SOURCES OF FUND AND EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF ASSAM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract: *The study of income and expenditure involves a broad scope. According John Maynard Keynes in his income-expenditure theory, there is a relationship between income and expenditure. When there is increase money or an anticipation of receiving income, more money is spent on expenditure. There is a clear positive relationship between income and expenditure. If income increases, expenditure will also increase. This is a common economic principle used to describe spending trends for national and world economies. The present paper aims to bring a clear understanding the expenditure pattern and sources of fund of the students of Assam University, Silchar. The data uses here are primary data collected through a structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics and tables have been used to analyse the collected data.important findings are 1. Main source of student's income comes from parent's income. 2. Main expenditure items are food and beverages accommodation.3. The amount of money received by students is relatively low and insufficient even to cover their expenditure on necessary items.*

Key words: income, expenditure, food, accommodation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

According John Maynard Keynes in his income-expenditure theory, there is a relationship between income and expenditure. When there is increase money or an anticipation of receiving income, more money is spent on expenditure. There is a clear positive relationship between income and expenditure. If income increases, expenditure will also increase. This is a common economic principle used to describe spending trends for national and world economies. The identified determinants that may have influence on levels of consumption expenditures are changes in levels of wealth, debt, future income and price and government policy on taxation . Focusing on consumption expenditure component, it contributes the largest to overall expenditure level in the economy. This expenditure component is comprised of spending from various economic units. One of the economic units that play a vital role in aggregate consumption expenditure of the economy is the society of university students.

As there are many students coming to the Assam University, every student has personal expectations regarding the costs of living and expenditure. In reality, the expenses can be often much higher. With the focus on Assam University students, it's attracted our attention to have a closer look on the student's expenditure and how they individually finance it. Most of the students are receiving financial support from their parents. Therefore it's interesting to examine how high the actual average cost of living of the students of Assam University. Moreover, how they are financing their expenses in order to be able to study at Assam University. The objective is to find out what the average costs of living and what possibilities of financing are used from the students. What budget does an Assam University students spend per month and does this vary among students? And how do they manage to get this amount?

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Economics, which is aimed at meeting unlimited needs with limited resources, is a social science about human behavior. Economics, which is aimed at meeting unlimited material needs with limited resources, is a social science about human behavior. People living in the community must consume the goods and services to protect and maintain their being.

Economics aims to increase individual and social welfare by meeting human needs. The need is the desire that gives the individual benefit and pleasure when it is met and gives sadness and suffering to the individual when it is not met. Cultural needs such as education travel; needs such as sports, automobile, world tour, etc. are luxury needs. Since the needs are unlimited, and the resources are scarce, people tend to consume in scarce resources.

Therefore, consumption takes place in the form of different preferences in line with the needs of each individual is the expenditure from income to final goods and services to meet the needs of the individual or household. Savings, on the other hand, are the unspent portion of income, the sum of consumption and savings equals the income of the individual. Consumption in the economy has been considered important by economists in every period and various theories have been put forward in this regard. Firstly Adam Smith, in his book "Wealth of Nations"; argues that the main goal and purpose of production is consumption, and national wealth is measured by the size of the stock allocated for emergency consumption´Keynes, in his Absolute Income Hypothesis, firstly asserted that as people's average income increases, their consumption increases, but this increase in consumption is not as high as income increase.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of income and expenditure involves a broad scope. From the past literatures, this theme has been researched in various groups of economic sectors or units. Among the many studies, the current study put focus on income-expenditure of the households (Rashid et al., 2010; Ismail & Bakar, 2012), entrepreneurs (Jalil et al., 2017; 2019); teachers (Jalil et al. (2018) and university students (Rubayah et al., 2015; Sosooshian & Tan, 2014; Netty Zahura, 2006; Noor A'lim, 2005; dan Dacyczyn, 2011, 2014).

Rashid et al. (2010) who survey into household expenditure behaviour in the east coast of peninsular Malaysia. The overall findings provide evidence on the significant relationship between the income and the expenditure levels. In particular, the high correlation between the income and the total expenditure are observed in the housing loan, automobile loan and educational expenditure.

Ismail & Bakar (2012) researched on the same theme as Rashid et al. but specifically focusing on income-expenditure elasticity and saving level of the household. Their findings provide indication that the elasticity of income-expenditure is highest for rental expenses and loan payments, as well as health, while the lowest elasticity was recorded for daily needs. In terms of saving, most households allocate only a small proportion of their income for savings, while there are some households without any savings and some even spend more than their income.

Studies of Jalil et al. (2019, 2017) put focus on the business sector, or to be more specific on female business operators. In specific, the studies are doing income and expenditure management of women entrepreneurs at the East Coast of Malaysia. The findings of this study lead them to conclude; the ability to manage income and expenditure guarantees business

profitability, which then is becoming an inspiration and motivation to the entrepreneurs to continue operating the business sector and stay in the system. Other than entrepreneurs, there are also studies on expenditure behaviour focusing on group of teachers. Among them are studies conducted by Jalil et al. (2018) and Ramli (2013). The study by Jalil et al. (2018) focuses on a group of teachers in deciding their expenditure on home purchases. The two main factors tested in this study are; economic factors and non-economic factors. The final results provide indication; economic factors (income) are the dominant factors in influencing teacher's decision on home purchase expenditure. In other words, a given level of income along with effective expenditure decision helps the teachers to realize their dream.

The study by Ramli (2013) also analyse the income-expenditure pattern of the teachers. In specific, his focus is more into income-expenditure management. The findings discover respondents aged more than 45 years old had good financial management behaviour compares to younger aged respondents. In another word, as they grew older they cultivate organized expenditure pattern, and this lead to stable and better saving habit. Here we may imply, the financial behaviour describes the financial well-being of an individual or group; which than may influence the individual productivity level.There are also studies of income expenditure that focuses on youth. Among the few to be highlighted are; the income-expenditure pattern of youth who stay in urban areas (Bukhari, Hyun & Idris, 2018) and on university students. The findings of the former study figured that there is no significant relationship between income and expenditure for daily needs. Specifically, this means, an increase in income does not necessarily lead to increased spending.

Other types of youth study are the income-expenditure analysis on university students. The referred literatures for this group of households are the studies conducted by Rubayah et al. (2015); Sosooshian & Tan (2014), (Netty Zahura, 2006), (Noor A'lim, 2005) and (Dacyczyn, 2011; 2014). In general, the direction of the studies is divided into several areas namely; 1) students' degree of knowledge in expenditure management, 2) students 'attitude toward expenditure activities, and 3) students' skills in expenditure decisions.

Rubayah et al. (2015) in their study found; the average level of financial literacy (knowledge) among students was low. The results show that, many students are unable to manage their budget to an extent the level of spending is always higher than the income level. A study by Sosooshian & Tan (2014) is slightly different from Rubayah et al. (2015). Sossshian & Tan (2014) even though acknowledged students' knowledge in terms of expenditure management; however, inefficiency in money management persists because most of the students do not use the knowledge and skills they have in their daily financial management. The findings of both studies are in line with the findings of Barjoyai and Fairuz (1996).Another study which is to students' level of knowledge in managing expenses is the research conducted by Dacyczyn (2011; 2014). The results of his study show that there are problems among students in making decisions about spending between necessities or wants due to lack of knowledge of financial management. This finding clearly indicates that a low level of knowledge promotes failure in prioritizing expenditure items, thus leading to overall money management failure. Other than knowledge; a study by Netty Zahura (2006) concludes, attitude factor also contributes

significantly to student inefficiency in financial management.

According to the researcher, some students feel that when they are away from the family, they gain freedom to decide what do and to buy without family intervention. This scenario not only leads them towards bad money allocation (between the necessity and the non-necessity expenses) but also inclined them to be trapped in an overspending behaviour. This kind of attitude factor is also related to the study conducted by Noor A'lim (2005). He concludes that the allowance received every semester by the students has not been spent wisely. Students had been spending the money without setting any priority to academic and health needs but using the money for entertainment such as watching movies and vacationing with friends. The same finding was obtained in the study of Mamat et al. (2013). The results show that the students do not have the financial management skills. Their expenditures outweigh the available financial resources and students spend more money on non-academic matters than on academic matters. This finding is supported by Mustafa & Fikri (2011). Based on the highlighted literatures, we may infer there are many directions of studies on income-expenditure of the target groups. For the existing study, the focus is similar to the work of Dacyczyn (2011; 2014), which concentrate on students' income sources and expenditure pattern.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study are:

A. To identify the students sources of income.

B. To explore Assam University students expenditure level.

C. To measure the Saving status of the Assam University students.

4. METHODOLOGY

This section elaborates the methods used for data collection

A. Coverage: The analytical part of the study is based on primary data . The unit of study is income - expenditure pattern of the Assam University student's. Since the study is focused on the targeted group of population of Assam University. The study is only limited to Assam University students.

B. Sample Size: The study is primary data based study which was conducted in the Assam Central University, Silchar campus. A purposive sampling technique has been applied to collect the primary data. A total of 57 students of Assam University participated in this study. The instrument used for data collection is questionnaire set.

C. Data collection Method: The instrument used for data collection is questionnaire set which are distributed through Google forms and some throughout the door to door survey. The schedule contains a wide range of information about the student's age group, educational qualifications, income sources, expenditure pattern and the saving status of the students of Assam University.

D. Data Analysis: This is a qualitative analysis. The data analysis part is carried out by applying statistical tables and diagrams.

5. STUDY AREA

Assam University is collegiate central public university located at Dorgakuna near Irongmara

about 20 Km from Silchar, Assam, India. It was found in the year 1994 by the provision of an act enacted by Parliament of India. The languages, Environmental science, Social Science, Physical Science, Law, Technology and Management studies. There are 42 departments under these sixteen and the five districts under the jurisdiction of Assam University. Assam University have 73 under graduate college as on 31st March 2020. Assam University is an institutional signatory to the Global University Network (GUNI) , Barcelona and United National Global Compact (UNGC) for its commitment to educational social responsibilities. Assam University provides facilities like Hostel for boys and girls in the campus, infrastructure, Library, canteen, sports, gym etc .

The University is located at hilly area with greenery scenario. The canteen is primarily responsible for serving nutritious and hygienic food to the students residing in the campus. It also serves meals to the students residing in the campus. In Assam University the canteen serves the students in 14 different place and departments. The canteen opens on working day from 10 AM to 5 PM few up to 9 PM . The common canteen facility shall be provided in the campus for the students of the Assam University, Teaching and Non - teaching staffs of the university . The management is fully committed to keeping the quality of the canteen like hygienic and nutritious food at reasonable prices for the utmost benefits of all concerned.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Age Group

Age Group	No. of Students	Percentage (%)
18-23	50	85.67
24-30	6	12.5
30- above	1	1.8

Source : Field Survey

Table - 1 deals with the age group of the students studying in Assam University. It is found from the study and which is represented in the above table shows 57 students participated in this study . Among them 50 students are under the age group of 18 -23 , 6 students are from the age group of 24 -30 and only one student belong to the age group 30 - above .

Table2: Educational Status

Educational Status	No, of Students	Percentage (%)
PG	55	96.4
PHD	2	3.6

Source : Field Survey

Table - 2 shows the educational Status of the students studying under various PG and PhD courses as provided in the Assam University. 57 students participated in this study. Out of which it is found that 55 students are doing their PG courses and only 2 students are getting a PhD degree .96.4%of the students are under PG courses and 3.6% students are doing their PhD under Assam University.

Table 3: Subject of Study/Department

Department	No. of Student	Percentage (%)
Economics	12	24.8
Political Science	37	66.2
English	2	3.6
Bengali	2	3.6
BA LLB	1	1.8
Agricultural Engineering	1	1.8
Pharma	1	1.8
Earth Science	1	1.8

Source: Field Survey

Table - 3 shows the subject of study or the various departments under which Assam University students are studying. Out of 57 students 12 students are from the Economics department with a percentage of 24.8% , 37 students of political science participated in this study with a percentage of 66.2% , 2 students of English and Bengali department participated in this study with a percentage of 3.6 % respectively. 1 student of Agricultural Engineering, 1 student of Pharmacy and 1 student of Earth student also participated in this study as reflected in the above table.

Table 4: Source of Income

Source of Income	No. of Students	Percentage (%)
Self Employed	1	1.8
Part time Job	2	3.6
Parents Income	46	82.1
Scholarship	1	1.8
Others	7	10.7

Source: Field Survey

Table -4 reflects the sources of income of the students through various sources like , self - employed , part time job , parents income , scholarship and various others sources . It is found in the study that most of the students are receiving financial support from their parents. 46 students are depending on parents income as a source of income and expenditure with a highest percentage of 82.1% . 2 students are doing part time jobs, and 7 students depending on others sources of income.

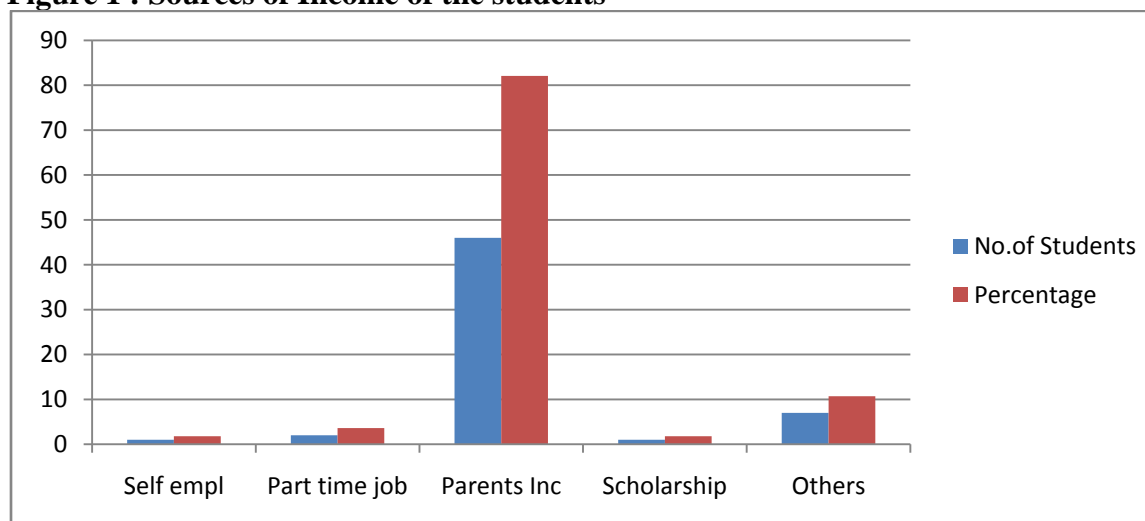**Figure 1 : Sources of Income of the students**

Figure 1 is the statistical representation of the various sources of income of the students studying in Assam University. The vertical axis measures the number of students and the horizontal axis measuring the various sources of income viz self - employed, part time job , parents income , scholarship and other sources .

Table 5 shows the students level of expenditure that they monthly spent. 15 students spent 1000 - 5000 for their monthly expenditure, 35 students spend 5000-10,000 for their monthly expenditure with an average percentage of 53.6% and and 7 students spend 10,000- more on their monthly expenditure with an average percentage of 12.5%

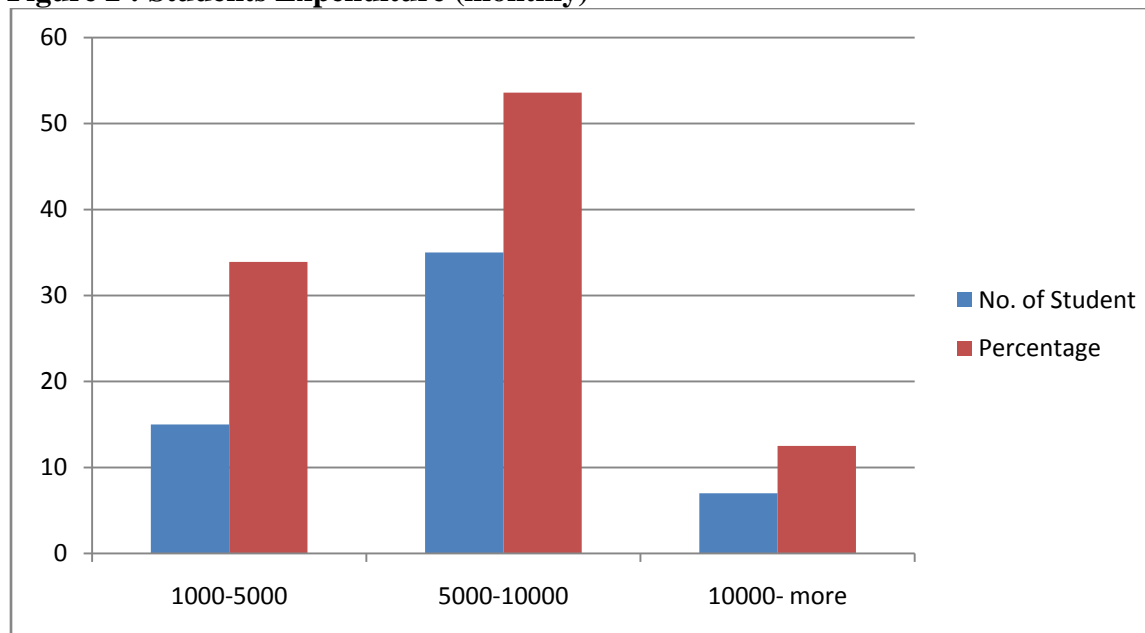**Figure 2 : Students Expenditure (monthly)**

Figure 2 represents the monthly expenditure of the students. The vertical axis measures the number of students and the horizontal axis measuring the percentage of students spending through various income groups.

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Table 6: Expenditure on Food and Drink

Expenditure on food and drink	No. of Students	Percentage (%)
1000-4000	40	71.4
4000-6000	10	16.1
6000- more	7	12.5

Source : Field Survey

Table 6 shows the students expenditure on food and drinks (per month) . 40 students spent of Rs 1000- 4000 on various food and drink with an average percentage of 71.4 % and 10 students spent a monthly Rs if 4000-6000 with an average percentage of 16.1 % on various types of food and drinks. 7 students spend more than Rs 6000 on various food and drinks with an average percentage of 12.5 %.

Table 7: Students Cost of Accommodation (monthly)

Cost of Accommodation	No. of Student	Percentage (%)
2000-4000	33	58.9
4000-8000	20	33.9
8000-10000	4	7.2

Source : Field Survey

Table 7 measures the average cost of expenditure for students living on campus and living off the campus in rented or owned housing. Where It is found that 33 students spent Rs 2000-4000 for their accommodation, 20 students spends Rs 4000-6000 on their accommodation and 2 students are spending of Rs 8,000-10,000 on accommodation with an average percentage of 7.2 %.

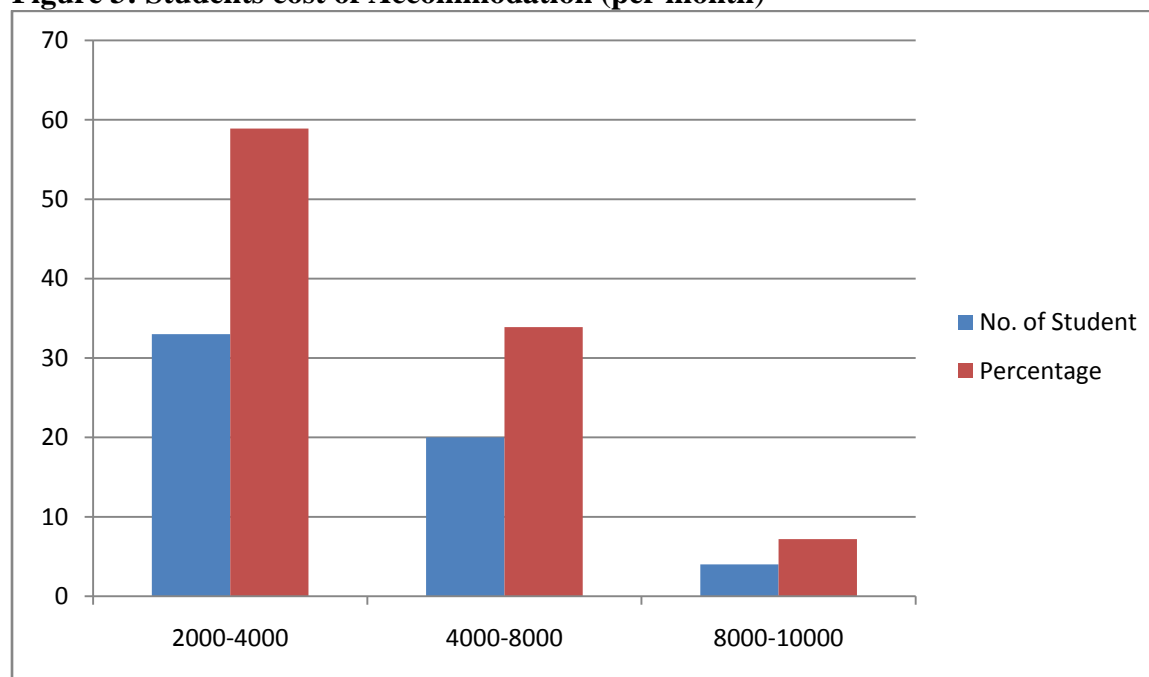**Figure 3: Students cost of Accommodation (per month)**

Figure 3 displays the monthly expenditure on accommodation through statistical diagram. The vertical axis measures the number of students and the horizontal axis measures the percentage of the students monthly spending on accommodation with various income groups. 58.9 % of students spent 2000-4000 on accommodation, 33.9% students spent 4000-8000 on their accommodation and rest 7.2 % students spent 8000-10000.

Table 8: Students Savings

Do you do Savings?	No. of Students	Percentage (%)
Yes	18	32.1
No	39	67.9

Source: Field Survey

Table 8 shows the students saving percentage. It is found that 18 students do savings with an average percentage of 32.1% and rest 39 do not save a part of their income with a percentage of 67 . 9 % . It's found that most of the students don't like to save a part of their income as known through this study.
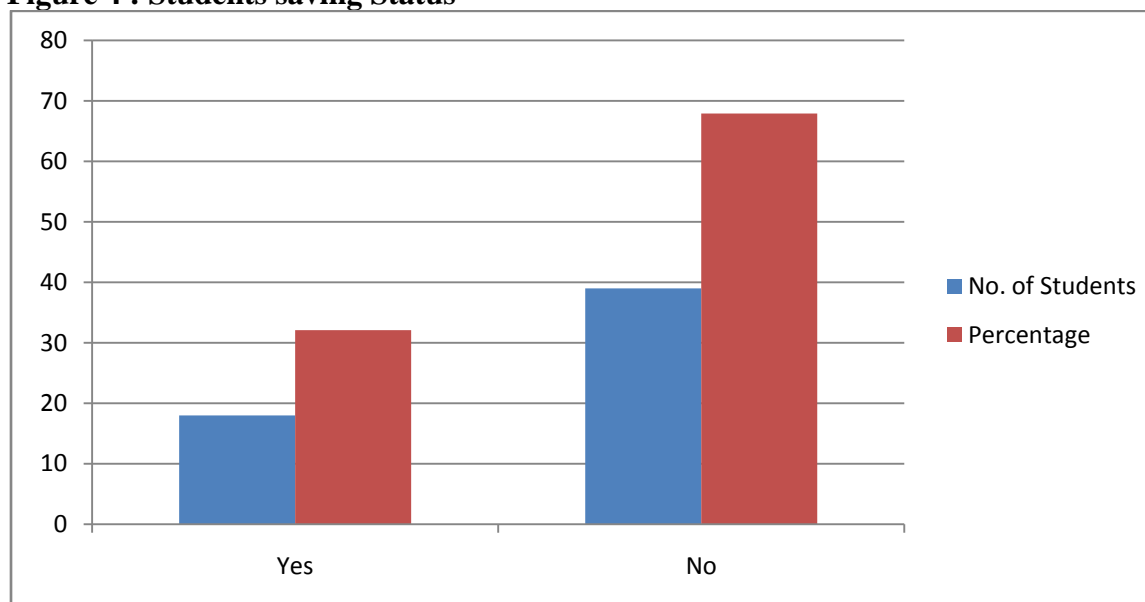
Figure 4 : Students saving Status

Figure 4 depicts the saving Status of the Assam University students which shown through the statistical diagram. The Vertical axis measures the number of students and the horizontal axis measuring the percentage of students doing saving and not. It is found from the study that out of 57 students 18 students do savings with a percentage of 32.1 % and 39 students does not save a part of their income with an average percentage of 67.9 % .

Table 9: Students Receiving Credit or Scholarship

Do you receive any credit or scholarship?	No. of Student	Percentage (%)
Yes	9	16.1
No	48	83.9

Source: Field Survey

Table 9 shows the students receiving any credit or Scholarship. 9 students responded yes to this question that they are receiving some kind of credit or Scholarship with a percentage of 16.1% and 48 students responded with" No ", that they are not receing any kind of credit or Scholarship with a percentage of 83.9%.

Table 10: Money Expenses and the Cost of Living

Do the actual money expenses meet the expected cost of living?	No. of Students	Percentage (%)
Yes	23	39.3
No	34	60.7

Source : Field Survey

Table 10 answers the question to Do the actual money expenses meet the expected cost of living? It is shown in the table that out of 57 students 23 students responded with Yes and 34

students responded with No with an average percentage of 60.7 % . It shows that the actual money expenses which they earn from parents income or through various sources doesn't meet their expected cost of living .

7. IMPORTANT FINDINGS

The findings from this study are

(A) The main source of students fund comes from parent's income.

(B) The main expenditure items are food and beverages and accommodation.

(C) The amount of money received by students is relatively low and insufficient even to cover their expenditure on necessary items.

8. CONCLUSION

57 University students participated in this study. The instrument used for data collection is questionnaire set which are constructed by using Google forms and distributed through link sharing. The findings of the analyses provide indication of students sources of income mainly come from parent's income. For expenditure analysis the main expenditure items are; food and beverages and accommodation. The amount of money obtained by the students is relatively low, and insufficient even to cover their expenditure on necessarily items.

A suitable amount of facts and data have been compiled and presented concerning Assam University student's income and spending patterns. The aim of these efforts has been to provide students, University officials a knowledge of Assam University student's income and spending patterns. The major sources of income are self employed, part time job, parent's income, scholarship, others .It is found from the study that most of the students are depending on parent's income for the expenditure purposes and getting a degree from the reputed institution. It is found that students receiving income from their parents are of 82.1 % in number, self employed (1.8%) , part time job (3.6%), scholarship (1.8%)and students receiving income from other sources is 10.7%. The major expenditure of the students is on foods and beverages, accommodation. About 12.5% students spent monthly expenditure of Rs 10,000-more, 53.6% students spent monthly expenditure in between Rs 5,000-10,000 and 33.9% student's monthly expenditure is lying between the income groups 1000-5000. The figures concerning student's income and sources of income indicate that students would be financially unable to attend the university without some help from their parents. Many students from families with limited financial resources are probably forced out of college because their parents are unable to give them the financial help needed to attend the university. This is an area where the use of scholarship or government loans could be increased to help keep students who have limited financial resources in university. It is found from the study that 32.1% of the university students likely to do saving. But most of the students (67.9%) do not save a part of their income earned through various sources . And 60.7% students supported the statement that their actual money expenses doesn't meet their expected cost of living.

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