

**Report of
National Workshop on Examination Reforms in Higher Education
Jointly organized by
Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi
and
Devi Ahilya University, Indore**

Venue: Institute of Management Studies

Dates: 15th -17th January, 2018

Total Number of Participants: 41

Highlights:

Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi and Devi Ahilya University, Indore jointly organized a three days National Workshop on “**Examination Reforms in Higher Education**” at Institute of Management Studies, Devi Ahilya University, Indore. The workshop was attended by academicians, registrars and examination controllers from different Universities spread across 15 states of the Country

Day 1: 15th January 2018

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session held on 15th January 2017 was attended by, AIU Dy. Director and In charge Research Section **Dr Amarendra Pani** as Special Guest, former Vice Chancellor of Devi Ahilya University **Prof. Bharat Chhapparwal** as Guest of Honour, Vice Chancellor of Shri Vaishnav Vidyapith Vishwavidyalaya **Prof. Upinder Dhar** as Chief Guest and Vice Chancellor of Devi Ahilya University **Prof N.K. Dhakad** presided over the function.

Dr. Amrendra Pani, expressed the need to overcome traditional examination practices and necessity for innovation. Prof. Bharat Chhapparwal stated that the present examination system forces students to indulge in mugging up instead of learning. He also came forward and supported the semester system instead of annual examination system. Prof. Upendra Dhar suggested that granting autonomous status to colleges will reduce the burden of University. As these autonomous colleges will be eligible to hold examinations on their own and University will be able to focus on other issues. Prof N.K. Dhakad highlighted the drawbacks of the present examination system. He put forward the practical difficulties faced by the Universities to conduct examinations of large number of affiliated colleges with limited

resources. All the speakers suggested measures to improve the examination system and gave direction to the participants on various issues.

Technical Session -- I

Workshop's first technical session was addressed by **Prof Veera Gupta (NUEPA, New Delhi)** on the topic **Credit Based Evaluation System and Credit Transfer**.

Prof Veera Gupta explained in detail about Credit Based Choice System [CBCS]. She appraised that CBCS was meant to replace the papers-based system but in reality it is just a change in nomenclature and hence there are no significant changes. According to her CBCS aims to have a clear vision of what one has to learn. The area of learning should not be bound by number of subjects opted for. CBCS opposes the system of standard time to complete a particular course. It gives opportunity to select different credits for a particular duration so that the learning is according to the choice of the students.

She also opined that education in our country is mostly related to employment that is why ranking, marking and certification is needed to differentiate between two individuals. CBCS is based on grading system. But to go to a certain grade point marks are a basic unit. Marks do not define the knowledge level of a person neither do grades. It is difficult to apply CBCS because there are a lot of challenges such as a total change in the mindset, transfer of credits and their validity period.

Technical session was followed by a sessions on “**Best Practices in Examination-Experience Sharing by Participants**” where participants shared the best practices in examination being followed by their respective universities.

The moderator for the session was **Mr. A Murli M. Rao, Head Examinations, IGNOU, New Delhi**. Although all participants shared their experiences. A few notable are mentioned here. The discussion commenced with Dr. S K Pulist, Deputy Director, IGNOU, New Delhi sharing best practices adopted by their University which included online admission along with filling of online examination form and online database of exam evaluators which led to error free examinations. The discussion was taken forward by Dr. Deepak Kumar Sahoo, Director Examination, Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Raurkela. He appraised that his University has adopted on screen evaluation of answer books where 70 minute time is

given to evaluate for evaluation of maximum 40 answer scripts per day in order to do justice with the student.

Dr. Syed Aqueel Ahmad, Deputy Controller of Exam, Integral University, Lucknow shared his experience about automatic filling of candidates' exam form as one of the best practices adopted by them. Along with this practice, examination copies are coded and checking is done within the university which facilitates early results. Mr. Baikunth Nath Sahu, Asstt. Registrar, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Mesra focused on best practices in Ph.D. theses evaluation with main emphasis on originality. He briefed that Ph.D. Viva Voce Examination of a candidate is conducted within one month of receiving the report from the examiners and provisional certificate is provided within one month. He also appraised that by the end of 2018 his University will use QR code technology for verification of degrees.

Day 2: 16th January 2018

Technical Session- II

This session was handled by addressed by **Prof Deepak Verma (BRAUSS, Mhow)** on the topic “**Ensuring Quality of Question Papers**”. The session report is as follows-

Professor Verma started the session with ontological, epistemological and methodological dimensions of paper setting. He opined that question paper is the backbone in examination reforms. As per his experience Universities and higher education institutions do not set the papers for knowledge and that is why the reforms are essential. He questioned that why to conduct the examinations? What is the outcome of examinations? , What is the required link between education and employability?, He shared his view that there should be continuous assessment of students' knowledge and skills rather than conventional examinations. He focused on the three aspects of examinations -Validity, Reliability and Objectivity. Further he explained the history of examination system. Question papers are considered as the instrument or the measuring device to test knowledge, skills and value inculcated in students, but current education system is hunting for higher merits rather than assessing the inner capabilities. He explained the American Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and how it is better than our system. The semester system and credit based system are focused on employment and are concerned with face to face assessment of the student. It is used as a mechanism for continuous assessment of students. According to him, if semester system is

not executed properly, it can reduce the quality of education. Nowadays examination is the biggest hurdle in producing knowledge in Universities. Even students have lost the faith in teachers and professors. Administrative bodies are provided higher importance than teachers and their teaching. He further emphasized on the one who sets question paper rather than only assessing students through question papers. He discussed the that examination system is not student oriented, rather it has generalized the diversified realities, due to which while setting a question paper demographics are never taken into consideration. Each and every student is different and generalized examination papers are not able to do justice with their diversified knowledge and skills. He suggested that universities need a major structural reform and should be the hub of knowledge.

Group Activity

The session was followed by group activities where the participants were divided in 5 groups and each group dealt with a specific issue related to examination. The topics were as follows:

- Issues of Confidentiality in Examinations
- Approaches in Evaluation and Grading / Result Declaration
- Grievance Handling in Examinations
- Effective Examination Rules/ Ordinances/ Procedures
- Role of Technology in Examination

The groups deliberated for the rest of the day and prepared a detailed draft of their discussion and a power point presentation.

Day 3: 17th January 2018

The last day of the workshop was marked by presentations by each group on the topic allotted to them. The groups gave detailed presentations which were followed by extensive discussions. The second half of the day was devoted to Valedictory Session where the Chief Guest were **Prof S.S. Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, Vikram University, Ujjain (M.P.)**. Prof N.K. Dhakad, Vice-Chancellor, Devi Ahilya University Indore presided over the function and Dr. Usha Rai Negi, represented AIU . The guests appreciated the efforts of AIU, Devi Ahilya University and the participants. Certificates were distributed to the participants and the participants shared their experiences about the three days workshop. Vote of Thanks was proposed by Prof Rajnish Jain, Director, Institute of Management Studies, Devi Ahilya University, Indore.

Recommendations

Some of the prominent recommendations made in the workshop were as follows:

- Universities should adopt CBCS system and make necessary changes in their Statutes / Ordinances / Procedures
- Semester system should be implemented and the teacher teaching the subject / course should be given full freedom to conduct the assessment.
- Assessment should be continuous and should be designed as per the knowledge and skills of the students.
- Different assessment methods should be used for differently abled students.
- Role to technology should be increased in all aspects of conduction of examination. This will help in improving the confidentiality of examination and also in the conduction of examination.
- Colleges with good track record over the years should be given autonomous status. This will reduce the burden of examinations from the shoulders of the University.
- A comprehensive and transparent grievance redressal mechanism should be put in place by the University.

Glimpses:









