

A Weekly Journal of Higher Education
 Published by the Association of Indian
 Universities

In This Issue

ITEMS	PAGE
Articles	
Choice Based Credit System: Some Frequently Asked Questions	3
Psychology of Ancient India and Its Relevance in the Modern Times	10
Inclusive Education for Socially Disadvantaged Children	16
Fallacious Premises and Erroneous Conclusions: The Case of UGC's Non-NET Fellowship	20
Convocation	
Karnataka State Law University, Hubli	25
Campus News	28
Communication	34
Theses of the Month (Social Sciences)	39
Advertisement	42

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2 years	1700.00	700.00	400.00 300.00

Subscription is payable in advance by
 Bank Draft/MO only in favour of
 Association of Indian Universities,
 New Delhi.

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Choice Based Credit System: Some Frequently Asked Questions

S S Chahal*

The prevailing higher education system is suffering from poor outdated curriculum lacking interdisciplinary approach, large scale vacancies of teachers, inadequate poor infrastructure, low commitment level, shortage of highly motivated knowledgeable quality teachers, low level of employability inbreeding, immobility of teachers and students, narrow knowledge base, serious deficiencies in governance and accountability, encroachment of institutional autonomy, meager emphasis on research and skill development etc. Obviously there cannot be a single such intervention which can be a solution for all these shortcomings but Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) is one such major intervention which has potential to bring many spectacular and radical reforms in higher education in India. CBCS is a strong and comprehensive intervention which will bring series of reforms and much needed academic changes capable to meet global challenges in higher education. The CBCS has proven record of providing student centric education and empowering students for becoming globally competitive after attaining multidisciplinary, broad based knowledge.

For successful implementation of this system, the UGC sponsored nine countrywide workshops in Pondicherry, New Delhi, Varanasi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Srinagar in March-April, 2015. The interactive meetings were aimed to create forum to discuss intricacies of the system and prepare Vice Chancellors, Principals and Senior faculty and functionaries for smooth transformation and embrace glitch-free CBCS in their respective institutions. The interface meetings involving senior UGC/MHRD officials and UGC experts provided first hand information to the participants and suggested possible solutions to the expected change over related problems in open discussion sessions. Overwhelming response, critical study of CBCS, enthusiasm and detailed exchange of views helped spreading general awareness, dispelling certain apprehensions thus setting stage for implementing the system. The meetings have also triggered university and college level discussions and it is correctly viewed that the teachers must be fully aware of the micro level details of the system to harness the benefit from this change over. Based on interaction in the above mentioned workshops, some of the commonly asked questions and answers have been enlisted here for the ready information on various issues related to CBCS.

Q. What is CBCS ?

Ans. Choice Based Credit System is a well designed and comprehensive education system to meet the ever growing needs of the

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