



A Study on Implementability of Semester System of Examination in Under Graduate Course of Calcutta University

KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT *The present study aims at knowing implimentability of semester system in Under graduate courses of Calcutta University . The data is collected from 50 Government and 150 Aided college teachers under Calcutta University by a self developed attitude scale. The reliability (split –Half method) and validity (intrinsic evidence) of the scale is .88 and .94 respectively calculated after a pilot study. It is found that only 30% teachers favours the implimentaion but 70% say non-implemantaibly of this system.Also in regard to openion between Govt. and Aided College Teacher, it is found that there is a significant difference exist between them.Also there is significant difference exist among Rural.Urban and semi urban aided college teachers.*

Examination is a sub system of the wider system of Evaluation that intends to measure both Qualitative and Quantitative aspects of Students behaviour.It manifests as quantum of changes occurred in different domains of students behaviour. The term "Examination" has derived from the word "examen" which means the toung of a balance and is ordinarily used to denote a systematic test of knowledge or skill or of special or general capacity ,whether carried out under the authority of some public body or conducted by teachers themselves.(Bourai,1988) The word Examination means the process of examine the status of a phenomenon.According to the International Dictionary of Education (Rowntree,1981) "Examination- A formal assessment of a student's learning used particularly at the end of the course . Higher education in India has been largely examination centred. Terminal or Annual system of Examination only at the end of academic session or year, more often than not, insulates students from the quest of knowledge, the excitement of discovery and joy of learning.

Often the annual examination, along with marks, percentages and divisions, leads to insensitive cramming up of superficial information. (U.G.C.). So when there is need of any reformation and innovations in Education in general and Higher Education particular the major focus is to be given on Examination aspects.

The innovative measures on Examination to be taken by Higher Education Institutions as per the directions of University Grant Commission are Introduction of semester system, Choice based credit transfer system, introduction of Grading and Continuous and comprehensive evaluation etc.

Semester is one of the innovative practice in the sphere of Examination where instead of conducting terminal examination once in a year, two times examination are to be conducted in a year.

A 'semester' (from the Latin meaning "six-monthly", or Semi-means half) has come to mean either of two academic terms. Semester is one of the innovative practice in the sphere of Examination where instead of conducting terminal examination once in a year, two times examination are to be conducted in a year . A 'semester' (from the Latin meaning "six-monthly", or Semi-means half) has come to mean either of two academic terms. According to Shorter Oxford English Dictionary the semester means " A period of term of six months, especially in German Universities and some United states, colleges, the college half year " . According to the Dictionary of Education Semester means "Half of the academic years usually 16 to 18 weeks". The course which is taught in

one year is divided in to two halves and examinations can be held at the end of one semester.

National Knowledge Commission set up by the Government of India on the year 2005 put some pertinent recommendations for mitigating de-quality and low access issue of Higher Education in the country. In the line of the recommendation of the N.K.C. a committee headed by Prof. Yosh Pal was appointed to suggest innovative practice in higher education. (U.G.C.).A national conference of all Vice-Chancellor held on October 2007 made a thorough discussion on the issue related with reform required in our higher education .On the recommendation of the conferences, U.G.C. constituted an expert committee headed by Prof. A.Gnanam to develop an action plan for bringing reforms in higher education (Both college and University) . U.G.C. has decided to formulate grant making policy for this and linking the progress of implementation of the recommended reforms by the Universities and colleges. (Strategies and Schemes during Eleventh Plan Period (2007-2012) for Universities and Colleges).As per the direction of U.G.C. all Universities and college have to implement this semester system within 11th five year plan. But the present data shows the fact that less than 40% universities have introduced this system in P.G. level. Only some Universities in the state of Kerala and Assam have already introduced this system in both P.G. and U.G. level. This is an undeniable fact that that before introduction of this system the problems that are associated with major stake holder of Education should be addressed unless the system will be futile and impossible. We can get a lesson from incident in Delhi University. The University Authority has given direction for implementation of this system in the colleges and University Departments without consultation with teachers and students. So the DUTA (Delhi University Teacher Association) has filed a complaint against the decision of authority .As a result High Court has made stay order (Bhatacharyya, 2011). The situation is more or less same in Calcutta University. More specifically to be mentioned that Calcutta University has already started plans for Introducing semester system at Under Graduate Level .According to Prof. Shymal Sarkar, Secretary Under Graduate Council "University has revised its syllabus keeping in mind the need of semester system .The syllabus has been prepared in the way that divides the portion in to two halves. The first half comprising the lesson to be taught in the first six months" (The Statesman, May, 2010) .But without a thorough knowledge regarding the implementabilty of semester system and perceived problems associated with system in relation to grass root level, it is not desirable on the part of the University to introduce this new system.

Objectives of the study:

- To find out % of under graduate teachers supports and denies the implementation of semester system in college level.
- To find out whether there is statistically significant difference exist between the response of Government and Aided college teachers.
- To find out whether there is statistically significant difference exist among the rural, Urban and semiurban aided college teachers.

Reserch Questions and Hypothesis :

- What much teachers support the implementation of semester system and how much against this.

HO1- There is no difference exist between the openion of Government and Aided college Teachers.

HO2- There is no difference exist among the openion of Rural, Urban and semi urban Aided college Teachers.

Methodology:

Researcher has adopted descriptive Design to undertake the present study. One scale is developed by the researcher to find out the problem of implementing semester system of examination in college level. Regarding implementability and non implementability of the system the response of teachers from the scale is counted. Then to know the difference among the Government and Aided college teachers' response T test is calculated and to find out the variation in rural, urban and semi urban college teachers' response F test calculated.

Tools: For the present study one self developed scale is used for data collection. The primary goal of this scale is to assess the perception of teachers to awards the problem of semester system implementation .From this theoretical experiences researcher derived four major areas/factors of problem that a teacher will encounter. These are 1) Time management related problem 2) Teaching learning problem 3) Structural problem of the system itself 4) Resources related problems. There are 18 items in the scale. This is five point Likert scale. Reliability and validity of scale is calculated by statistical methods after pilot study of 50 teachers which is .88 and .94 respectively.

Sample and Sampling Design: In the present study the population is the total degree colleges. Within population frame, 20 colleges are selected by stratified Purposive sampling technique. The strata are Nature of college (Government and Aided) and within the Aided college there is another strata known as Location (Rural, urban and semi urban). Five are Government colleges and 15 are aided colleges. Among 15 aided colleges five are rural based college, five are urban colleges and five are semi urban college. Among twenty colleges sample units ten teachers from each college are selected purposively from whom data are collected.

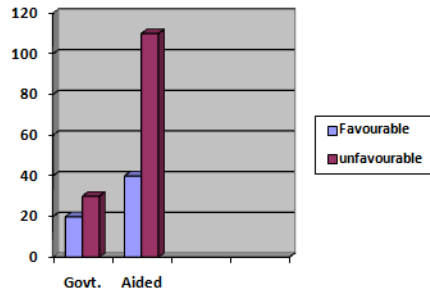
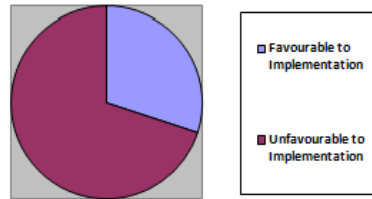
Data Analysis:

1- Organization of Teachers' Responses about Implement ability:

| Responses | Government | Aided | Total |
|-------------|------------|-------|-------|
| Favorable | 20 | 40 | 60 |
| Unfavorable | 30 | 110 | 140 |
| Total | 50 | 150 | 200 |

From the above table data it is evident that from the sample groups 60 Teachers out of 200 had shown their favourable attitude which is 30% towards the implementation of semester system but 140 Teachers out of 200 shown their unfavorable attitude to awards implementation of semester system which is 70%.Further more 60%Teachers from government

colleges highlighted the non-implement ability of semester system in Undergraduate departments in college. Out of 150 Aided Teachers 110 i.e. 73% Teachers has same opinion regarding the implementation of semester system.



Response difference among Government and Aided College Teachers:

| Govt. college Teachers' Response | | Aided college Teachers' Response | |
|----------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|--|
| Mean | 39 | 62 | |
| S.D. | 4.3 | 7.5 | |
| n | 50 | 150 | |
| T Value = 26.68 | | ** | |

** signifies significant at .01 level of significance

So the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted which means there is a significant difference exist between the Government and Aided college teachers opinion regarding the problem of implementing semester system in Under graduate courses. Aided college teachers perceive more problem than Government college teachers.

3-ANOVA Table For Rural, Urban and Semi Urban

| Source of Variance | SS | DF | MS | F value | Table value |
|--------------------|----------|-----|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Between Group | 15305.32 | 2 | 7652.66 | 40.95 | .05 level=3.07 .01 level= 4.78 |
| Within Group | 27468.42 | 147 | 186 | | Not significant |
| Total | 42773.74 | 149 | | | |

The null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted .It means there is real difference exist in the attitude of rural, urban and semi-Urban Aided college teachers regarding the problem of implementation of semester system in undergraduate colleges.

Conclusion: Though the implementation of innovativative practice in Higher Education like semester system is a mission felt by U.G.C. but the affiliating Universities like Calcutta Universites will face problem during implementation of this system. The Under Graduate college teachers feels the problem of Semester implementation and there is also difference among the attitude of Govt. and Aided college teachers .Among aided colleges there is also difference in response to problem of semester implementation due to their geographical location and new- old status of establishment.

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