

Dr. Rachna Pathak

Associate Professor

Department of Education, N.A.S. College, Meerut

SEMESTER III

Paper OC12A: Issues and Concerns in Secondary and Higher Secondary Education

Unit II Recommendations and Institutions for Secondary and Higher Secondary Education

Dear students

Today's our point of discussion is:

Role, functions and networking of UGC

THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION ACT, 1956 The University Grants Commission Act 1956 in suitably divided in 4 chapters with 28 sections as modified up to the 20th December, 1985.

Chapter I (Sections 1 to 3). The first chapter gives along with only with preliminary short title and commencement - Definitions and Application of the Act to institutions of higher studies other than universities.

Chapter II (Sections 4 to 11). The second chapter covers information about the establishment of the commission. This chapter contains-composition of the commission - Terms and conditions of service of members - Meeting of the commission - Vacancies amongst members or defect in constitution not to invalidate acts or proceeding of the commission - Temporary association of persons with the commission for particular purposes- Staff of the commission - Authentication of orders and other instruments of the commission.

Chapter III (Sections 12 to 19). This chapter presents - Powers and functions of the commission - Regulation of fees and prohibition of donations in certain cases -Prohibition regarding giving of any grant to a university not declared by the commission fit to receive such grants Inspection - Consequences of failure of universities to comply with recommendations of the commission - Payment to the commission - fund of the commission - Budget - Annual Report - Account and Audit

Chapter IV (Sections 13 to 28). This last chapter is meant for miscellaneous - Directions by the Central Government - Returns and information -Right to confer degrees - Prohibition ofthe use of the word "University" in certain cases- Penalties- Power to make rules - Power to make regulation - Power to delegate - Laying of rules and regulations before Parliament.

Genesis of UGC: In ancient times, Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramsila universities were renowned seats of higher learning, attracting students not only from all over the country but from far off countries like Korea, China, Burma (now Myanmar), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Tibet and Nepal. Today, India manages one of the largest higher education systems in the world. The present system of higher education dates back to Mountstuart Elphinstone's minutes of 1823, which stressed on the need for establishing schools for teaching English and the European sciences.

Later, Lord Macaulay, in his minutes of 1835, advocated "efforts to make natives of the country thoroughly good English scholars". Sir Charles Wood's Dispatch of 1854, famously known as the Magna Carta of English Education in India, recommended creating a properly articulated scheme of education from the primary school to the university. It sought to encourage indigenous education and planned the formulation of a coherent policy of education. Subsequently, the universities of Calcutta, Bombay (now Mumbai) and Madras were set up in 1857, followed by the University of Allahabad in 1887.

The Inter-University Board (later known as the Association of Indian Universities) was established in 1925 to promote university activities, by sharing information and cooperation in the field of education, culture, sports and allied areas.

The first attempt to formulate a national system of education in India came in 1944, with the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post War Educational Development in India, also known as the Sargeant Report. It recommended the formation of a University Grants Committee, which was formed in 1945 to oversee the work of the three Central Universities of Aligarh, Banaras and Delhi. In 1947, the Committee was entrusted with the responsibility of dealing with all the then existing Universities.

Soon after Independence, the University Education Commission was set up in 1948 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S Radhakrishnan "to report on Indian university education and suggest improvements and extensions that might be desirable to suit the present and future needs and aspirations of the country". It recommended that the University Grants Committee be reconstituted on the general model of the University Grants Commission of the United Kingdom with a full-time Chairman and other members to be appointed from amongst educationists of repute.

In 1952, the Union Government decided that all cases pertaining to the allocation of grants-in-aid from public funds to the Central Universities and other Universities and Institutions of higher learning might be referred to the University Grants Commission. Consequently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) was formally inaugurated by late Shri Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the then Minister of Education, Natural Resources and Scientific Research on 28 December 1953.

The UGC, however, was formally established only in November 1956 as a statutory body of the Government of India through an Act of Parliament for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India. In order to ensure effective region-wise coverage throughout the country, the UGC has decentralized its operations by setting up six regional centres at Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bhopal, Guwahati and Bangalore. The head office of the UGC is located at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg in New Delhi, with two additional bureaus operating from 35, Feroze Shah Road and the South Campus of University of Delhi as well.

Mandate of UGC: The UGC has the unique distinction of being the only grant-giving agency in the country which has been vested with two responsibilities: that of providing funds and that of coordination, determination and maintenance of standards in institutions of higher education.

The UGC`s mandate includes:

- Promoting and coordinating university education.
- Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
- Framing regulations on minimum standards of education.
- Monitoring developments in the field of collegiate and university education; disbursing grants to the universities and colleges.
- Serving as a vital link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning.
- Advising the Central and State governments on the measures necessary for improvement of university education.

Functions of UGC: Activities and Programmes to realize its aim of determining and maintaining the educational standards of the university, the University Grants Commission -

- Allocates grants to the universities and colleges out of its own funds for their development or other general purpose.
- Advises the central and state government on disbursing grants to the universities out of the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Advises any authority on the establishment of new university or on the proposal seeking expansion of any university.
- Collects information on university education in India and in other countries.

- Seeks information from the universities from time to time. The information may range from the financial position of the university, their various branches of learning to the rules and regulations followed in a particular university.
- Imparts education to the students in various streams through its Country wide classroom teachings and a four-year old 24 hours educational channel 'Vyas'.
- Conducts National Eligibility Test (NET) through its National Educational Testing Bureau in a bid to determine eligibility for lectureship. It also awards Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), which has been set as the minimum standards for Indian nationals to enter teaching profession and research. Humanities (including languages), Forensic Science, Computer Science, Social Sciences, Environmental Sciences, and Applications and Electronic Science are the subjects in which a student can appear for a JRF.
- The University Grants Commission has recently launched an 'e-scripting' course in television for all those students who want to make a career in broadcast media. The course is being run by its Consortium of Educational Communication, an Inter University Centre of the UGC on electronic media

Web References:

<https://www.indiaeducation.net/>

<https://www.ugc.ac.in/>

<https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>