

## ***FEATURES OF AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS***

***Highlighting the importance of Autonomous Institutions, the UGC document on the XI Plan profile of higher education in India clearly states that: “The only safe and better way to improve the quality of undergraduate education is to the link most of the Institutions from the affiliating structure. Institutions with academic and operative freedom are doing better and have more credibility. The financial support to such Institutions boosts the concept of autonomy.”***

### **Need for Autonomy**

Institutions that have the potential for offering programmes of a higher standard do not have the freedom to offer them. The 1964- 66 Education Commission pointed out that the exercise of academic freedom by teachers is a crucial requirement for development of the intellectual climate of our country. Unless such a climate prevails, it is difficult to achieve excellence in our higher education system. With students, teachers and management being co-partners in raising the quality of higher education, it is imperative that they share a major responsibility. Hence, the Education Commission (1964-66) recommended autonomy, which, in essence, is the instrument for promoting academic excellence.

### **Objectives**

- **The National Policy on Education (1986-92) formulated the following objectives for autonomous institution. An autonomous institution will have the freedom to:**
- determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi, and restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs; and
  - prescribe rules for admission in consonance with the reservation policy of the state government;
  - Evolve methods of assessment of students performance, the conduct of examinations and notification of results;
  - Use modern tools of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity; and
  - Promote healthy practices such as community service, extension activities, projects for the benefit of the society at large, neighborhood programmes, etc.

### **Special features of an autonomous institution**

#### **Starting of New Courses**

An autonomous institution is free to start diploma (undergraduate and postgraduate) or certificate courses without the prior approval of the university. Diplomas and certificates shall be issued under the seal of the institution

An autonomous institution is free to start a new degree or postgraduate course with the approval of the Academic Council of the Institution. An autonomous Institution may rename the existing course after restructuring/redesigning it with the approval of the Academic Council.

## **AUTONOMY IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **1. What is autonomy?**

Autonomy may be defined as a functional status given to the institutions by giving greater flexibility towards purely academic development for up-liftment of academic standards and excellence.

### **2. What is the need for autonomy?**

To enable institutions to award certificates by providing more academic and operative freedom to function better with credibility

### **3. What are the flexible operations that autonomous institutions can adopt?**

- Prescribe its own relevant courses of study and syllabi by restructuring and redesigning courses to suit local needs.
- Student centric wide choice in courses wide range of electives. Freedom in choice of courses.
- Periodical change in syllabus as per changing needs
- Prescribe rules in consonance with the reservation policy of the State Government.
- Evolve methods of assessment of student's performance, the conduct of examinations and notification of results.
- Use modern tools of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity
- Promote healthy practices such as projects, community service, extension programs, projects for the benefit of the community at large and other related programs.

### **4. How does the examination system function in an autonomous institution?**

Students' performance is examined internally and externally. Continuous assessment and range of assessment options. To ensure fairness and justice to students, various alternatives are adopted in the examination system.

### **5. What is the role of office of Controller of Examinations?**

The Exam Committee is responsible for the smooth conduct of the Semester examinations, submission of assignments, and additional examinations. All matters involving the conduct of examinations, spot valuations, tabulations, preparation of Grade Cards etc. fall within the duties of the Office of the Controller of Examinations.

### **6. Who declares the result?**

The grades that are tabulated by the Controller of Examination is reviewed by the Moderation Committee. Any deviation and discrepancies are deliberated and removed. The entire result is discussed in the Academic Evaluation Committee (AEC) for its approval. The result is declared in the website

**7. What are the Statutory Committees of an autonomous institution?**

The Statutory Committees are

1. Board of Governors (BOG)
2. Academic Council
3. Finance Committee
4. Board of Studies
5. Controller of Examinations

**8. What are the non-statutory committees?**

The non-Statutory Committees are-

- a) Departmental Academic Committee
- b) Grievance Redressal Committee
- c) Research and Development Committee
- d) Administrative Quality Circle
- e) Planning & Evaluation Committee
- f) Academic Audit Committee

**9. Can short term courses be offered by autonomous institutions beyond the curriculum?**

Yes. The autonomous institution can offer special need based short term courses under the departments of the institution for the benefit of the students and outsiders can also enrol for them.

**10. Who will check whether the academic standard is maintained / improved after Autonomy?**

There has to be a built in mechanism in the autonomous institution working for this purpose. An Internal Committee called Academic Evaluation Committee (AEC) is a Non-Statutory body, will keep a watch on the academics and keep its reports and recommendations every year.

**11. What is the benefit to the Students and Teachers of autonomous institutions?**

An autonomous institution carries a prestigious image for the students and the teachers. Autonomy reflects efforts for excellence in academic performances, capability of self-governance and enhancement in the quality of education.

**NOTIFICATION NO. P26/4/52 C.C.  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**Ministry of Home Affairs  
New Delhi**

Dated: 20th September, 1952

**Subject - Recognition of the Examination.**

According to the Ministry of the Home Affairs, Government of India. Notification No. 26/4/52 C.C. dated 20.09.52 issued in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission, that in case of Degree/Diploma awarded by/Board/University/in India, which are incorporated by one act of central or part B. State Legislature in India. No formal orders recognizing such Degree/Diploma need be issued by Government. Such Degree should be recognized automatically for the purpose of employment.

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**HARISH CHANDRA**  
under Secretary, Government of India



University Grants Commission  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg  
New Delhi-110 002

F. No. UGC/DEB/ 2013  
Dated 14.10.2013

The Registrar/Director  
Of all the Indian Universities  
(Deemed, State, Central Universities/  
Institutions of National importance)

Subject: Equivalence of Degrees awarded by Open and Distance Learning  
(ODL) Institutions at par with Conventional Universities/ Institutions

Sir/ Madam,

There are a number of Open and Distance Learning Institutions (ODLIs) in the country offering Degree/ Diploma/Certificate programmes through the mode of non formal education. These comprise Open Universities, Distance Education Institutions (either single mode or dual mode) of Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed to be Universities, Institutions of National Importance or any other Institution of Higher learning recognized by Central/State/Statutory Council/Societies registered under the Society Registration Act 1860.

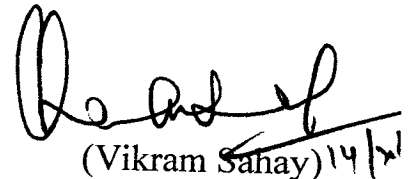
2. A circular was earlier issued vide UGC letter F1 No- 52/2000(CPP-II) dated May 05, 2004 (**copy enclosed**) mentioning that Degrees/Diplomas / Certificates/ awarded by the Open Universities in conformity with the UGC notification of degrees be treated as equivalent to corresponding awards of the traditional Universities in the country.

3. Attention is also invited to UGC circular No F1-25/93(CPP-II) dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 1993 (**copy enclosed**) for recognition of degrees and diplomas as well as transfer of credit for courses successfully completed by students between the two types of universities so that the mobility of students from Open University stream to traditional universities/ institutions is ensured without any difficulty.

4. The Government of India, in exercise of its power conferred under section 20(1) of UGC Act 1956, issued directions dated 29<sup>th</sup> December 2012 entrusting UGC with the responsibility of regulating higher education programme in open and distance learning (ODL) mode. Consequently, Universities/ Institutions desirous of offering any programme through distance mode would require recognition of UGC.

5. As you are aware, the Government of India has envisaged a greater role for the Open and the Distance Education System. The envisioned role may be fulfilled by recognizing and treating the Degrees / Diplomas/ Certificates awarded through distance mode at par with the degrees obtained through the formal system of education. Open and Distance Education System in the country is contributing a lot in expansion of Higher Education and for achieving target of GER, without compromising on quality. Non recognition/ non equivalence of degrees of ODL institutions for the purpose of promotion/ employment and pursuing higher education may prove a deterrent to many learners and will ultimately defeat the purpose of Open and Distance Education.

6. Accordingly, the Degrees/ Diplomas/ Certificates awarded for programmes conducted by the ODL institutions, recognized by DEC (erstwhile) and UGC, in conformity with UGC Notification on specification of Degrees should be treated as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Degree/Diploma/Certificate of the traditional Universities/ institutions in the country.



(Vikram Sahay) 14/12/1

Director(Admn)

Tel: 011 2323 0405

Email: [vikramsahay7@gmail.com](mailto:vikramsahay7@gmail.com)

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
2. Secretary, All Indian Council for Technical Education, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chandra Lok Building, Janpath, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Association of Indian Universities, AIU House, 16 Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg (Kotla Marg), New Delhi-110002.

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23235733, 23232317, 23236735, 23230137



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग  
बहादुरशाह जफर मार्ग  
नई दिल्ली-110 002

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG  
NEW DELHI-110 002

F1-52/2000(CPP-II)

April, 2004

5 MAY 2004

The Registrar/Director  
of all the Indian Universities  
(Deemed, State, Central Universities/  
Institutions of National importance)

Subject: Recognition of Degrees awarded by Open Universities.

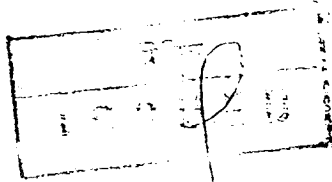
Sir/Madam,

There are a number of open Universities in the country offering various degrees/diploma through the mode of non-formal education. The Open Universities have been established in the country by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 2(f) of University Grants Commission Act, 1956. These universities are, therefore, empowered to award degrees in terms of Section 22(1) of the UGC Act, 1956.

A circular was earlier issued vide UGC letter N.F.1-8/92(CPP) dated February, 1992 mentioning that the Certificate, Diplomas and Degrees awarded by Indira Gandhi National Open University are to be treated equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Universities in the country.

Attention is further invited to UGC circular No.F1-25/93(CPP-II) dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1993 (copy enclosed) for recognition of degrees and diplomas as well as transfer of credit for courses successfully completed by students between the two types of universities so that the mobility of students from Open University stream to traditional Universities is ensured without any difficulty.

The UGC has specified the nomenclature of degrees under Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956 to ensure mandatory requirements viz. minimum essential academic inputs required for awarding such degrees. A copy of Gazette Notification regarding specification of degrees issued vide No.1-52/97(CPP-II) dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2004 is enclosed. The details are also given in UGC Web site: www.ugc.ac.in

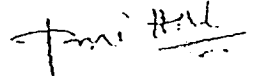


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No. F-1-62/2000

May, I therefore request you to treat the Degrees /Diploma /Certificates awarded by the Open Universities in conformity with the UGC notification on Specification of Degrees as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the traditional Universities in the country.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal)  
Joint Secretary

Encl : As above

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-110001.
2. The Secretary, All India Council for Technical Education, I.G. Sports Complex, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi-110002.
3. The Secretary, Association of Indian Universities (AIU), 16 Connaught Place, Marg (Kotla Marg), New Delhi-110002.
4. The Secretary, National Council for Teacher Education, I.G. Stadium, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002.
5. The Director of Distance Education, Council, IGNOU Campus, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068.
6. The Vice-chancellor Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068.
7. The Vice-chancellor Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Road No.46, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033 (Andhra Pradesh)
8. The Vice-chancellor Nalanda Open University, West Gandhi Maidan Patna 800001 (Bihar)
9. The Vice-chancellor Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Chhatrapati, Ahmedabad-380003 (Gujarat)
10. The Vice-chancellor Karnataka State Open University, Manasagangotri, Mysore-570006 (Karnataka)
11. The Vice-chancellor Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik-422222 (Maharashtra)
12. The Vice-chancellor, Kota Open University (Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University), Kota-324010 (Rajasthan)
13. The Vice-chancellor Nctaji Subhash Open University, Kolkata - 700020 (West Bengal)
14. The Vice-Chancellor, Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal-462010 (M.P.)

(V.K. Jaiswal)  
Under Secretary





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 विश्वविद्यालय अन्वय  
 बसुन्दास कृष्ण वर्मा  
 नई दिल्ली-११० ००२

GRANTS UNIGRANTS  
 UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
 BHADURSHAH ZAFAR  
 NEW DELHI-110 002

R.P. Gangurde  
 Additional Secretary  
 Tel.No.3319659

D.O.No.F.1-25/93(CPP-11)

July, 1993

28 JUL 1993

Dear Vice Chancellor,

As you are aware, the Open Universities have been established in the country by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 2(f) of University Grants Commission Act, 1956. These universities are, therefore, empowered to award degrees in terms of Section 22 (1) of the UGC Act, 1956.

It has been brought to the notice of the Commission that the students who have done their M.A. from open universities are debarred by universities from registration for Ph.D. studies. This is most unfair in view of the importance attached to the Open University and distance learning in National Policy on Education, 1986. The Programme of Action-02 also aims at promoting the mobility of students among open universities and among the traditional universities. This can be made possible only when there is a workable understanding between open universities and traditional universities for recognition of each other's degrees on reciprocal basis. A Memorandum of Understanding has already been signed between University of Pondicherry and Indira Gandhi National Open University which provides for recognition of each other's degrees and diplomas as well as transfer of credits for courses successfully completed by students between the two universities. The other universities may also make similar arrangements so that the mobility of students from Open University stream to traditional universities is ensured without any difficulty.

I hope that your university will make necessary efforts in this direction and let the Commission know the progress.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

*R.P. Gangurde*

(R.P. GANGURDE)

To all the VCs as per list attached and copy to A11

केंद्रित  
 ISSUED