

IMPACT OF SEMESTER SYSTEM IN THE UNIVERSITIES OF ASSAM

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The semester system has been introduced recently in the graduate courses in the Universities of Assam. This new system is highly appreciated by the intellectual fraction of the society. This Paper is an attempt to study the positive as well as negative aspects of the system. However, the method is purely qualitative and thus the paper is based on library work.

1) Syllabus and course structure under Semester System:

- a) The syllabus for each paper should be divided into modules or Units. Each unit should be assigned marks (preferably equal marks for each unit) so that the question paper of the final semester examination may cover the entire syllabus.
- b) The minimum total marks in under graduate course should be in between 2400 to 3000. Due to different nature of subjects with practical or otherwise the individual stream vary to make the final decision regarding the total marks.
- c) In the sixth semester there must be at least one paper where the students are given the opportunity to apply their knowledge. The course may be so designed that the student's creativity is encouraged. This could be a small academic project, an advanced level practical work including literature survey on a topic filed/survey work or any other work which may induce creativity among the students.

The students must submit two copies of the projects work prepared in the format of PhD or M Phil thesis. The students will have to defend the work before an external examination and internal Board comprising of three teachers including the supervisor/guide. The external examiner will evaluate out of 80% and the Internal Board will evaluate out of 20%.

Procedure for Internal evaluation

- 1) The marks allotted for internal evaluation (20%) in each paper will be based on the following
 - a) Sessional Examination I
 - b) Sessional Examination II
 - c) Home assignment, Seminars and group Discussion on related work depending on the decision of the teachers/college concerned. Home assignments may be given to the students at any time during the semester.
- 2) Each sessional examination will be of one-hour duration and be conducted by the concerned of answer scripts for each paper will be done by the concerned teacher as a part of his/her normal duty.
- 3) The teacher concerned will fix the exact date of the sessional examination in each Paper following the guidelines of academic schedule. The students should write in the examination in proper university answer books.
- 4) After evaluation the answer scripts should be shown to the students and corrections should be made if there exists any wrong evaluation. After this the answer scripts should be collected back from the students.

- 5) There is no provision for reappearing on repeat/betterment in the sessional examination. If students miss one or both examination for valid reason then the teacher/college concerned may allow the student for a separate examination.
- 6) If a paper is taught by more than one teacher there the concerned teacher should co-operate in conducting the internal evaluation.
- 7) At the end of the semester and before the final semester examination begin, the concerned teacher should submit the internal marks in proper mark sheets along with the answer scripts to the C.E.G.U.
- 8) The affiliated colleges should submit the internal evaluation marks and the answer scripts directly to the controller of Examination.
- 9) Scrutiny of the answer scripts and scaling of the internal marks may be arranged by the controller of Examinations if necessary.

Procedure for external Evaluation:

- 1) The committee of courses and studies (CSS-UG) of each department will meet in the month of April and October to decide the dates of final examination for the on-going semester.
- 2) The controller of examination would make the necessary arrangement for announcing the date of examinations and other necessary producing as per university rules.
- 3) Each paper will have 80% of the total marks for external evaluation. The final semester examination will be of three hours duration for a paper of 100 marks.
- 4) The affiliated colleges should send the answer scripts of the external examinations to the zonal officers as per direction of the C.E.G.U
- 5) The evaluation zone will arrange for evaluation and scrutiny of the final examination answer be sent to the controller of examination.
- 6) The controller of examination would make necessary arrangement for announcing the results.
- 7) For any procedure not mentioned above the exiting University Regulation for P.G Examination would be applicable.

Credit System

There are some rules in credit system. They are-

- (a) The theory paper would have one credit point for each hour of instruction per week in a semester. It includes lecture, tutorials and others for internal evaluation (Seminar group discussion, Laboratory demonstration session, mini projects).
- (b) Practical papers/courses would have one credit point for every 2 hours of laboratory work per week in a semester.
- (c) P.G dissertation by research work/projects would be of 12 credit points by 24 hours of work per week in a semester. The dissertation would involve activities such as literature survey preparation of project report, computation, seminar, presentation, demonstrations, viva-voce examinations and visit to other institutions or research lab for data collection etc.
- (d) Other type work such as departmental seminar filed/industrial training would be compulsory for the student but no credit or marks for internal evaluation be arranged for each activity.
- (e) Attendance including department seminars would be treated under the university rules of minimum 75% attendance required for appearing in the examinations.

Total Credit Per Semester

Every student must complete a minimum of 30 credit per week in a semester which is about 30 hours of contact teaching per week. The total number of credits for four semester courses should be between 120-140. For two semester or eight semester course the total credit points may be worked out accordingly.

Core courses and Elective courses:

- (a) Core courses are compulsory set of papers which also include those offered for specialization in each branch of the subject for example, the set of papers offered under be considered under core course for

the concerned student of physical chemistry. The total credit assigned for the core course would be not more than 80% credit (Viz: 96 credit out of 120 total credits)

- (b) Elective courses: The essence of the credit system is the freedom of choice given to the students for courses/papers within and outside the department moreover students mobility from one institution to another be encouraged by a credit transfer mechanism.
 - (i) Students counselling by the teachers is must to guide the students to opt for elective courses those are relevant to the concerned subjects in which the student is registered for a degree.
 - (ii) The students may be allowed to complete the elective course at their own pace.
 - (iii) Good students may be allowed to take extra load in electives. The grade sheet/Transcripts would be extra papers as audit course, but the grade obtained by the students would not be used for the calculations of GPA and CPI.

Grading System:

- (a) Conversion of marks to grades: Actual marks secured by a group of candidates are converted into Relative Percentile (R) before conversion into Relative Letter Grades. The maximum actual marks (Highest mark) (M) secured in a particular group is converted in 100% and other actual marks (A) secured by the students of the same groups are converted to the Relative Percentile.
- (b) Conversion table for Relative Percentile into inter grade and grade points

Range of relative percentile	Letter Grade	Grade Point
90-100	A	10
75-89	B	8
55-74	C	6
40-54	D	4
30-39	E	2
<30	F	0

(C) Conversion of Grade of CGPA and CPI:

Grade point average (GPA) is used as a numerical survey of academic achievement. First, Grades are assigned top points in 10 points scale as follows:

A= 10 Points B= 8 Points C= 6 Points
 D= 4 Points E= 2 Points F= 0 Points

Secondly the hours of credit for each course are multiplied by the Grade point value to determine the honor points. The honor points are then added for all the courses/papers in a semester.

Examination and Evaluation:

- (a) The pass marks in each paper is 30% of total marks in that paper (external/internal)
- (b) A student who fails in one or more papers should repeat the papers by attending all the classes and by appearing for internal as well as external examination at the next opportunity. A student shall get three chances for clearing the papers within five years from the date of admission to the degree program.
- (c) A student who has completed a semester may be allowed to proceed to the next semester irrespective of number of papers where the students have failed.
- (d) In order to compete a course a student must obtain pass marks in all the papers in the semester offered to the student in the degree course (PG or UG)
- (e) A student who fails in elective papers may be allowed to replace them by other elective papers of the same credit after obtaining prior approved from department. For this the producer for repeating would be applicable.

- (f) Students who secure the lowest grade may be given the option to repeat that paper by following the producer for repeating.
- (g) Internal Evaluation: The following guidelines be followed-
 - 1) For every paper there should be a separate internal evaluation conducted by the teachers involved in teaching that paper.
 - 2) Each teacher involved in teaching a paper would conduct one hour written examination of (16%-20%) marks sometime in the middle of the semester. If seminars or group discussion are held as a part of internal evaluation, then each student should submit a repeat which may be assigned about 4% marks in internal evaluation.
 - 3) The mid semester examination answer scripts should be shown to the student so that they are aware of the program make by them in the course.
 - 4) Attendance in class should not be considered for internal evaluation.

ii.

By the time India had achieved independence, our higher education had developed considerably both in the qualitative and quantitative way. Several universities were established after the Sadler Commission's recommendation. Accordingly, to this commission's view the need of organization in the aim and objectives of our higher education in order to serve the emerging needs of an independent country like India. It must be able to train up the students for free citizens in independent country. They must be able to make their own original contribution towards social, political economic and in the cultural fields. Their education should make them ideal citizens who believed in democracy, equality fraternity and social justice. Since 1948 Gauhati University has been trying to evaluate the student's activity in a proper way for ensuring their all-round development. Thus, the system of universities has been changing from time to time for the development of student's community. In 2011 Gauhati University introduced the semester system with an objective of reducing the drawbacks of annual system of education in undergraduate level.

iii.

The positive aspects of the semester system are given below---

- a) The system facilitates the students with a number of academic activities besides the regular class works.
- b) In this system students get opportunity to make them involved in academic activities lie group discussion, seminars, sessional examination etc.
- c) This system is beneficial for the students as it covers a huge part of the syllabus of a particular discipline within a very short period of time.
- d) With the adoption of semester system in colleges, universities have stated indicating different programmers for college teachers for developing their teaching techniques.

IV.

There are some negative aspects also in semester system such as—

- a) The newly introduced semester system has increased workloads on the part of the college teachers which prevents them from pursuing higher studies or academic activities which have significant rule in the field of teaching.
- b) The allotted time for a semester is not enough for completing the specific syllabus in detail.
- c) Most of the terminologist and techniques used in the semester system is different to understand.

V) Some prospects of semester system in educational filed likewise-

- a) Huge syllabus is completed within a very short period of time
- b) Involvement of the students are highly appreciated in this system.

VII.

Semester system is extremely beneficial for the students. Like other Indian Universities the universities of Assam also have started introducing semester system Education in undergraduate courses. The main aim of

semester system is to ensure all round development of the children through continuous and comprehensive evaluation of the students. It facilitates the students to learn more in a specific short duration in comparison to annual system of education

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