

Press Note

Government issues order on duration and curriculum for the degree programs of academic year 2024-25 based on recommendations of the interim report of the State Education Policy Commission

Introduction

1. The Government of Karnataka had constituted the Karnataka State Education Policy Commission under the chairpersonship of Prof.Sukhdev Thorat in October 2023 (GO No: ED/166/UNE/2023, Bangalore, dated 11.10.2023).
2. The purpose of constitution of this Commission is to formulate an education policy for the State of Karnataka after undertaking a careful review of School Education and Higher Education in the State. The policy aims to facilitate a higher enrolment in School Education and Higher Education, to expand education with improved quality, ensure equal access to all individuals to quality education, to equip education to impart scientific knowledge to students, to enhance the employability of those who complete school education and higher education and to provide students with moral values and to inculcate among them democratic and citizenship values.
3. While the Commission is scheduled to give its final report in August 2024, an interim report has been submitted with recommendations. Government in August 2021 had issued order by implementing the National Education Policy. Based on the interim report recommendations of the State Education Policy Commission, certain modifications have been made to the duration and curriculum structure. The Government has issued the changes in Government Order ED166 UNE 2023 dated 8.5.2024.
4. The affiliation and admission process for 2024-25 degree courses in Karnataka has been initiated. In the interest of the students to begin the academic year without any delay, the process will be completed on priority. For the academic year 2024-25, certain changes are proposed as mentioned in the following paras.
5. The Thorat Commission held extensive public consultation over a period of 3 months. Consultation meeting with the Vice-Chancellors and Deans and Heads of the Boards of Studies of various universities and College Principals were held in November 2023. Regional meetings of various

stakeholders in four revenue divisions of Karnataka were held in December 2023. Among the stakeholders who attended these meetings were Vice Chancellors or their representatives, Principals, college teachers, representatives of the college teachers' associations, representatives of students' associations and educational experts in the respective region. Further, an online Survey was conducted. The respondents represented universities and colleges from metropolitan cities and small towns. Subsequently, two more rounds of consultations were held in Bangalore with various national-level and state-level education experts and with representatives of former Vice Chancellors' association in Karnataka in January 2024.

6. The main recommendations in the interim report pertain to the following:
 - a. Duration of the degree (Whether 3 years or 4 years)
 - b. Curriculum structure and multidisciplinary curriculum (For the students getting admission in 2024-25 academic year)
 - c. Multiple entry and exit with certificate (after 1 year) or diploma (after 2 years)
7. The recommendations are based on historical experience, the principle of overall interests of the students, equity, social justice and equal opportunity to students from different socio-economic backgrounds. The Commission opined that the reason for change in structure and duration of degrees to 4 years shows that the objective is the desire to bring parity with the global education systems, especially the US system to facilitate the admission of the undergraduate students to do a master's degree abroad. Keeping a 4 year degree program would potentially reduce access to undergraduate education for the poor, the socially disadvantage groups such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women and students from rural area. Further, lack of physical infrastructure and non-availability of facilities and faculty have been mentioned as one of the reasons for the unwillingness of the colleges to start 4-year UG programme.
8. Further, in relation to the curriculum, shifting from the three interrelated three core disciplines to two major disciplines in which students could opt for two disciplines which are not related, has been considered a major departure from the past and the major occupies less credit allotment to discipline core, as compared to the three major system. Thus, the three major system was preferred.

Changes to the duration and curriculum proposed for 2024-25 academic year

9. Based on the recommendations of the interim report of the Commission, the Government has decided to make the following changes in the higher education degree program and curriculum for all Public Universities and affiliated colleges under them. The details of the changes are in Government Order ED166 UNE 2023 dated 8.5.2024.
 - i. Duration of the Degree program: Undergraduate degree programmes would be for a period of three years only without the option of a four-year degree programme. The forth year was optional earlier.
 - ii. Curriculum Structure for three-year Degree Program: Three alternative UG Curriculum Frameworks (CFW) are proposed and agreed upon, they are as follows:
 - a. 3 majors with a general degree in all 6 semesters, or
 - b. 3 majors up to 4th semester and specialization in 1 subject in 5th and 6th semester or,
 - c. Single subject specialization from the 1st semester with Minors, (Ex: B.COM, BBA, BCA, BA/BSc(Bracket specialisation)) The details of the curriculum are attached herewith.
 - iii. Multiple entry and exit – Regarding allowing certificate after the first year and diploma after the 2nd year (multiple entry and exit), the government will decide on implementing the recommendations after the submission of the final report and not at this stage.
 - iv. The focus of the changes in the curriculum framework is to provide a breadth of knowledge, provide industry relevant skill based courses as well as providing autonomy to Universities (Board of Studies) to frame region specific courses. Apprenticeship-embedded degree courses will also be considered to be part of the curriculum.

No impact on existing batches

10. The changes would have no impact on the current students who are enrolled in the year 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24. They would continue in the existing system until they complete their graduation. Students admitted to the UG programmes during the academic years 2021-22; 2022-23 and 2023-24 shall continue to be governed by the existing Government order ED 260 UNE 2019 (Part 1) dated 7.8.2021 with respect to the duration as well as the curriculum.

11.The changes that have been announced would apply only to admissions from the academic year 2024-25 onwards.

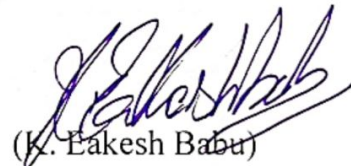
Affiliation and admission process for 2024-25

12.The University affiliation process and admissions will begin immediately and admissions as per new government order will be implemented. All Universities have been informed and any clarification regarding this may be sought by the colleges from their respective Universities.

13.This is being implemented pursuant to the no objection received from the Election Commission of India dated 2nd April 2024.

14.Affiliation Process will commence for colleges with the respective Universities on 09.05.2024 for the academic year of 2024-25 through UUCMS portal.

Date: 08.05.2024
Place: Bengaluru.



(K. Eakesh Babu)
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(Universities)