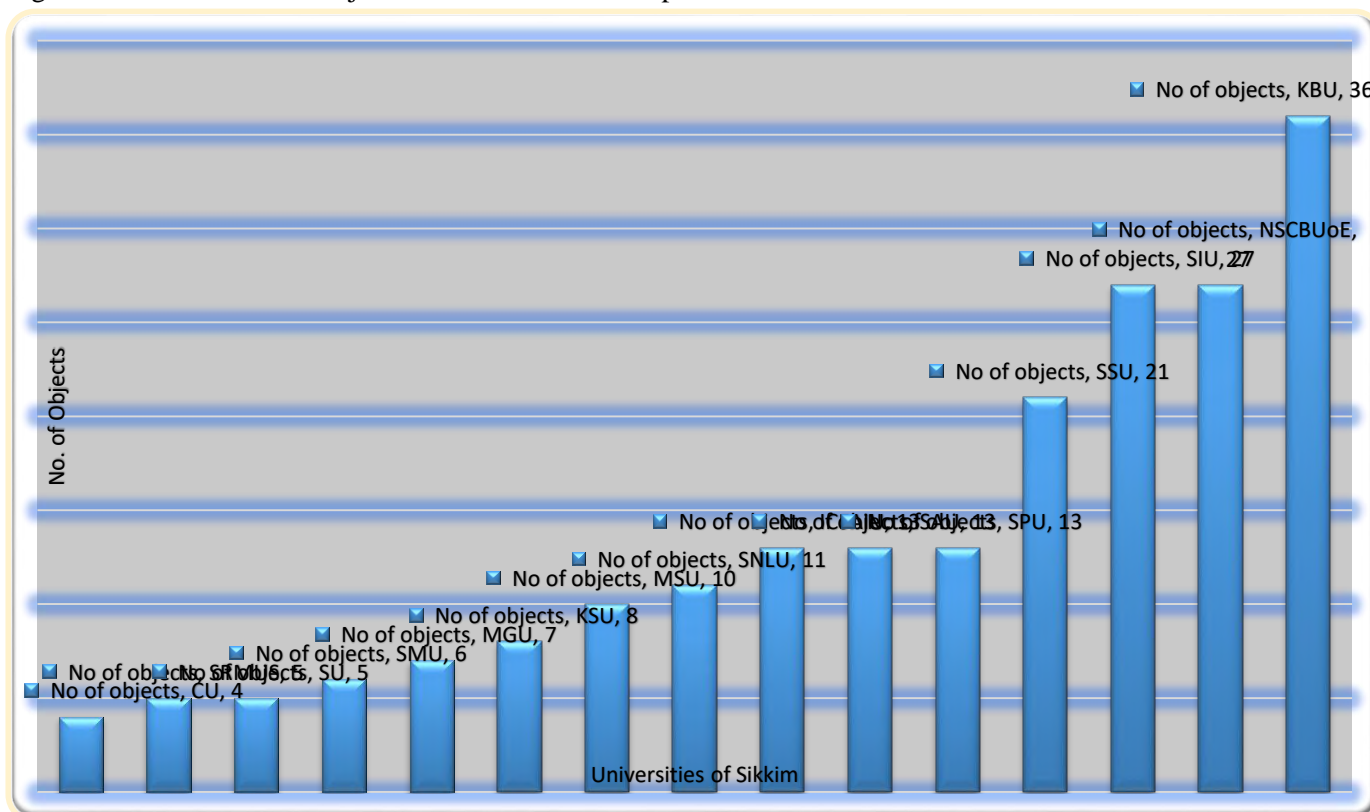
Sr	Name of the University	Reference in Act	No. of main objectives
1	Capital University (CU)	Section 6	4
2	SRM University, Sikkim (SRMUS)	Section 6	5
3	Sikkim University (SU)	Section 4	5
4	Sikkim Manipal University (SMU)	Section 4	6
5	Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU)	Section 6	7
6	Khangchendzonga State University (KSU)	Section 4	8
7	Medhavi Skills University (MSU)	Section 6	10
8	Sikkim National Law University, Gangtok (SNLU)	Section 4	11
9	The ICFAI University , Sikkim (ICFAIU)	Section 7	13
10	Sikkim Alpine University (SAU)	Section 7	13
11	Sikkim Professional University (SPU)	Section 7	13
12	Sikkim Skill University (SSU)	Section 3	21
13	Sikkim International University (SIU)	Section 4	27
14	Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence (NSCBUoE)	Section 4	27



15	Khangchendzonga Buddhist University (KBU)	Section 6	36
----	---	-----------	----

Source: The Author

Figure-1: Numbers of the objects enlisted under the respective Acts of the Universities established in Sikkim.



Source: The Author

In terms of the quantities, the observations and analysis on the objects of the universities located in Sikkim are listed but not limited to the followings:-

- The Khangchendzonga Buddhist University tops the rank with highest number of the objects. The university has basically two generalized objects. However, the second object relating to organising activities of the university is divided into five different sub-sections listing out 35 distinct objects in total.
- Both the Sikkim International University and the Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence stands at the second highest ranking with 27 objects each.
- The Sikkim Skill University takes the third position with 21 objects.
- Taking objects of entire universities of Sikkim, number 13.7 comes as an average. Almost closed to this, the fourth position is taken by three universities, namely Sikkim Alpine University, ICFAI University and Sikkim Professional University.
- However, more than 53 percentages of universities have their objects between the numbers 4 to 11. In this sub-category, Sikkim National Law University tops and Khangchendzonga State University falls immediately below it, followed by Mahatma Gandhi University. Whereas, Sikkim Manipal University stays at the median with third least count of 6 objects and then next in the row two more universities stand with 5 objects, namely SRM University and Sikkim University.
- The Capital University with least number of objects lies at the bottom of all the universities.

7. Review on Common Components Incorporated in the Objects of the Universities :

It is generally understandable that the universities of a region or a country generally shares some common elements like purposes, expressed in their Acts or statues either explicitly or implicitly. Similarly, the universities having vested with certain privileges, duties and responsibilities also bears similarities in their role, powers and functions for operation and management under standard regulatory provisions. It is essential for the university to generally mention their emphasis or focused area of teaching and research under different schools and faculties of studies thereby making them either multi-disciplinary or generic or discipline specific. Accordingly, it is observed that all the universities



established in Sikkim have expressed their object either directly or indirectly on such aspect related to their existence and the same to be considered as basic components listed below:-

- Teaching in the levels of under-graduate, post-graduate and research studies in the relevant or several disciplines;
- Dissemination of knowledge and bringing innovation in the teaching-learning process;
- Conduct of examination and award of certificate, diploma and degree; and
- To do all things necessary or expedient to promote their given objectives or/and pursue any other as may be appropriate and necessary.

However, in the context and background of sharing common aims, purposes and objectives, all these basic components discussed above are excluded for review and analysis in this section. Accordingly, the objects contained in the Acts of entire universities established in the state of Sikkim were examined and reviewed on items of its content forming common components. Based upon careful consideration and analysis, the content and appearance of common components in the object(s) of all universities of Sikkim have been arrived as listed below:-

- Generic identity of the university;
- Affiliation of colleges and institutions of the state;
- Establishment of Centre of Excellence;
- Establishment of University Campus in Sikkim;
- Establishment of educational and training institutions by the university;
- Establishment of University Campus Centres, Study Centres and Examination Centres in India and abroad;
- Collaboration of the university with organizations, institutions and agencies located in the state of Sikkim;
- Collaboration of the university with organizations, institutions and agencies located in India and abroad;
- Consultancy services by the university to organizations, institutions and agencies;
- Mode of delivery other than conventional system of teaching and learning;
- Quality consciousness and compliances to the regulatory provisions;
- Development of faculties and other manpower;
- Special attention for studies on the Himalayan regions including Sikkim; and
- Socio-economic development and welfare of Sikkim.

Accordingly, the appearance of the common components incorporated in the Acts of the respective Universities have been traced, examined and presented under different categories and headings as mentioned in the Table-5 below:-

Table -5: Location of the common components of objects under the respective Acts of the universities of Sikkim.

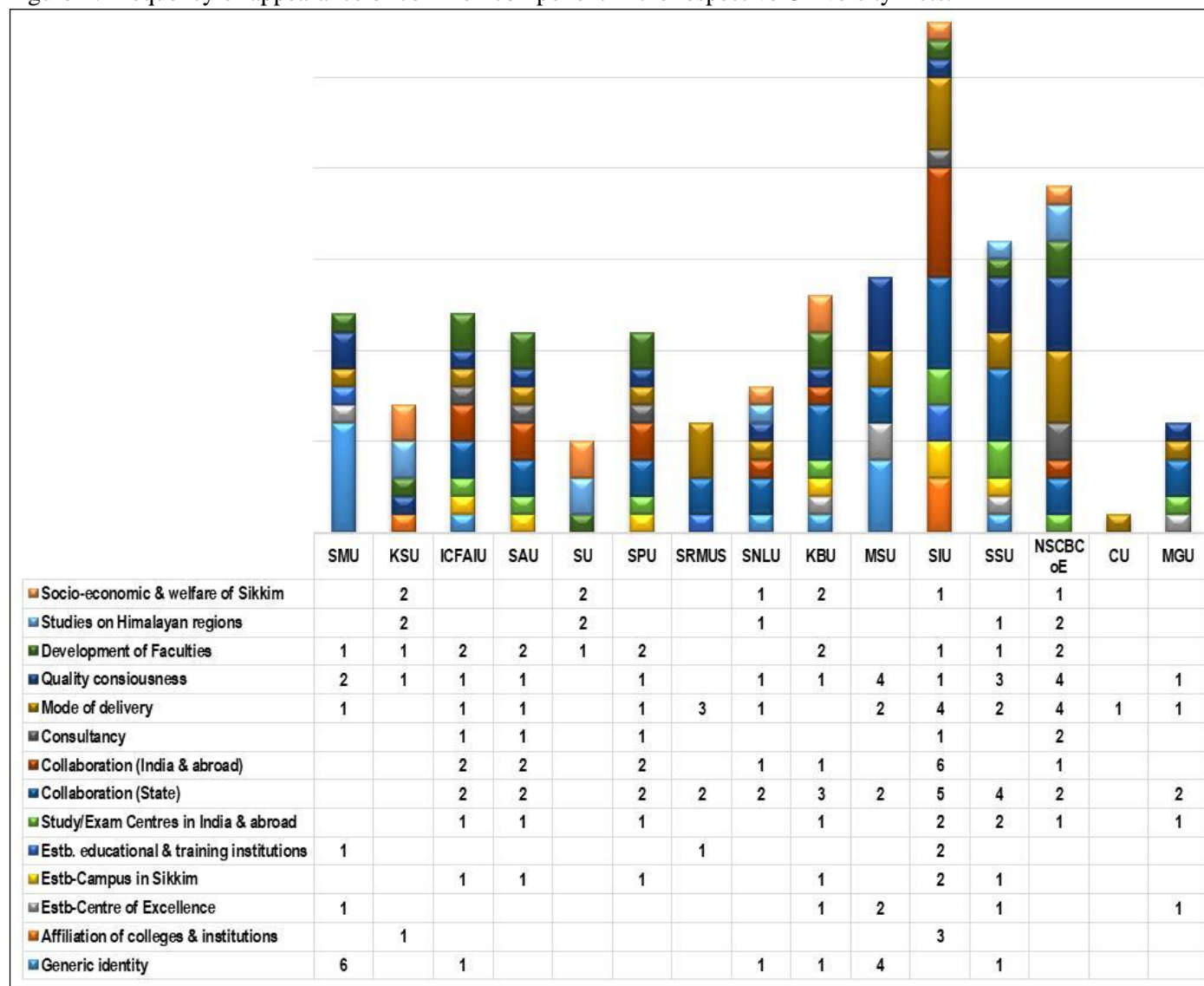
Serial Number	Name of the University	Serial number of object(s) of respective University Acts related to some common components on													
		Generic identity	Affiliation of colleges & institutions	Establishment of Centre of Excellence	Establishment of Campus in Sikkim	Establishment of educational and training institutions	Establishment of Campus/ Study/Exam Centres in India & abroad	Collaboration with organizations, institutions & agencies of State	Collaboration with organizations, institutions & agencies in India & abroad	Consultancy to organizations, institutions & agencies	Mode of delivery other than conventional system	Quality consciousness & regulatory compliances	Development of Faculties & other manpower	Special attention for studies on Himalayan regions	Socio-economic & welfare of Sikkim
1	SMU	1 to 6		1		1					1	1 & 2	1		
2	KSU		4								2	6	5 & 6	6 & 7	
3	ICFAIUS	1			2	2	2 & 5	5 & 8	10	3	11	5 & 7			
4	SAU				2	2	2 & 5	5 & 8	10	3	11	5 & 7			
5	SU											4	4 & 5	4 & 5	
6	SPU				2	2	2 & 5	5 & 8	10	3	11	5 & 7			



7	SRMUS					2		2 & 3			1, 4 & 5			
8	SNLU	1						5 & 6	6		1	4		9
9	KBU	2.1		2.3 v	2.3 x		2.3 x	2.3 ix, x & xi	2.3 xi			2.3 x	1 & 2.3 xii	2.1 & 2.2 v
10	MSU	1 to 4		1 & 5				5 & 7			6 & 10	1, 2, 8 & 9		
11	SIU		16, 25 & 26		1 & 5	4 & 26	1 & 4	1, 4, 9, 12, 18,	1, 5, 4, 9, 12 & 15	14	6, 17, 19 & 25	24	11	21
12	SSU	1		6	7		8 & 10	14, 16, 17 & 20			5 & 12	1, 2 & 9	16	6
13	NSCBC oE						23	13 & 20	20	1b & 15	1c, 3, 13 & 22	4, 6, 7 & 25	12 & 24	17 & 19
14	CU										1			
15	MGU			5			5	5 & 6			1	7		

Source: The Author

Figure-2: Frequency of appearance of common component in the respective University Acts.



Source: The Author



In terms of analysis on appearance of the common components incorporated in the respective Acts of the universities, the observations and findings are listed but not limited to the followings:-

- (a) The university having explicitly mentioned their generic identity in their object(s) comprised of SMU, ICFAI University, SNLU, MSU and SSU.
- (b) As per the objects of the universities, the Khangchendzonga State University and Sikkim International University mentioned their purpose for affiliation of the colleges and institutions in one hand and provide academic support and guidance to the colleges/institutions within the jurisdiction of the University in other hand. However, in pursuance to the preamble read with its jurisdiction, the Sikkim University has currently undertaken affiliation of government and private standalone colleges and institutions of Sikkim (Darjee, 2023a).
- (c) The establishment of Centre of Excellence are anticipated at SMU, KBU, MSU, SSU and MGU.
- (d) Despite the territorial jurisdiction of the State Private University been clearly defined by the University Grants Commission, six out of twelve have incorporated an element for establishment of their campus in Sikkim viz. ICFAIU, SAU, SPU, KBU, SIU and SSU. This indirectly hints that their sponsoring bodies have intended for establishment of similar universities in the other states too. Further, these universities have also stated for establishment of Campus/Study/Exam Centres in India & abroad thereby stating an intention on running distance education programmes.
- (e) The establishments of educational and training institutions are found incorporated in the objects of only three private universities namely SMU, SRMUS and SIU. Whereas, the establishment of university campus, study centre and examination centres are found available in objects of eight private universities namely ICFAIU, SAU, SPU, KBU, SIU, SSU, NSCBUoE and MGU. This clearly expressed their objective of running open and distance education.
- (f) The SNLU and all the State Private Universities except SMU and CU have incorporated provision in their objects for collaboration with organizations, institutions and agencies. In this connection, majority of them have explicitly mentioned their collaboration with organizations, institutions and agencies in India and abroad.
- (g) For the purpose of rendering consultancy to organizations, institutions and agencies, five State Private Universities have made provision in their objects; viz. ICFAIU, SAU, SPU, SIU and NSCBUoE.
- (h) Excluding KBU, SU and KBU, all the categories of the State Private University has made provision for blended mode of delivery other than the conventional system. Majority of the State Private Universities made provision for teaching –learning through distance and online mode.
- (i) Except SU, SRMUS and CU, all the State Private Universities and State Universities have mandated for compliance to the regulatory requirement and also expressed quality consciousness through their objects.
- (j) Despite of the faculty development program being an integral part of the university system, seventy five percent of the universities have explicitly incorporated such provision in their objects.
- (k) In case of special attention for studies on Himalayan regions inclusive of Sikkim, only five universities have made provision in their objects, which comprised of lone Central University, both the State Public Universities and two State Private University namely SSU and NSCBUoE. These universities in their objects have also expressed concerned for socio-economic development and welfare of Sikkim.
- (l) In terms of number of common attributes, the SIU tops the position while CU lies at the bottom with least number.

8. Review and Critical Analysis on Similarities of the University's Objects :

The comparative review and critical analysis forming key purpose of this study paper, the similarities of objects amongst two or many universities of Sikkim have been obtained on the parameters stated here-below:-

- (a) Each object listed in the Act under a particular number is considered as one objective of the university irrespective of number of sentences and words contained therein.
- (b) Each objective has been counted as one unit in preparation of the parameters for checking similarities.
- (c) In consideration of the university established prior or earlier as the Base University (BU), the appearance of similar object(s) in university or universities established subsequently are considered for assessment and review for analysis. Alternately, the Base University is source from where the university/ies established on later date may have obtained their object(s) bearing similarities.
- (d) The numbers of object(s) of a university found similar to that of the Base University in relation to the total number of objects are considered in calculation of percentages.

Based on the above-mentioned parameters, similar object(s) of a university observed as compared to those of the Base University (ies) in respect of all the universities established in Sikkim are reported in the Table-6 below:-

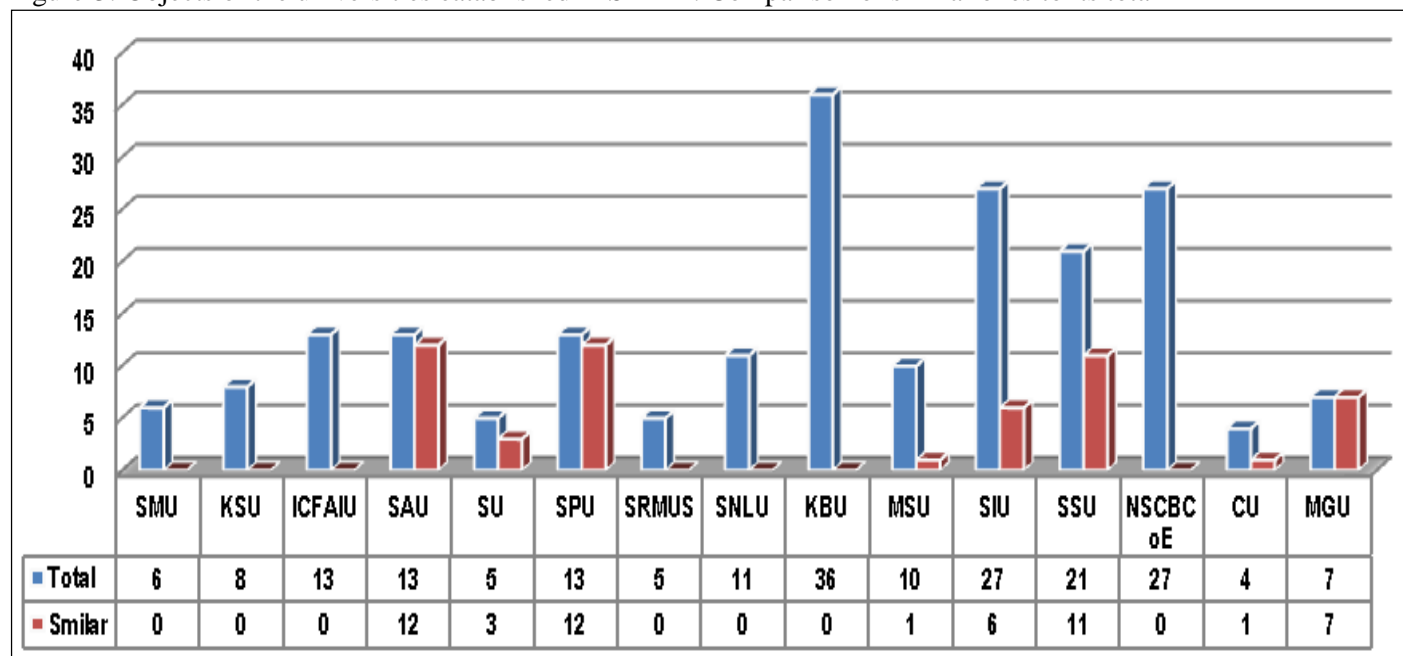


Table -6: Objects of the universities establish in Sikkim: Quantum and percentage of similar object(s)

Sr	Name of the University	Total objects its Act	Its object(s) similar to those of the Base University (BU)		Percentage of objects appearing similar in relation to its total objects $E = [(D \div B) \times 100]$
			BU	No. of similar objects	
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Sikkim Manipal University	6	-	-	-
2	Khangchendzonga State University	8	-	-	-
3	The ICFAI University Sikkim	13	-	-	-
4	Sikkim Alpine University	13	ICFAIU	12	92.31
5	Sikkim University	5	KSU	3	60.00
6	Sikkim Professional University	13	ICFAIU	12	92.31
7	SRM University Sikkim	5	-	-	-
8	Sikkim National Law University	11	-	-	-
9	Khangchendzonga Buddhist University	36	-	-	-
10	Medhavi Skills University	10	ICFAIU	1	10.00
11	Sikkim International University	27	ICFAIU	6	22.22
12	Sikkim Skill University	21	MSU	5	52.38
			ICFAIU	6	
13	NSCB University of Excellence	27	-	-	-
14	Capital University	4	KSU	1	25.00
15	Mahatma Gandhi University	7	CU	4	100.00
			MSU	3	

Source: The Author

Figure-3: Objects of the universities established in Sikkim: Comparison of similar ones to its total



Source: The Author

In terms of review and analysis on appearance of similar object(s) of the universities, the observations and findings are listed but not limited to the followings:-

- (a) Seven universities making 47 percentages of total fifteen universities does not have similarities of their objects.
- (b) The universities without bearing any similarities in their objects with other universities of Sikkim comprises of SMU, KSU and ICFAIU, SRMUS, SNLU, KBU and NSCBUoE.



- (c) Since, the current study is confined to comparison of objects amongst the universities established in the state of Sikkim, any resemblances of their objects with universities established elsewhere in the country are not considered. Hence, the first three universities established in the state namely SMU, KSU and ICFAI University does not bear any resemblances or similarities.
- (d) Eight universities making 53 percentage of total fifteen universities bears similarities in objects ranging between 10 to 100 percentages and accordingly, placed them in ascending order comprises of MSU (10%); SIU (22%); CU (25%); SSU (52%); SU (60%); SAU (92%), SPU (92%) and MGU (100%).
- (e) At the apex of the similarities chart, MGU take the position with 100% of similarities and resemblances of its objects.
- (f) The Base University making source of the similar objects comprises of ICFAIU, KSU, MSU and CU.
- (g) The universities from where objects were copied can be considered as mother for later universities. Alternatively, the Base Universities may be called as source or mother of objects for the universities established subsequently.
- (h) The objects of the ICFAI University have been source to five other State Private Universities comprising MGU (10%). SIU (22%); SSU (29%); SAU (92%) and SPU (92%).
- (i) Whereas, MSU has been source to SSU (24%) and MGU (43%).
- (j) The first State Public University of Sikkim, namely KSU has been source of objects in respect of SU (60%) and CU (25%).
- (k) The 57% of MGU's objects comes from CU.
- (l) Alternatively, similarities in the objects is grossly seen amongst the State Private Universities as observed below:-
- Both SAU and SPU have their objects of 92% each derived from ICFAIU;
 - MSU and SIU respectively draws 10% and 22% of their objects derived from ICFAIU;
 - SSU derived its 24% and 29% of objects respectively MSU and ICFAIU;
 - MGU derives its 57% and 43% objects respectively from CU & MSU.

The level of appearance of similarities in the objects differs from one university to other universities ranging from the extremely high to the extremely low with median in between. Hence, for estimation of similarities at different levels, an index has been prepared in five different groups with allocation of range of similarities in percentages placing different universities therein as shown in the Table-7 below:-

Table -7: Categorization and range of similarities in the objects of the universities of Sikkim.

Level of Similarities		Similarities of objects in the later university (ies)		
Category	Range	Name of University	No. of similar objects	Similarity Percentage
Extremely High	81 to 100 %	Mahatma Gandhi University	7 out of its total 7	100.00
		Sikkim Alpine University	12 out of its total 13	92.31
		Sikkim Professional University	12 out of its total 13	92.31
Moderately High	61 to 80 %	-	-	-
Medium	41 to 60 %	Sikkim University	3 out of its total 5	60.00
		Sikkim Skill University	11 out of its total 21	52.38
Moderately Low	21 to 40 %	Capital University	1 out of its total 4	25.00
		Sikkim International University	6 out of its total 27	22.22
Extremely Low	1 to 20 %	Medhavi Skills University	1 out of its total 10	10.00

Source: The Author

In terms of review and analysis on categorization on the basis of range of similarities of object(s) of different universities, the observations and findings are listed but not limited to the followings:-

- (a) One object of a university being fully identical to that of the other university is considered as similarities of objects.
- (b) The appearance of similar object in the later universities can alternatively be considered as an act of plagiarism, which is not only an unethical practice but invites litigations and complications.
- (c) The genuineness of the later universities having similar objects becomes doubtful.
- (d) In other words, the level of similarities under five different categories not only determines the levels of credibility of university but also attempts to distinguish each one of them from others.
- (e) At the top of the chart with 100 percentage of similarities under the category of 'Extremely High' similarities, the MGU bears identical resemblances of its object to that of the Base Universities as shown in the Table-8 below:-



Table -8: Mapping of objects of the Mahatma Gandhi University with objects of the Base Universities.

Objects of the Mahatma Gandhi University	Mapping of one to one resemblances to the objects of the Base Universities	
	Object No.	Name of the Base Universities
Object No. 1	1	Capital University
Object No. 2	2	Capital University
Object No. 3	3	Capital University
Object No. 4	4	Capital University
Object No. 5	5	Medhavi Skills University
Object No. 6	2	Medhavi Skills University
Object No. 7	8	Medhavi Skills University

Source: The Author

- (f) With the 92.31 percentage of similarities under the category of 'Extremely High', all the objects of the Sikkim Alpine University and Sikkim Professional University bears exact resemblances to all the objects of the ICFAI University accurately on the same order and without variation of any kind except their first object. In fact, the first sentence of the first object stating 'to provide instruction, teaching, training and research in' appears in all these universities and second part of the sentence stating specializations are found to be different. Based on the objects derived from Base University, both the SAU and SPU can be considered as duplicate form of the ICFAI University.
- (g) Under the Medium category, the Sikkim University bears 60 percentage of accurate resemblances of its objects to that of the Khangchendzonga State University while Sikkim Skill University with 52.38 percentage makes gross resemblances to that of ICFAI University and Medhavi Skills University as shown in the Tables-8 and 9 below:-

Table -9: Mapping of objects of Sikkim University with objects of the Base University.

Objects of the Sikkim University	Mapping of one to one resemblances to the objects of the Base University	
	Object No.	Name of the Base University
Object No. 1	1	Khangchendzonga State University
Object No. 4	6	Khangchendzonga State University
Object No. 5	7	Khangchendzonga State University

Source: The Author

Table -10: Mapping of objects of Sikkim Skill University with objects of the Base Universities.

Objects of the Sikkim Skill University	Mapping of one to one resemblances to the objects of the Base Universities	
	Object No.	Name of the Base Universities
Object No. 1	1	Medhavi Skills University
Object No. 2	2	Medhavi Skills University
Object No. 4	3	Medhavi Skills University
Object No. 5	3	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No. 7	2	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No. 9	2	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No. 12	6	Medhavi Skills University
Object No. 13	4	Medhavi Skills University
Object No. 15	6	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No. 16	7	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No. 17	8	The ICFAI University Sikkim

Source: The Author

- (h) Under the 'Moderately Low' category, one out of four objects of the Capital University bears accurate resemblances to that of the Khangchendzonga State University thereby making 25 percentages of similarities. In the same category, the Sikkim International University has its six objects making resemblances to that of ICFAI University as shown in the Table-11 below:-



Table -11: Mapping of objects of Sikkim International University with objects of the Base University.

Objects of the Sikkim International University	Mapping of one to one resemblances to the objects of the Base University	
	Object No.	Name of the Base University
Object No. 8	4	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No. 10	6	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No. 11	7	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No.12	8	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No. 13	9	The ICFAI University Sikkim
Object No. 14	10	The ICFAI University Sikkim

Source: The Author

- (i) Under the 'Extremely Low' category, one object under serial no. 10 of the Medhavi Skills University bears resemblances to that of the object listed under serial no. 11 of the ICFAI University thereby making it 22 percentages of similarities.
- (j) Despite of the territorial jurisdiction earmarked by the UGC, majority of the private universities established in Sikkim contains objects with provision for establishment of study centre, campuses and examination centres at different places in India and abroad to facilitate distance education programs.
- (k) Also despite of different level of similarities of objects amongst universities established in the state of Sikkim, the identical resemblances can be considered as gross violation to the ethical requirement.
- (l) Particularly, the sections related to the object in the university Acts were supposed to have been presented their object differently and unique to avoid any litigation and complications.
- (m) It is also not known whether the objects inscribed in their Acts of the universities established in the state of Sikkim further bears gross resemblances to the university/ies established elsewhere in the country.

9. Review on Distinct Objects of the Universities Established in Sikkim :

In terms of the objects inscribed in the Acts, followings seven universities does not have any resemblances of their objects with that of other universities established in the state of Sikkim:-

- (a) Sikkim Manipal University: A first university under PPP model established in Sikkim with its objects making a university generic of 'health, medical and technological sciences'.
- (b) Khangchendzonga State University: The first State Public University has its objects thoughtfully crafted to fulfill the long pending need of a public university in the state, and also to organize programmes in various mountain specific and emerging areas. The university was created with one of the primary objects of affiliating standalone colleges and institutions of Sikkim but it took almost fourteen years to be functional. By the time university started its operation to fulfill the objectives, all the colleges and institutions of Sikkim were already affiliated under a Central University since many years.
- (c) The ICFAI University Sikkim: The title of the university being generic of 'finance and management' having several core specialization, it came as a first self-financing university in Sikkim. However, the university contains objects incorporating several other branches of studies and disciplines.
- (d) SRM University Sikkim: With only five distinct objects, this university has simple but objects mentioned effectively.
- (e) Sikkim National Law University: As the name of the university suggest, the objects clearly makes university generic of 'legal education'. All the objects of this university are precise and flawless.
- (f) Khangchendzonga Buddhist University: This is a first university established with the indigenous people with its sponsoring body, a trust registered under the Government of Sikkim. The objects of the university Act are distinct and unique to make it different from all others, all of them focussed to specific area, with core value on Buddhism studies thereby making it a generic.
- (g) Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence: This being a second State Private University established under PPP model, the objects of university makes several tall promises to create itself as a centre of excellence thereby maintaining highest performance and standards. But, some of its objects dealing on appointment of the faculties etc. relates to the other section of Act falling under the category 'functions and powers of the university'.

In the context of uniqueness in the objects of the university, the Sikkim International University has its objects related to offering of Pre-University foundation course equivalent to Secondary School Certificate and Pre-University Certificate equivalent to the Higher Secondary School certificate in the streams of arts, science and commerce. Such provision makes the university unique and distinct from other universities established in Sikkim.



10. CONCLUSION :

The objects of the universities inscribed in their Acts precisely mentioned their primary objectives for their establishment in the state of Sikkim. Based on the comparative review and critical analysis carried out, the findings and observations are summarized as listed below:-

- (a) Despite of different level of similarities, majority of universities not only have gross resemblances but identical objects.
- (b) Eight out of fifteen universities have their objects resembling more than fifty percentages.
- (c) The appearance of similar object in the later universities seems copying and hence, does not make them much different in their existence from universities established earlier.
- (d) The objects of the ICFAI University have been source to majority of the State Private Universities.
- (e) Despite of the territorial jurisdiction earmarked by the UGC, majority of the private universities incorporated provision for establishment of study centre, campuses and examination centres at different places in India and abroad to facilitate distance education programs.
- (f) Few universities have unique objectives to prove their individual identity and also generic to specific discipline of studies.

Acknowledgement : The websites of (a) India Code, Digital Repository of All Central and State Acts (URL <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/>); (b) Digital Archives (URL <http://14.139.60.153/handle/123456789/1>); and (c) PRS Legislative Research (URL <https://prsindia.org/>) facilitated in downloading central and state Acts related to all the universities discussed above.

REFERENCES :

1. Darjee, D. K. (2023a). 'Growth, development and advancement of higher education in Sikkim through establishment of Universities: A descriptive Analysis', IJRAR - International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews (IJRAR), E-ISSN 2348-1269, P- ISSN 2349-5138, Volume.10, Issue 2, Page No pp.960-969, April 2023.
2. Darjee, D. K. (2023b). 'Objectives and Purposes for Establishment of the Universities in Sikkim with Special Reference to Preamble of respective University Acts', International Journal of All Research Education and Scientific Methods (IJARESM), ISSN: 2455-6211, Volume 11, Issue 4, Page No pp.2112-2124, April 2023.
3. Government of India [Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II] & Ministry of Human Resource Development [Department of Higher Education]. (2007). *The Sikkim University Act, 2006* (S.O. 1053(E)).
4. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (1995). *The Objects of the University. The Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences Act, 1995* (9/LD/1995). Government of Sikkim.
5. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2003). *The Objects of the University. The Sikkim University Act, 2003* (5/LD/2003). Government of Sikkim.
6. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2004). *The Objects of the University. The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University Sikkim Act, 2004* (9/LD/2004). Government of Sikkim.
7. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2006). *The Objects of the University. The Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management University Act, 2006* (28/LD/2006). Government of Sikkim.
8. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2008). *The Objects of the University. The Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University Act, 2008* (11/LD/P/2008). Government of Sikkim.
9. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2013). *The Objects of the University. The Shri Ramasamy Memorial University, Sikkim Act, 2013* (13/LD/P/2013). Government of Sikkim.
10. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2018). *The Objects of the University. The Sikkim National Law University Act, 2018* (5/LD/2018). Government of Sikkim.
11. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2020). *The Objects of the University. The Khangchendzonga Buddhist University, Sikkim Act, 2020* (15/LD/2020). Government of Sikkim.
12. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2021). *The Objects of the University. The Medhavi Skills University, Sikkim Act, 2021* (14/L&PAD/2021). Government of Sikkim.
13. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2021). *The Objects of the University. The Sikkim International University Act, 2021* (15/L&PAD/2021). Government of Sikkim.



14. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2021). *The Objects of the University*. The Sikkim Skill University Act, 2021 (29/L&PAD/2021). Government of Sikkim.
15. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2022). *The Objects of the University*. The Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence Act, 2022 (01/L&PAD/2022). Government of Sikkim.
16. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2022). *The Objects of the University*. The Capital University Act, 2022 (02/L&PAD/2022). Government of Sikkim.
17. Ministry of Law [Sikkim Government Gazette, Extraordinary]. (2022). *The Objects of the University*. The Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 2022 (11(656) L&PAD/2021/15). Government of Sikkim.

Authors' Biography



DILIP KUMAR DARJEE serving at Indira Gandhi National Open University since 2012 also rendered services at Sikkim State University as Assistant Controller of Examinations during 2019-21. Earlier, he rendered twelve years of continuous services at Sikkim Manipal University. Taking together, twenty two years of experiences gathered at central, state and private universities, he gained expertise in finance and accounts, examination, general administration and student support services of the university system. Having completed his entire schooling from the Govt. Sr. Secondary School, Rhenock, East Sikkim, he is an undergraduate alumni of Sikkim Govt. College, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim and also earned four post graduations namely MA in Economics; MBA in Marketing & Finance; MSc in Ecology & Environment and M.Phil in Management together with UGC NET qualified in Commerce.

His notable volunteering services to NGOs comprises of Honorary State Treasurer at Sikkim State Bharat Scouts & Guides (1998-2007); Charter Member & Treasurer (2004-05) & Director-Vocational Services (2005-06) at Rotary Club of Tadong (3240); Treasurer at Ecotourism Conservation Society of Sikkim (2011-2015); Membership of academic professional bodies comprised of Life Member of Indian Commerce Association and Professional Member of Institute of Scholars. He has attended, participated and facilitated to organize several professional training programmes, seminars, workshops and conferences. His core area of studies in the research papers published till date covers higher education and universities of Sikkim.