



SELF GOVERNANCE IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract

Self-Governance may be defined in terms of freedom to prescribe courses of studies, methods of teaching and evaluation. Autonomy and freedom with reference to academic, financial and administrative should be accompanied by accountability. Self-Governance as like in autonomy is to give opportunity to the teachers and students to make innovations like utilize their creative talent, improve the standards of teaching, examination and research and quickly respond to social needs. The autonomy is expected to provide a better framework through a decentralized management culture. Autonomy, when exercised with the sense of responsibility and accountability will inevitably lead to excellence in academics, governance and financial management of the institutions. If it does not lead to this, it can be safely concluded that autonomy has been misused. Academic autonomy is the freedom to decide academic issues like curriculum, instructional material, pedagogy, techniques of student's evaluation. Administrative autonomy is the freedom to institution to manage its own affairs with regard to administration. It is the freedom to manage the affairs in such a way that it stimulates and encourages initiative and development of individuals working in the institutions and thereby of the institution itself. Financial autonomy is the freedom to the institution to utilize the financial resources. Autonomy and accountability are two sides of the same coin. Generally speaking, a self-governance college as conceived in the present context has freedom and authority in academic matters. Briefly stated, it has the right to decide what to teach, how to teach and whom to teach. One of the significant things that most self-governance colleges have done has importance from the point of view of employment possibilities for the students who pass out. They have started courses in applied subjects, which are in demand in the employment market. Some universities have introduced application-oriented subjects as subsidiary or minor subjects. Many autonomous colleges have made use of the greater freedom that now they have to introduce a variety of subjects. Hence, the concept of self-governance was meant to promote academic independence as well as excellence. Autonomy encouraged the introduction of innovations in order to improve standards of education, and gives quality assurance in higher education.

Keywords: *Self-governance, Education system, Pattern of study*

SELF GOVERNANCE

Self-Governance means 'self-norm', Self-government or the right of self-government with respect to local or internal affairs, so an autonomous institution is one able to regulate its own affairs.

UGC GUIDELINES FOR SELF GOVERNANCE COLLEGE

They will have freedom to Determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi. Prescribe rules for admission in consonance with the reservation policy of the state government. Evolve methods of assessment of student work, the conduct of examinations and notification of results. Use modern tools of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity.

SELF-GOVERNANCE OR AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS/COLLEGES

Autonomous institution is associated with university and affiliated to a Govt. University, but does not follow its syllabus or curriculum. An autonomous institution/college will be fully accountable for the content and quality of education that it imparts. The students would receive greater individual attention on the basis of their needs and aptitude. Autonomy would encourage the students to think clearly, critically and creatively and to express themselves effectively. Exams are conducted by the institute itself and are in accordance with what is being taught during the session. Relative grading system where the highest marks obtained by a student decides the marks the others get, so in case of difficult paper, a low percentage score would not necessarily mean a low GPA. Degrees finally awarded by the university which generally carries a lot of reputation. One of the significant things that most autonomous colleges have done has importance from the point of view of employment possibilities for the students who pass out. They have started courses in applied subjects, which are in demand in the employment market. The subjects whom the universities had allowed the colleges to teach were, as a rule, subjects coming under traditional disciplines. Hence, the UGC asked universities to add an applied component. Some universities have introduced application-oriented subjects as subsidiary or minor subjects. Many autonomous colleges have made use of the greater freedom that now they have to introduce a variety of subjects. Quality of higher education can improve considerably through an extensive and optimal use of audio-visual technologies and Internet. The courses should be so designed to make good use of these modern developments.

CURRICULUM DESIGNING

Curriculum is the sum total of experiences that the student receives through a variety of activities in the College e.g. classroom, library, laboratory, playground, in informational contacts between teachers and students etc. **Curriculum = Syllabus = Courses of studies.** Curriculum includes more than the content to be learnt. The College curriculum is an enterprise in guiding and living. The curriculum is a specialized learning environment with a focus on the interests and abilities of students towards effective participation in the life of the

community and nation. Redesigning of the Curriculum should be need based, socially relevant, Promote creativity in students, job / career oriented, Research based, and Value / ethic based etc.

TEACHER'S ROLE

A new kind of syllabus and curriculum can be successfully implemented only after the faculty members are comfortable with it. The 3 C's for teacher are

A) **COMMITMENT** Personal commitment of the teacher to his skills and emotional commitment of working together as a team.

B) **COMPETENCE** always exploring new areas as there is scope for creativity.

C) **COMPASSION** looking at the students through the eyes of God.

TEACHING METHODS

Collaborative teaching, Team teaching, Formal lectures, On the spot study, Project work, Demonstrative experiments, Group discussions, Guided library work, Research seminars. Another dimension in which autonomous colleges can make a distinct contribution is by improved methods of instruction. The classical mode of teaching in higher education, coming down from medieval universities, is the lecture. Lectures are very good for giving an exposition of a topic and will probably remain the chief mode of instruction at the level of higher education. But students' role in the lecture is largely passive, and lectures should be supplemented by other methods of instruction, which will make the teaching-learning process more active and creative for the student. Most of the autonomous colleges have introduced seminars, group discussions, and also more independent work by students such as term papers, projects, etc. Written work helps the student in developing his capacity to express himself and discussions, in various groups, improve his speaking skills.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

1. Books and journals 2. Booklets 3. Course handouts 4. Maps, charts, diagrams, models 5. Audio-visual aids- slides, transparencies OHPs, LCDs, VCRs, DVDs 6. Live and preserved specimens 7. Demonstration kits 8. Software for teaching

EVALUATION SYSTEM

Continuous assessment and innovative methods of evaluation are-(objective questioning, assignments, seminars, viva, quizzes) Freedom to change the question paper pattern, Double valuation of end semester exams, Provision for revaluation and retotaling, Adhering to transparency in evaluation, Supplementary end semester exams, Improvement of CIA, Project and Viva Voce, On the spot study reports, Oral examinations for languages, Periodical Review of assessment methods. In an autonomous college, activities like

participation in seminars, discussions, quiz sessions and written work like essays, term papers, library work, projects etc., can be evaluated and included in the overall evaluation of the student this is something which is done with difficulty in the centralized system. All autonomous colleges follow the semester system and conduct continuous internal assessment (CIA). CIA and end-of-semester exams get 50:50 or 40:60 weightage.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF SELF-GOVERNANCE/AUTONOMY

(a) There is a significant qualitative difference between the autonomous and non-autonomous mode. Autonomy has: 1) Created self-confidence 2) Brought clarity of vision 3) Paved the way for reform of examination & the evaluation system 4) Enabled us to evolve a student-oriented teaching technique and 5) Given recognition to the teaching of religion and ethics (b) Autonomy has given us wide scope not only to design our own curriculum but also to update it based on the idea of usefulness to society and the employability of the learner. It enables us to adopt our own teaching and evaluation methods in accordance with the requirements of each and every academic program. In brief, autonomy has given greater 'academic freedom', of course with greater 'academic responsibility' c) The major impetus is the creativity of staff and students and examination oriented teaching and learning d) There improves quality of education as well as additional knowledge in the curriculum. There is progress towards imparting higher education on the lines of modernity, relevance and diversification e) Autonomy has proved to be not simply a different concept but a distinct educational concept compared to non-autonomous colleges f) The college maintains high standards of teaching and research and also is in the fore-front of its potential to experiment with educational innovations in response to emerging challenges in academic, social and economic realms g) Autonomy has served as a boon in realizing the set objectives of the college. It has provided a conducive environment for promoting and nurturing academic growth, reformation and transformation of the educational system, 'the education', 'the educator' and society at large h) This has led to the administration being more responsible, Student's discipline has also improved i) The benefits enjoyed by students are the good performance given by them in entrance exams, and the ready recruitment of students by companies and firms. This has made the staff and the parents equally happy j) Under autonomy the schedule of the college functions satisfactorily k) Imparting of superior instruction to aid the total personality development of the student l) The tone of academic health substantially improves m) College autonomy increases student enrollment, more professional courses being introduced and instill more accountability in the staff and the students n) The autonomous status of the college allows for regularization of the academic session and uninterrupted teaching throughout the

session. There will be remarkable change and improvement in the student discipline and a noticeable spurt of healthy extra-curricular activities on the campus. Autonomous status of the college has led to courses being designed relevant to the needs of the rural people. Staff participation in seminars and workshops increased considerably. p) Autonomy is an explosion on all fronts simultaneously, and the change from calmness to activity, from core to semester, from syllabus followers to syllabus setters, from dependence to autonomy, from becoming enriched to enriching others, from darkness of repeated practices to the light of autonomy and academic excellence.

CONCLUSION

Generally speaking, an autonomous college as conceived in the present context has freedom and authority in academic matters. Briefly stated, it has the right to decide what to teach, how to teach and whom to teach. The autonomy is expected to provide a better framework through a decentralized management culture. The delegation of authority with accountability for the academic as well as the associate management function is therefore, essential for the success of autonomy. Autonomy, when exercised with the sense of responsibility and accountability will inevitably lead to excellence in academics, governance and financial management of the institutions. If it does not lead to this, it can be safely concluded that autonomy has been misused. Autonomy encouraged the introduction of innovations in order to improve standards of education, and gives quality assurance in higher education.

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