

Workshop on 'Autonomous Colleges in India: The Road Ahead' at Mumbai (7- 8 January 2020) in collaboration with B. K. Birla College

Concept Note:

Autonomous Colleges and National Education Policy -

It is truism that there is a need for big reforms in academic, administrative and governance of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Education is considered as one of the best source of investment when it comes to the future of the country. If we wish to improve the quality of higher education in India, then the role of autonomous colleges will be crucial in the near future.

708 Colleges in the country are autonomous as per the list updated by UGC on 28.06.2019, catering the large number of students under various streams.

Highlighting the importance of autonomous colleges, National Education Policy (NEP) clearly states that: 'The only safe and better way to improve the quality of undergraduate education is to delink most of the colleges from the affiliating structure. Colleges with academic and operative freedom are doing better and have more credibility. The financial support to such colleges will strengthen the autonomous HEIs.'

Some salient features of the Autonomous Colleges under the new National Education Policy are as follows -

- Autonomous colleges will have the freedom to modernize their curricula or make them globally competent, locally relevant and skill oriented to promote employability.
- An autonomous college is free to start a new degree or postgraduate course / Ph.D. with the approval of the Academic Council of the college and concerned Statutory Council(s), wherever required, provided the nomenclature of the degree is in consonance with UGC Notification (Final Revised Guidelines of Autonomous Colleges dated 19.01.2018) on Specification of Degrees, (2014) as amended from time to time.
- An autonomous college may rename an existing course as per the UGC Notification on Specification of Degrees, (2014) as amended from time to time after restructuring / redesigning it with the approval of the college Academic Council as per UGC norms. The university should be duly informed of such proceedings.

- Many innovative reforms may be introduced. An Induction Training programme can be organised for newly appointed teachers to make them aware about the work culture of college. Faculty members may be deputed to attend UGC sponsored Orientation Programmes which will create an awareness on issues of the society particularly in the field of higher education and its role. They may be motivated to attend various seminars and workshops related to their area of expertise, so that, they can interact with other researchers in the field and get motivated by eminent academicians and scientists.
- The syllabus can be modified for greater employability of students enabling future development with adequate flexibility to respond to future needs.
- The assessment pattern can be 60:40. The internal assessment will be based on ppt, tutorials, assignments, projects, model making, field work, book review, reading scientific papers, etc.
- The College will not find any difficulty on financial front after receiving the grant from UGC / RUSA / other funding agency.
- Skill development centre can be operated as prominent and dynamic centre of skilling initiatives of consistent high standards building up strong nexus with the industries and professionals, thereby, creating opportunities for the students of gaining advanced knowledge, on job training and employment. Objective is to improve the overall personality of the student and to inculcate other personality traits such as smartness, communication skills and general awareness, etc.

National Educational Policy (NEP) has provided the policy on quality Universities and Colleges, revamping the Higher Education system to create world class multidisciplinary higher education institutions across the country by increasing GER to at least 50% by 2035. Higher education must develop good, well- rounded and creative individuals with intellectual curiosity, spirit of service and a strong ethical compass.

In addition to three stages of faculty members (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor) based on eligibility criteria, there can be a post of Teaching Assistant / Tutors / Demonstrators (in practical subjects) for a period of 3 - 5 years on a fixed salary. During this period, they are supposed to acquire the eligibility for becoming Assistant Professor in addition to their teaching / practical assignments. The faculty members at all the stages should be paid their salary uniformly in all the institutions irrespective of public or private institutions.

The teachers should be appointed by a commission on the line of UPSC in consultation with States Higher Education Departments. At the entry level once teachers are selected, they should be provided minimum six months intense training programme (in core subject, teacher education, IT skills, commitment towards nation building, etc.). Further promotions from stage -1 to stage - 4 should be linked with transparent feedback mechanism.

Aims and Objectives:

To understand wider scope and perspective of Autonomy, the Directors / Principals of selected Autonomous colleges in the country are invited to share the best practices, followed in their Institutions.

The Key areas for discussion -

- To review existing courses / programmes and restructure, redesign and prescribe own courses / programmes of study and syllabi in emerging areas.
- To formulate new courses / programmes within the nomenclature specified by UGC as per the Specification of Degrees (2014) and amended from time to time.
- To evolve methods of assessment of students' performance, conduct of examinations and notification of results, to announce results, issue mark sheets, migration and other certificates; however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate.

Significance of the workshop - How it will create new knowledge or contribute to the discipline?

This workshop may help and provide direction / motivate and guide HEIs to grow to achieve newer heights of glory and excellence. The workshop will be organised under the guidance of Secretary (HRD) / Chairman / Vice Chairman UGC, Officials from RUSA, Maharashtra and Eminent experts.

Many of the Academic Administrators have expressed that there should be a detailed discussion on 'Future of Autonomous Colleges', with a focus on issues related to HEIs, Autonomous Colleges, the colleges receiving RUSA grant, NEP, etc.

It is felt that the deliberations on aforesaid issues related to higher education in presence of different invited experts and key stakeholders will serve its purpose to develop a document in a most efficient and

effective manner in a timeline planned. The proceedings of workshop will be submitted to the Competent Authorities for consideration. This can be discussed favourably by the Policy making body for the betterment of HEIs.

Workshop on "*Autonomous Colleges in India: The Road Ahead*" was organised at Mumbai from 07 - 08 January 2020 in collaboration with B.K. Birla College, Kalyan, Mumbai. Dr. Naresh Chandra, Director, B.K. Birla College, Kalyan and Dr. Avinash Patil, Principal, B.K. Birla College Kalyan were the conveners of the workshop. Professor O.R. Chitlange, Chairman,

B.K. Birla College delivered the welcome address. Introductory remarks was given by Professor Makarand Paranjape, Director, IIAS, Shimla. Dr. Naresh Chandra, Convener of the workshop introduced about the theme and the Guests. Speech was given by Professor Suhas Pednekar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai, Mumbai. Presidential address was delivered by Padma Bhushan Smt. Rajashree ji Birla, Chairperson, Aditya Birla Center for Community Initiatives and Rural Development. Inaugural address was presented by Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari ji, Hon'ble Governor, Maharashtra State and Chancellor of Universities in Maharashtra State. Keynote address was delivered by Professor Bhushan Patwardhan, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, UGC, New Delhi. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Avinash Patil, Principal, B. K. Birla College and Co convener of the conference

Participants:

- Professor Vasudha Kamat, Former Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai
- Dr. R. G. Pardeshi, *Principal*, Fergusson College, Pune
- Professor John Varghese, *Principal*, St. Stephen's College, Delhi
- Dr. Suresha K. V., *Principal*, JSS College for Women, Mysore
- Dr. Uday Salunkhe, *Group Director*, WeSchool, Mumbai
- Dr. Snehalata Deshmukh, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai
- Dr. Vijay Khole, Former Vice Chancellor, UoM
- Dr. S T Gadade, Secretary, JBST Sanstha, Panvel
- Dr. Geetha Unnikrishnan, B.K. Birla College, Kalyan
- Dr. P. Baby Shakila, *Principal*, Sri Krishna College, Coimbatore
- Rev Fr G. M. Victor Emmanuel, *Principal*, Andhra Loyola College, AP

- Dr. Pandiaraja D, *Principal*, Thiagarajar College, Madurai
- Dr. Rajendra Shinde, *Principal*, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai
- Dr. Dhanraj Mane, Director (HE), Pune (MS)
- Dr. Agnelo Menezes, Former Principal, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai
- Dr. Meeta Bhot, B.K. Birla College, Kalyan
- Rev. Dr. Roy Abraham P, *Principal*, Marian College, Idukki, Kerala
- Dr. K. M. Naseer, *Principal*, Farook College, Kerala
- Dr. Avinash Patil, *Principal*, B. K. Birla College, Kalyan
- Dr. Alphonsa Mathew, *IQAC Coordinator*, St. Thomas College, Thrissur
- Dr. Rajan Welukar, Former Vice Chancellor, UoM,
- Dr. Vijay Joshi, Chief Consultant, RUSA, Maharashtra
- Dr. Madhavi Thakurdesai, B. K. Birla College, Kalyan
- Dr. Vijay Joshi, Chief Consultant, RUSA, Maharashtra
- Dr. Swapna Samel, B. K. Birla College, Kalyan
- Dr. G. Gidwani, *Principal*, St. Mira's College, Pune
- Dr. Sr. Elizabeth C. S., Principal, Jyoti Nivas College, Bangalore
- Dr. Atima Sharma Dwivedi, Principal, Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, Jalandhar
- Dr. Anushree Lokur, *Principal*, Ruia College, Mumbai
- Professor V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University
- Dr. Ancy Jose, Principal, Khandwala College, Mumbai
- Dr. M. K. Dhaliwal, B. K. Birla College, Kalyan
- Dr. Snehalata Nadiyar, *Principal* NMKRV College, Bengluru
- Professor K. B. Sharma, *Principal*, S.S Jain Subodh PG College, Jaipur
- Dr. N. N. Sawant, *Principal* Parvatibai Chowgule College, Goa
- Dr. Ancy Jose, *Principal*, Khandwala College, Mumbai
- Dr. V. N. Magare, Pro Vice Chancellor, SNTD Women's University
- Dr. Rajpal Hande, Principal, Mithibai College, Mumbai
- Dr. Swapna Samel, B. K. Birla College, Kalyan
- Dr. P. Hemalatha Reddy, *Principal*, Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi
- Dr. Sandra Joseph, *Vice-Principal*, Stella Maris College, Chennai

- Dr. I. Annapurna, *Coordinator, IQAC, Ch. S. D. St. Theresa's College, A. P.*
- Dr. Rajpal Hande, *Principal, Mithibai College, Mumbai*
- Dr. Shashikala Wanjari, *Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University*
- Dr. Sanjay Jagtap, *Jt. Director, Konkan Region, Panvel*
- Dr. Suvarna Jadhav, *B. K. Birla College, Kalyan*
- Dr. Fr. Lancelot D' Cruz, *Principal, St. Xavier's College, Ahmadabad*
- Dr. Sr. Beena TL, *Vice Principal, Vimla College, Thrissur*
- Dr. Ashok Wadia, *Principal, Jai Hind College, Mumbai*
- Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni, *Pro Vice Chancellor, UoM*
- Dr. B. B. Sharma, *Principal, V.G. Vaze College, Mumbai*
- Dr. Anuradha Hastak, *B. K. Birla College, Kalyan*
- Dr. Ananda Amritmahal, *Principal, Sophia College, Mumbai*
- Dr. Sanjay Jagtap, *Joint Director, Konkan Region, Panvel*
- Shri. B. S. Ponmudiraj, *Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Bangalore*
- Shri. Saurabh Vijay, *IAS, Principal Secretary, Higher & Technical Education Department, MS*