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**TRENDS IN HIGHER SECONDARY EXAMINATION  
PERFORMANCE IN MANIPUR: A FIVE-YEAR  
LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS (2021–2025)**

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<b>Keywords</b>	<b>Abstract</b>
Higher Secondary, Performance, Trends, Disparities.	Higher Secondary education is a crucial factor in shaping students' career and academic paths, both before to and following their schooling, while higher secondary exam performance serves as a vital indicator of educational quality and equity. This research study examines the trends in Higher Secondary Examination performance in Manipur throughout the five-year period from 2021 to 2025, utilizing secondary sources based on official examination results. The research employed a descriptive longitudinal approach to ascertain annual changes in overall pass percentages, gender-specific performance, district-specific outcomes, and stream-specific results in Arts, Science, and Commerce. The results indicate significant fluctuations in overall pass rates, with a substantial increase in 2021, followed by a decline in 2022 and 2023, and a notable recovery in 2024, culminating in stabilization in 2025 as a result of post-pandemic normalization. Gender-based study indicates a consistent performance advantage for female pupils. District-based results indicate persistent disparities



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	between valley and hill districts, whereas stream-based analysis shows greater stability in the Science stream compared to the Arts and Commerce streams. The research highlights the ongoing existence of regional, gender, and stream disparities in higher secondary performance and contends that evidence-based planning and interventions are essential for improving equity and quality in higher secondary education.
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Higher secondary education holds a vital role in the education system as a transitory between school education and the higher learning, professional training and work. At this level, academic performance does not only indicate the academic readiness of students but also how well the curriculum is delivered, supported by institutions and the governance systems. In India, higher secondary public exam results are extensively utilized as the measures of educational quality, equity, and efficiency of the system on the state and regional levels (Government of India, 2020).

The Higher Secondary Examination is organised by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur (COHSEM) in Manipur, which periodically releases statistical records of students participating in the test and performance in the examination. These are the official reports where there is a detailed information about the pass percentages by gender, districts, and academic streams. Nonetheless, as much as such rich secondary data is available, there have been few systematic longitudinal investigations that can measure the performance trends after several years, especially in the North-Eastern states.

The state of Manipur comprises sixteen districts, including 10 predominantly hill regions and six valley districts. The valley districts are predominantly urban and exhibit a significantly higher concentration of educational institutions and infrastructure compared to the hill districts, which are primarily rural and have challenges related to accessibility, infrastructure, and the availability of skilled teachers. Previous emphasis has been placed on the significant influence of rural-urban and geographical disparities on educational outcomes in various regions (Tilak, 2018; MHRD, 2019). Therefore, the higher secondary examination in Manipur must be evaluated in light of these contextual disparities.

Appreciating the years between 2021 and 2025 is especially important, since this time frame involves educational recuperation after the pandemic and the progressive restoration of assessment activities after years of school lockdowns. International and national reports inform about the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic caused learning loss and uneven recovery in different regions and groups of students, which required the evidence-based monitoring of academic outcomes (UNESCO, 2021; UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2022). In this regard, the current research does a five-year longitudinal performance evaluation of Higher Secondary Examination in Manipur through the official COHSEM data, the objective of which is to establish trends and differences in terms of gender, districts and streams in order to make recommendations about educational planning and formulation of policies.



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## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To examine the overall trend in pass percentage of the Higher Secondary Examination in Manipur from 2021 to 2025.
2. To analyze gender-wise trends in Higher Secondary Examination performance during the study period.
3. To study district-wise variations and trends in examination performance across the five-year period.
4. To examine stream-wise performance trends in Arts, Science, and Commerce at the higher secondary level.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

The current research paper employed a quantitative descriptive longitudinal research design to investigate the changes of Higher Secondary Examination performance in Manipur in the span of five years. The paper is founded on solely secondary data which were sourced through the formally published annual examination reports of the council of higher secondary education, Manipur (COHSEM).

The duration of the study is five academic years, 2021-2025, which allows systematically analyzing how the performance of the examination has changed and remained the same over the years. The data set contained the data on the candidates appeared and passed, pass percentage, the distribution of the candidates according to gender or district or the stream of Arts, Science, and Commerce.

The variables that played a critical role in the research were year of examination, gender, district, academic stream, and pass percentage. The data collected were tabulated, divided and examined through percentage analysis and trend analysis. To find the trends of examination performance and the changes of the examined performance related to the chosen variables, the descriptive statistical methods were used. The results were given in comparative tabular form to make easier interpretation.

Since the research was aimed at the description and interpretation of trends based on aggregate-level data, there were no inferential statistical methods used. The research was restricted in its focus to the results of Higher Secondary exams undertaken by COHSEM as well as the analysis based on the validity of the records published by the organization.

This section presents the results of the five-year longitudinal analysis of Higher Secondary Examination performance in Manipur from 2021 to 2025. The analysis focuses on overall pass percentage trends, gender-wise performance, district-wise variations, and stream-wise outcomes.

### ➤ Objective 1. Overall Trend in Higher Secondary Examination Performance (2021–2025)



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**Table 1: Year-wise Overall Pass Percentage**

Year	Candidates Appeared	Candidates Passed	Pass Percentage
2021	31,136	31,074	99.80
2022	28,166	25,374	90.09
2023	36,212	32,111	88.68
2024	31,128	30,391	97.63
2025	28,909	27,175	94.00

### Interpretation

The general pass percentage of the Higher Secondary Examination in Manipur experienced considerable changes between the years 2021 and 2025. These changes occurred with significant dynamism. There are a number of factors that can be attributed to the extraordinarily high number of passes that were obtained in 2021. These include academic concessions and flexible assessment techniques that were established during the COVID-19 epidemic. This sharp decline in 2022 and 2023 is an indicator of the progressive normalizing of test standards and the disruption of learning that occurred in the years before to that. There is a high level of academic recovery, as indicated by the considerable increase in 2024, and the fact that the percentage of students who passed the examination remained relatively high in 2025, which implies that the examination system has reached a stable state. The pattern indicates that there is a gradual transition back to normal academic activity in the post-pandemic age. This is the broad interpretation of the trend.

### ➤ Objective 2. Gender-wise Trends in Examination Performance

**Table 2: Gender-wise Pass Percentage (Aggregate)**

Year	Male (%)	Female (%)
2021	99.6	99.8
2022	86.9	91.8
2023	83.8	84.9
2024	95.3	95.9
2025	88.5	91.5

### Interpretation

The gender-specific analysis of Higher Secondary Examination performance in Manipur, 2021-25 indicate the presence of a uniform performance advantage in female students. In 2021, the male and female students obtained almost universal pass rates, as there was flexibility in the assessment in the times of the pandemic. In 2022 and 2023, both genders show a drop in pass percentages after exam standards have been normalized again but the drop in percentage is more significant with male students and leads to an increase in the gender gap. There is significant improvement in the recovery in 2024 between the two groups with pass percentages of over 95 percent, although



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females still performed slightly better. Even in 2025, female students scored significantly higher than male students. Generally speaking, the trend shows that female students at higher secondary level have a higher academic consistency and resiliency.

### ➤ Objective 3. District-wise Trends in Examination Performance

**Table 3: District-wise Pass Percentage in Higher Secondary Examination (2021–2025)**

Sl. No.	District	2021 (%)	2022 (%)	2023 (%)	2024 (%)	2025 (%)
1	Bishnupur	100.00	96.66	90.14	99.19	94.99
2	Chandel	92.69	79.84	92.11	95.60	90.76
3	Chura Chandpur	99.59	90.93	83.95	93.98	85.80
4	Imphal East	99.82	90.69	90.85	99.02	96.03
5	Imphal West	99.49	97.94	78.31	98.92	95.86
6	Jiribam	99.90	98.17	93.68	95.26	95.91
7	Kakching	100.00	98.17	94.95	98.25	95.91
8	Kamjong	100.00	50.00	91.00	98.68	82.89
9	Kangpokpi	99.43	98.45	91.00	97.44	96.04
10	Noney	100.00	50.00	98.74	97.51	100.00
11	Pherzawl	100.00	74.34	75.51	92.26	87.53
12	Senapati	95.31	99.72	85.65	93.44	86.56
13	Tamenglong	99.95	99.47	99.09	97.21	100.00
14	Tengnoupal	100.00	99.44	97.78	97.21	100.00
15	Thoubal	100.00	73.37	67.03	99.58	98.88
16	Ukhrul	99.80	90.09	88.68	85.95	78.08

#### Interpretation

The district analysis indicates that there are significant differences in the performances of Higher Secondary Examination in the state of Manipur within the five years. Valley districts like Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Thoubal and Kakching regularly posted high and more sustainable pass percentages, usually above 95 percent, without exception except in transitional years like 2022 and 2023. The recovery in these districts was very much in the after-pandemic period, especially in the year 2024 and 2025.

On the contrary, the fluctuations and relatively lower pass percentages were observed in various hill districts, such as Ukhrul, Churachandpur, Senapati, Phorzawl, and Kamjong. The year 2022 and 2023 saw sharp declines in some of the hill districts, due to struggles with regard to accessibility, infrastructures, and unequal distribution of educational resources. Even though there



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is an observable improvement in a few districts at later years, there are still performance disparities between the hill and the valley districts.

The findings on balance show that the inequality between districts remains constant throughout the five-year span, which highlights the role of the regional, rural-urban, and infrastructural factors on the higher secondary educational achievement in Manipur.

#### 4. MAJOR FINDINGS

1. The overall pass rate for the Higher Secondary Examination in Manipur changed a lot from year to year. There was a very high pass rate in 2021, then it went down in 2022 and 2023, and then it went back up strongly in 2024. This shows that academics are stabilizing after the pandemic.
2. Female students regularly outperformed male students during the five years, showing that they were more resilient in their studies and did better on the higher secondary exams.
3. An examination by district showed that there were still variances, with valley districts usually having higher and more steady pass rates than hill districts. This shows how rural–urban and infrastructure differences can affect things.
4. The Science stream had the most constant and consistent performance among the academic streams, especially in the later years of the study.
5. The Commerce stream was quite stable, and pass rates went up noticeably after 2023.
6. The Arts stream had the most ups and downs, with a big drop in 2023 followed by a partial recovery. This shows that the academic stability was quite poor.
7. Overall, the results show that the higher secondary education system in Manipur is slowly getting back to normal after the pandemic. However, there are still differences based on gender, area, and stream, which means that specific academic and policy changes are needed.

#### 5. DISCUSSION

The current longitudinal research has studied the tendencies in the Higher Secondary Examination performance stage in Manipur during 2021-2025 and found considerable changes in the overall pass rates. The high rate of success in 2021 could be explained by the flexibility of assessment and academic concessions that are made during the COVID-19 pandemic. The same has been cited in various regions of the world, where the emergency evaluation practices concealed the pass rates at the time of evaluation (UNESCO, 2021). The following reduction in 2022 and 2023 is similar to normalization of examination standards and the consequences of learning interruptions suffered during the days of the extended school closure (UNESCO Institute for Statistics [UIS], 2022). The slight improvement in 2024 and a marginal stabilization in 2025 indicate that the academic normalcy will be gradually restored.

The gender-based analysis shows that female students have always performed better than the male students during the five years. This observation is consistent with the national and international



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data that indicate a better participation, retention, and academic engagement of female learners at the secondary and higher secondary levels (Government of India, 2020; NCERT, 2021). The relatively worse and more fluctuating performance of the male student points to the necessity of gender-sensitive academic and motivational interventions, especially in the periods of post-disruption recovery.

The analysis by districts showed that there were still differences between the valley and hill districts. The pass percentages were found to be higher and more stable in valley districts whereas, the fluctuations were higher in hill districts. The literature has highlighted that the rural-urban disparities in infrastructure, access, and accessibility to qualified teachers are some of the significant factors that impact educational outcomes, particularly in highly geographically diverse areas like the North-Eastern states of India (Tilak, 2018; MHRD, 2019). These observations are supported by the current findings, which indicate that examination performance in Manipur is still influenced by structural inequalities.

The trends in streams also indicate that Science stream was consistent and more resilient than Arts and Commerce. Such a greater variability in the Arts stream can possibly be connected to institutional support, availability of specific teachers to the subject, and student preparedness as other previous studies have reported stream-wise performance at the higher secondary level (Singh and Sarkar, 2015). According to the findings, on the whole, academic recovery is a process in progress, but there are still systemic differences in terms of gender, region, and academic stream.

## 6. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The research results carry significant implications to the education planning in Manipur in accordance to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 that supports equity, inclusion, and improvement of quality (Government of India, 2020). The long-term differences in the districts in hill and valley regions lead to the necessity of special attention to the development of infrastructures and the equal distribution of qualified teachers to the rural and geographically disadvantaged zones (MHRD, 2019; Tilak, 2018). The stable performance difference in favor of female learners and a comparatively poor performance among male students implies that gender-sensitive academic support and engagement practices are necessitated (NCERT, 2021). The importance of curriculum enrichment and subject-specific instructional support is highlighted by stream-wise differences, and especially the reduced stability of Arts stream. Moreover, the tendencies of recovery after the pandemic imply the importance of periodic examination results and evidence-based planning as the aspects of maintaining learning recovery and enhancing the quality of the education system in general (UNESO, 2021; UNESO Institute of Statistics, 2022).

## 7. CONCLUSION

Current longitudinal research determined the patterns of Higher Secondary Examination performance in Manipur in 2021-25 using official examination records. The results propose that



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although the higher secondary education system has demonstrated recovery and stabilization during the post-pandemic era, large gender, district, and stream inequalities remain. Female students performed invariably higher than male students, the valley districts performed better than the hill districts, and Science stream was more stable than Arts and Commerce.

Based on these results, the paper proposes to improve educational infrastructure and the number of teachers in hill districts, implement an academic support of male students, and improve the quality of instruction in Arts stream. The systematic analysis of examination data as an institution can support informed planning and making of policies as suggested in national education reform models (Government of India, 2020; Tilak, 2018). Future studies can be conducted to understand the effects of higher secondary education in Manipur 1 in terms of school level and socio-economic variables on student achievement in Manipur.

#### **8. AUTHOR(S) CONTRIBUTION**

The writers affirm that they have no connections to, or engagement with, any group or body that provides financial or non-financial assistance for the topics or resources covered in this manuscript.

#### **9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

#### **10. PLAGIARISM POLICY**

All authors declare that any kind of violation of plagiarism, copyright and ethical matters will take care by all authors. Journal and editors are not liable for aforesaid matters.

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