

Evaluation System in Higher Education with special reference to Semester Pattern

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Abstract

Education is one of the important pillars to human development. Our primary, Secondary and Higher education system is result oriented. To find out the favorable outcome of the education and to achieve the goal of education evaluation system is considered the most important tool. NEP-2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century which replaces the old policy of 1986. The foundation pillars of the policy was Access, Equity, Quality and Accountability. Education system of every country as well as India is aligned to 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Examinations play a pivotal role and are a deciding factor of career choice of students, ability to pursue the right higher qualifications and determine the degree of knowledge possessed. The evaluation system connotes the students learning, institutional effectiveness and overall education quality. The semester system has become a widely accepted framework in higher education globally. Semester system of evaluation of examination in higher education have many more advantages and disadvantages. Competency based evaluation and feedback mechanism can only applicable in semester evaluation system. On the other hand, examination in its current form are moments of stress and anxiety for students both pre and post examination. Current evaluation methodologies face numerous challenges including outdated assessment methods, lack of standardization academic dishonesty overemphasis on rote learning, etc. This paper is a modest attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of evaluation pattern in context of student's outcome and teacher's satisfaction with reference to semester system and annual system of examination. It identifies challenges in execution of examination and try to find some measure to meet out these challenges. **Key words-** Higher education, Evaluation system, Semester system, Annual pattern, Assessment challenges, NEP 2020.)

Introduction

The evaluation system in higher education requires significant reform to cope up with modern educational needs. By continuous assessments, competency-based evaluation and technology driven solution make the fair and meaningful learning system. Different methodologies are essential for ensuring credibility and effectiveness in evaluation process. The semester system has become a dominant framework replacing the traditional annual or trimester system. In the semester system academic year divided into shorter terms and student evaluation involves both continuous formative assessment and final end semester examination. It includes semester grade point average and cumulative grade point average for all semester. The flexibility, accessibility of this system giving attractive option for the institutions. Students engagement and outcomes makes this pattern acceptable but academic rigor, teaching workload, more examinations, access expenditure, are some arguments against this system.

Objective of the study-

1. To assess the evaluation system in higher education.
2. To highlight the pros and cons of semester system and annual pattern.
3. To identify the challenges before the evaluation system and provide some measures to meet out the challenges.

Research Methodology

The methodology used in this paper is mixed and broadly based on secondary data. But some portion of primary data is also used. Some telephonic conversations with faculty members and class room discussion with students helps to collect the information for this research. Information through magazines, journals, books, articles, newspapers and legal sources of internet used for this very purpose.

Review of literature- Prof.M.M.Goel explain in his paper that there must be a variation in education planning and it should be need based .With Needonomics challenges in higher education can be removed and ensure a more equitable ,diverse and sustainable academic ecosystem as the objective of NEP2020. Needonomics emphasizes a need -based economic and educational model that prioritizes what is necessary over what is superfluous. This model encourages stakeholders to focus on fundamental educational needs.

Prof. Tapan Kumar Shandilya explain How Indian knowledge system contribute in different fields, and NEP 2020 can be fulfilling its objectives with the principles of Indian knowledge systems.

The report of university grant commission link evaluation to “Learning Outcomes.” This document proposes and recommends Learning Outcome-based Framework to structure and link evaluation right up to Institutional goals. Development and regular revision of curriculum based on “Learning Outcomes” is one of the quality initiatives taken up by the UGC

Research has also highlighted the importance of faculty support, student engagement and academic rigor in promoting student learning outcomes (Chickering & Gamson,1987; Pascarella and Terenzini)

Evaluation system of every country is different Indian higher education system is undergoing a transformational phase. This system is facing several challenges that hinder the accessibility of quality education to all section of society. unsustainable educational practices.

Advantages of semester system--

Semester system offers many benefits which can not be ignore

- ❖ **Focused learning**-This system have a benefit that student can concentrate on a smaller content at one time, which leads the deeper understanding and improve performance.
- ❖ **Course Flexibility**-Student can take a variety of courses and choose the curriculum according to their interest
- ❖ **Helpful in maintaining regular attendance** – Now a day’s government focusing on improving the GER gross enrollment ratio in higher education and controlling the fake attendance by using the tool like Bio metric attendance. Ensuring the presence of every single student in classroom to improve the quality of education. As government using the Biometric attendance for transfer payments and benefits of government aids. This system encourages the student for regular and consistent study habit.
- ❖ **Time management** -it provides the student the ability to manage their time effectively and prepare consistently throughout the year.
- ❖ **Provide opportunity for internship** -The shorter semester makes easier to participate in internship and study abroad.
- ❖ **Stronger bonding with faculty**-The bonding between faculty and student is very important aspect. In this system students have to spends time with faculty and more frequent interaction with them and build strong relationship.

- ❖ **More vacations**-In this system after every semester student gets breaks and vacation to rejuvenate them.
- ❖ **Less burden of teaching** -Teachers have less burden of teaching in point of view that they have to teach a less course in one semester. They can improve their teaching skills as they get more time to planning and preparation.
- ❖ **Structured Academic calendar**-This system offers more precise and easy planning calendar for students.
- ❖ **Standardization** -In recent era of education system all the universities with in the country and out of the country follows the credit system of evaluation.so it will enable students to transfer credits between the institutions.
- ❖ **Good assessment system** – This system provides the platform to assess the student. Students gets tested on very small sections at a time which makes the student in a better position for their final exams. It enhances a chance of improving the results.

Disadvantages of semester system

- **Increased workload**-Faculty having less time for interaction and innovation because they have a lot of pressure of completion of syllabus in short period.
- **High risk of superficial learning** – In the view of frequent assessment student have thrust on rote memorization in place of deeper knowledge of the concepts. The quality of learning and critical thinking becomes converted in to task completion. Which is not a true educational enrichment.
- **Teaching and evaluation have lots of variability**-Different institution and teachers have different approaches for students which creates a lot of confusion and frustration. This issue is more prominent in the humanities or social sciences rather than science or commerce stream.
- **More frequency of evaluation**—In the annual system evaluation process includes a single set of exams while semester system spread out assessment and more frequency of exam make teachers as well as students overburdened.
- **Increased academic pressure** -Frequent exams and assignments leads a continuous academic pressure on student.
- **Learning becomes secondary**-Frequent examination shifts the focus from deep study to scoring in examination which leads the learning secondary.
- **Increased financial burden**- Every time semester fee, examination fee, purchasing of study material can increase financial strain on students and parents.

Conclusion

-In the end we can say that the Semester system is a widely accepted and adopted framework for higher education that requires careful evaluation of its effectiveness in promoting students learning outcomes, academic rigor and institutional efficiency. Semester system has both positive and negative impacts in area of higher education .it reduces the burden on students and provide more opportunity for feedback and improvement. Generally, faculty members feeling overwhelmed by the workload. The expenditure on execution the examination immensely increased. every year lots of investment required to meet out the expenses on examiners, practical, copy checking, internal exams, projects works etc. After the commencement of New Education Policy 2020 ,To fulfill the objectives of the policy investment becomes a challenge for higher educational institutions .This study highlighted the need for a balanced approach that meets all the requirements as student's engagement, faculty support and overall benefit for evaluation system in our education system .Our rich heritage Indian knowledge system can also a biggest contributor to attain a inclusive holistic education system with performance based evaluation pattern. It is important to engage

students in peer review and self-evaluation fosters for self-reflecting and accountability in learning. It will lead a fair assessment which is free from biasness. The pedagogy of teaching which focused on internal assessment may be successful in achieving the goal of empowerment of both teachers as well as the students to preform to full potential and ability. The shifting of rote knowledge to comprehensive evaluation with technological advancement and policy framework make the examination more inclusive and universal. The findings of this study suggest that the semester system is a complex and multifaceted framework that requires careful consideration of its impacts on higher education.

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