



A Study of Opinions of Students Regarding Semester System

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ABSTRACT

Present study was carried out to know the opinions of students of different faculties regarding Semester system. In the study, opinions of students regarding syllabus, evaluation, course time, co-curricular activities, comparison with annual system and semester system and difficulty faced in semester system were taken into consideration. Some suggestions for better implementation of semester system was also taken from students. Total 100 students from four different faculties Arts, Commerce, Science and Education were selected as sample for the study. Self-made opinionnaire was prepared to know the opinions of students. On the basis of the scores obtained percentage analysis was carried out. Findings show that majority of students like this system. Semester system not only involves students more throughout the year but also reduces examination burden. In the competitive world of today, every student wishes to get maximum marks to be on top in admission, recruitment and selection process. Majority of students agreed that they get more marks in semester system than annual system. Students of the entire faculty accepted that semester system is good and it should continue in future also, but some changes should be made keeping in mind benefits of students.

Introduction

In the competitive world of today, it is very necessary to make higher education qualitative. To make higher education more qualitative Government of Gujarat has implemented Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and semester system compulsory in all the universities of Gujarat from June, 2011. The semester system is a very good system as it engages both the faculty and the students throughout the year in academic activity. While, in the annual system once the student enters the college he feels free and thinks about studying only during the exam time. Semester system not only involves students more throughout the

year but also reduces examination burden. The semester system is a better system of Education and a very effective one.

K N Raja Rao, advisor, RVCE said, “Semester system can prove to be very good if classes are held as per schedule. According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), it's 16-18 weeks in a semester but we get only 14-16 weeks. UGC also recommends 50-52 hours of course work but we do not get so much time. However, from the students' perspective, it is good as they will be able to concentrate better on the subject and perform well.”

Many researchers have been carried out for evaluation of Semester system. Most of the researchers have taken the opinion of Principals and professors of various colleges. Various merits and demerits of this system are pointed out. Different educationists and experts from different universities have suggested removing the semester system. Bhavnagar University has decided to remove this system and accept annual system for evaluation. One of the faculties of our university has also presented its view to remove this system. Removing semester system is absolutely wrong decision. It is like to put step backward. So it is equally important to know what a student thinks about this system. It is necessary to know the opinions of the students regarding semester system. So researcher has tried to get the opinion of students of different faculties regarding Semester system.

Objectives of the study

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

- (1) To study the opinion of students regarding implementation of Semester System.
- (2) To study the opinion of students regarding implementation of Semester System in reference to syllabus.
- (3) To study the opinion of students regarding implementation of Semester System in reference to Evaluation.
- (4) To study the opinion of students regarding implementation of Semester System in reference to co-curricular activities.
- (5) To study the opinion of students regarding which system of education is better: Semester system or Annual system.
- (6) To know the difficulties faced by the students in this system.

Importance of the study

- (1) This study will help in framing the syllabus in future.
- (2) This study will help in planning different co-curricular activities.
- (3) This study will help in making some changes in evaluation system.

- (4) This study will provide guidelines to the policy makers in Education.

Delimitations of the study

- (1) Present study was limited only to students of four faculties : Arts, Commerce, Science and Education.
- (2) Present study was limited only to students of Bardoli town.
- (3) For the present study, only the self-made opinionnaire was used as a tool for collecting the data.

Research Methodology

A survey method was adopted for the present research.

Sampling

For the present study, the researcher has adopted purposive sampling technique for the collection of the data. 25 students from each faculty were selected as sample for the study.

Sr. No.	Faculty	Name of the college	Number of students
1.	Arts	P.R.B. Arts and P.G.R. Commerce College, Bardoli	25
2.	Commerce	P.R.B. Arts and P.G.R. Commerce College, Bardoli	25
3.	Science	P.G.Science College, Bardoli	25
4.	Education	B.J.Patel College of Education, Bardoli	25
Total			100

Tools for the study

The title of the present research is “A study of opinions of students regarding semester system”. Keeping in mind the topic, the researcher decided to use self developed opinionnaire specifically developed for the study. The opinionnaire consisted of 15 statements and three open end questions.

Data Collection

Data were collected with the help of opinionnaire. There was no time limit given. The students have to give their opinion on three point scale. The students were asked to give their opinions freely on open end questions without any hesitation.

Analysis and Interpretation of the data

The present study consisted of study of opinion of 100 students of four different faculty and employed percentage analysis. The analysis of the data was done by finding frequency of every statement on the basis of information obtained. The interpretation of the statement was done by finding out the percentage.

Findings

From the analysis and interpretation of data of the present study, the researcher draws the following conclusion:

- (1) 60% of the students of all the four faculties believe that this system of education is better.
- (2) 96% of the students agreed that syllabus cannot be completed on time as availability of time is less because of late admission process and various other reasons.
- (3) 95% students said that there is not enough time for learning in semester system.
- (4) 56% students said that because they have to give two final exams in one year they did not enough time for preparation.
- (5) 72% students said that they have to pay exam fees twice so economically poor students have to suffer a lot.
- (6) As far as result is concerned, 84% students said that results are delayed.
- (7) 80% students agreed that they can get good results in semester system than annual system.
- (8) 82% students believed that they remain busy throughout the year.
- (9) As far as co-curricular activities are concerned, 70% students believed that they do not get enough time to spare for co-curricular activities.
- (10) 74% students believed that this system should continue for better results.

Students like this system because

- Syllabus is almost half than annual system so it is easy for preparation of exams.
- Students remain busy round the year, so maximum development of students takes place.

- Students can secure more marks in less hard work.
- One semester is completed than no need to remember the content for whole year.
- Workload is less so less mental tension on students.
- Students give more attention in teaching learning process.

Finally, we can say that that the semester system of examination is obviously better than annual system of examination in all respect.

Difficulty faced in Semester System

The studies of difficulties faced by the students in semester system are mentioned below:

- Shortage of time for preparation of exams.
- Economically more burden because they have to pay the exam fees twice.
- Syllabus cannot be completed because of less working hours.
- Books are not available on time.
- Results are delayed.
- Sufficient time is not available for participating in co-curricular activities.
- Students are always under the tension of exams.

Some suggestions were obtained from the students for better implementation of semester system which are discussed below:

- Students of Arts and Commerce faculty suggested that Exam paper should be of 50 marks instead of 70 marks.
- Syllabus should be such that it can be completed in available time and students can understand easily.
- Books should be available on time.
- Results should be declared on time.
- Time period for each semester should be increased so that syllabus can be completed on time.
- Students should be given enough time for preparation of exams.
- Schedule of exam should be made in the beginning of the year and followed strictly.
- In addition to teaching learning process, some activities which encourage creativity in students should be arranged properly.
- Some changes should be made in the marking scheme.
- Fee for exam should be less.
- Admission process should be completed on time.

- Students of Education faculty suggested that some workload should be decreased like Project work, teaching aids, etc.
- Working hours should be increased.
- Students suggested that they need some guidance regarding semester system.
- Students of Science faculty suggested that practical workload should be less.
- Students of the entire faculty suggested that facility of re-assessment should be given in all semesters.

In short, students of the entire faculty accepted that semester system is good and it should continue in future also, but some changes should be made keeping in mind benefits of students.

Conclusion

The present study was a humble attempt to study the opinion of students regarding semester system. However, there is not quite satisfaction. There may be several reasons for this. When it comes to the semester system, the students, educationists and college managements admit that it has its own merits, but feel that it could have been designed better to accommodate non-academic activities and enhance deeper learning.

The students should be motivated properly for this system. The researcher has selected the problem in a spirit of inquiry and in conclusion the researcher is fully satisfied that it has been a good learning experience. From the above discussion, it can be said that though this system of education is good, it has not proved itself and got satisfactory results. To make it effective necessary changes should be made in this system. Keeping in mind the benefits on the part of the students it should not be eliminated. Finally it can be said that though there is more burden on the part of students, lecturers, non-teaching staff, and librarians in this system, but overall it is beneficial for the students. Researcher humbly believes that present research will help in effective implementation of the Semester system.

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