

ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM OF GRADUATE LEVEL STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: A STUDY ON GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN ANANTNAG KASHMIR

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ABSTRACT

“Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) is a programme in which the students have a choice to choose from the prescribed courses, which are referred as core, elective or minor or soft skill courses and they can learn at their own pace and the entire assessment is graded-based on a credit system.”

CBCS the academic reform necessarily includes changes in admission procedures in various courses, modification in assessment and examination methods, switch over from annual to semester system, acceptance of grade and credit system, CBCS, teachers' assessment, and other related reforms. In Govt. Degree College for Women Anantnag Kashmir the CBCS has been started in its BG level courses across the discipline since (2015). As this is the reformed structure of education system, so still this system has not been materialized in full form. The students as well as the teachers community has different perception and attitude regarding this new form of curriculum as well as examination system. The present study is an attempt to know the level of attitude of BG level Arts and Science students towards CBCS.

Keywords : Attitude, Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), Higher Education, Semester system.

Introduction

University Grants Commission has come up with the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) programme in which the students have a choice to choose from the prescribed courses, which are referred as core, elective or minor or soft skill courses and they can learn at their own pace and the entire assessment is graded-based on a credit system. The basic idea is to look into the needs of the students so as to keep up-to-date with development of higher education in India and abroad. CBCS aims to redefine the curriculum keeping pace with the liberalization and globalization in education. CBCS allows students an easy mode of mobility to various educational institutions spread across the world along with the facility of transfer of credits earned by students.

Features of CBCS

- This is a uniform CBCS for all central and state and other recognised colleges and universities. There are three main courses: Core, Elective and Foundation.
- There are also non-credit courses available which will be assessed as 'Satisfactory' or 'unsatisfactory'.
- All the three main courses will be evaluated and accessed to provide for an effective and balanced result.

How does it work?

It has the following basic elements:

- **Semesters:** The assessment is done semester wise. A student progresses on the basis of the courses taken rather than time like three years for science, arts, commerce or four years for engineering etc. Each semester will have 15–18 weeks of academic work which is equal to 90 teaching days. There is flexibility in creating the curriculum and assigning credits based on the course content and hours of teaching.
- **Credit system:** Each course is assigned a certain credit. When the student passes that course, he earns the credits which are based on that course. If a student passes a single course in a semester, he does not have to repeat that course later. The students can earn credits according to his pace. Comprehensive continuous assessment: There is a continuous evaluation of the student not only by the teachers but also by the student himself.

- **Grading: UGC has introduced a 10-point grading system as follows:**

O	(Outstanding):	10
A+	(Excellent) :	9
A	(VeryGood):	8
B+	(Good):	7
B	(AboveAverage):	6
C	(Average):	5
P	(Pass):	4
F	(Fail):	0
Ab (Absent):		0

Advantages of Choice Based Credit System

- The CBCS offers a 'cafeteria' approach in which the students can choose courses of their own choice.
- The credit system allows a student to study what he prefers in his own sequence as per his interests.
- They can learn at their own pace.
- They can opt for additional courses and can achieve more than the required credits.
- They can also opt for an interdisciplinary approach to learning.
- Inter college/ university migration within the country and outside becomes easy with the transfer of Credits. This means that it will be easier for foreign universities to come and offer courses in India.
- Can opt for one part of the course in one institute and the other part in another institute. This will help in making a clear choice between good and bad colleges/ institutes.
- The students have more scope to enhance their skills and more scope of taking up projects and assignments, vocational training, including entrepreneurship.
- The system improves the job opportunities of students.
- The system will help in enabling potential employers assess the performance of students on a scientific scale.

Disadvantages of CBCS

- Not very easy to estimate the exact marks.
- Teachers' workload may fluctuate.
- Needs proper and good infrastructure for a universal spread of education.

Need and justification of the study

Present study has been justified on the ground that no such exploratory work has been done on the attitude towards Choice Based Credit System of Graduate Level Students in Higher Education of district Anantnag Kashmir.

Statement of the problem

The present study "Attitude towards Choice Based Credit System of Graduate Level Students in Higher Education: a Study on government Degree College for women Anantnag Kashmir." Is an endeavour to provide necessary information in the light of the given justification?

Objectives of the study

The aim of this paper is to –

1. Study the attitude of graduate level students towards CBCS in higher Education.
2. Suggest some effective measures to overcome the limitations of CBCS in higher Education.

Methodology of the study:

The descriptive survey method has been used in the present study. The researcher has drawn the sample from graduate BG level Arts and Science students of Govt.degree College for women Anantnag Kashmir. The sample size is 60 out of which 30 are from Science and 30 from Arts Department. To collect the requisite data related attitude towards CBCS self designed attitude scale was used. The researcher established a rapport with them. Initially the researcher distributed the attitude scale and requisite directions and instructions were given.

The delimitation aspects of the present study are:

1. The study is delimited to the Choice Based Credit System of Govt.degree college for women Anantnag Kashmir.
2. The study is delimited to the Arts and Science Student of Govt.degree College for women Anantnag Kashmir.
3. The study is delimited to only one college of Anantnag Kashmir.

Result and Discussion:

Analyzing of the data is of great importance in a research work. Thus, after the collection of data, it has to be processed and analyzed in accordance with the outline laid down for the purpose at the time of developing the research plan. Then the data are studied from as many angles as possible to explore new facts. The present chapter deals with the analysis an interpretation of data. Keeping in view the objectives the data obtained from the sample were analyzed through qualitative and quantitatively.

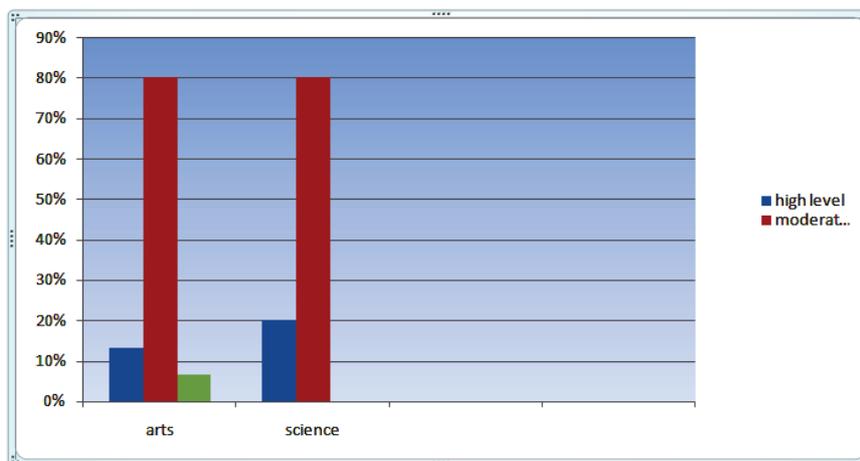
Table : 01
Level of attitudes towards CBCS of Arts and Science students of
Govt. degree College for women Anantnag.

Level of Attitude	Ranges of Scores	Frequency		Percentage	
		Arts	Science	% Arts	% Science
High level Attitude	76-112	4	6	13.33%	20%
Moderate level attitude	38-75	24	24	80%	80%
Poor level attitude	0-37	2	0	6.67%	0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the above table it's known that 13.33% of Arts and 20% of Science students of GDC Women Anantnag has highly favourable attitude towards CBCS. On the other hand, it's also found from the field visit that same percent i.e. 80% of Arts and Science students of GDC Women Anantnag having moderate favourable attitude toward CBCS. Again only 6.67% of Arts students has Poor level attitude towards CBCS. In fact Science Students are having the highest level of attitude towards CBCS in comparison to the Arts Students of GDC Women Anantnag.

The bar diagram of arts and science students showing favourable and unfavourable attitude towards CBCS.



Major findings and suggestions:

The major findings of the study as well as some suggestions are as follow;
Science Students are having the highest level attitude towards CBCS in comparison to the Arts Students of GDC Women Anantnag.

Suggestions:

- Every aspect of CBCS should be explained clearly to the student.
- Betterment system should be included for the improvement of the student.
- CBCS should be based on present and future needs.
- In CBCS, time is very short so, syllabus should be prepared accordingly.
- Infrastructure should be provided to every department.
- Extra time should be given for discussion among teachers and students.
- Introduction of Choice Based Credit System to facilitate the students' mobility from one college to another.
- Orientation and Workshops should be organized for teachers to understand the details about grading, semester, credit system, credit transfer etc. by inviting and involving resource persons with appropriate expertise

Conclusion:

It is too early to say whether CBCS will be successful or not. The UGC has always initiated measures to bring efficiency and excellence in the Higher Education System of India. The basic motive is to expand academic quality in all aspects, right from the curriculum to the learning-teaching process to examination and evaluation systems. However, so far multiple methods are followed by different universities across

the country towards examination, evaluation and grading system. Considering this diversity, the implementation of the choice based credit system seems to be a good system in assessing the overall performance of a student in a universal way of a single grading system.

Acknowledgement

The present paper is drafted on the basis of personal experience and collection of data. Therefoer it is not important to accept the opinions being discussed by the author in this paper. In order to have more information and clarity over the attitude of students towards CBCS, empirical and data base study should be carried out in the different situations.

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