

**Scheme for Implementation of
Choice Based Credit System
(CBCS) at Post-Graduate
Level**

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Preamble:

The aim of higher education is to nurture creativity and develop critical consciousness through Teaching, Research & Innovation, Extension Activities and Community Outreach. In order to achieve these objectives there is an urgent need to create new knowledge with organic links, to encourage, promote and strengthen the scientific temper and cater to the heterogeneous needs of our society. This can be done through creation of a culture of knowledge and building critical higher order competencies of the human capital with social consciousness.

In the changing global scenario, there is a need to prioritize cross-cultural, inter- and multi-disciplinary learning integrated with technology along with the development of multiple abilities and the inclusion of missing perspectives. New knowledge should be inclusive, integrated, value-based, skill-based, socially relevant, pluralistic and cutting-edge to ensure that the benefits reach one and all. The knowledge being generated through research and innovation initiatives should be documented in publications with high impact factor. New Knowledge should consist of the application of existing knowledge to the relevant needs of the society. Appropriate strategies should be adopted so that new and innovative methodologies of teaching and learning including ICT enabled teaching, e-Learning, Online Courses. And for this necessary changes are to be brought about in the curriculum at the higher education level.

Education, Research and Innovation are the cardinal means to Nation Building, essential for the preservation of social standards and social cohesion. Education should illustrate the benefits of Research and Innovation in terms of development of analytical ability and to nurture Life Skills. There is a need to formulate policy to develop mechanism to illustrate and highlight the benefits of Research and Innovation in addressing problems of National and International scale like: Food Security, Clean Drinking Water, Controlling Environment Change, Sanitation and Hygiene, Energy Security and Sufficiency and Industrial Production. There is a need to establish mechanisms for connecting and interacting with global research community. University curriculum should provide flexibility to undertake commissioned projects from Industry, Public and Private Sector, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Government agencies as research and innovation projects to provide customized solutions. Post-graduate curriculum should allow formation of collaborations and partnerships with Industry for establishing Centres of Excellence in research and innovation where funding may come from the industry while Universities may provide academic and infrastructural support. Course curricula should be redesigned with special emphasis on developing research temperament and innovative thinking by including systemic training in research writing and methodology, hands on training and do it yourself.

The UGC has launched a number of initiatives in the recent past to bring about equity, efficiency and academic excellence in higher education. The important ones, among others, include improvement in designing curricular provisions leading to upgradation of course contents, pedagogical procedures, examination reforms and implementation of CBCS at Under-Graduate level.

Education undoubtedly plays a critical role in shaping the economy of both the individual and the nation. There are quite a large number of educational institutions, engaged in imparting education in the country. Majority of them have recently switched over to semester system to match with international educational pattern. However, the present system is charged to churning out young minds lacking knowledge, problem solving skills, values and confidence. It might be because of lack of relationship between education and skill requirement in the modern world. The present situation necessitates transformation and redesigning of curricular provisions, not only by revisiting the course contents but also by focusing on learner centric approach of teaching and learning.

Majority of the institutions have been following marks or percentage based evaluation system, which does not provide adequate freedom to the students to study the subjects/courses of their choice nor it promotes mobility of students across different institutions. There is a need to provide for flexibility so that students, depending upon their interests, can choose inter-disciplinary, intra-disciplinary and skill-based courses. This can only be possible when choice based credit system (CBCS), an internationally acknowledged system, is adopted. The choice based credit system not only offers opportunities and avenues to learn core subjects but also provide for additional avenues of learning beyond the core subjects for holistic development of an individual. The CBCS will also facilitate us benchmarking of courses in accordance with best international academic practices. In fact, the CBCS has a number of advantages listed as under:

Advantages of the Choice Based Credit System:

- CBCS is internationally acknowledged system and allows mobility of students across institutions of higher learning.
- It focuses from teacher-centric to student-centric education.
- Student may undertake as many credits as they can cope with (without repeating all courses in a given semester if they fail in one/more courses).
- CBCS allows greater freedom to students to choose inter-disciplinary, intra-disciplinary courses s also skill oriented papers (even from other disciplines according to their learning needs, interests and aptitude).
- CBCS makes education broad-based and at par with global standards. One can earn credits by completing courses with different permutations and combination. For example, Physics with Economics, Microbiology with Chemistry or Environment Science, etc.
- CBCS offers flexibility to students to earn credits at their own pace.

- CBCS allows students to earn credits from across different institutions to complete their programs as credits earned from one institution can be transferred to another.
- CBCS allows integration of best courses from best teachers through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC's) by using ICT tools

CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM (CBCS):

The CBCS provides an opportunity for the students to choose courses from the prescribed courses comprising core, elective/minor or skill based courses. The courses can be evaluated following the grading system, which is considered to be better than the conventional marking system. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce uniform grading system across the institutions of higher learning. This will benefit the students to move across institutions not only within India but also across countries. The uniform grading system will also enable potential employers in assessing the performance of the candidates on a common scale. The main feature of the CBCS is to make post-graduate education student centric rather than system centric or teacher centric. Thus, in addition to dedicated focus on a discipline through core papers, elective papers are also proposed which will give students the freedom to choose the allied/applied/broad areas of their discipline and also the areas of other disciplines of their interest. For achieving these objectives, the CBCS strives to create a guideline for holistic syllabus. In order to bring out uniformity in evaluation system and computation of the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA), based on student's performance in examinations, the UGC has brought out the guidelines which facilitates the implementation of the CBCS.

