

KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION PLAN (RUSA 2.0)

DRAFT

SUBMITTED TO RUSA MISSION AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MHRD,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

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State Higher Education Plan

A. Pre requisites

Kerala is willing to abide by the stipulation of the *a priori* prerequisites, or commitments that must be made by the State governments as well as institutions in order to be eligible for receiving grants under RUSA.

a) **State Higher Education Council:**

The Kerala Higher Education Council was set up on 16th March 2007 on the basis of an Ordinance known as the Kerala Higher Education Council Ordinance 2006 and as per the Government Order G.O.(P) No. 37/2007/H. Edn dated , 16th March 2007 . The ordinance was subsequently replaced by Kerala State Higher Education Council Act, 2007.

The Act was amended by The Kerala State Higher Education Council (Amendment) Ordinance , 2017 as per RUSA guidelines.

The Kerala HEC is a high profile academic body , which has the Hon'ble Governor as the patron, Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala as the visitor, Hon. Minister of Education as the Chairman and Dr. Rajan Gurukkal P.M., a renowned academician, as its present Vice Chairman.

VISION

To attain higher levels of access, equity and excellence in the State Higher Education system with greater efficiency, transparency, accountability and responsiveness. The State will be in the league of the top ranked countries in terms of efficiency, competitiveness, services and market delivery in education to make Kerala a node to global knowledge network by 2030.

Students will have a strong commitment to communities, society and enterprises which will give them a sense of pride and identity, and will equip them with the skills to make significant contribution to the regional, national and global communities. Further, Higher Education Institutions will be the pivot for new ideas by research and these will translate into the sustaining innovative enterprises of the future. The higher education sector of Kerala is expected to be a vital force in the sustainable development of the State in future.

MISSION

- Raise the GER - Universalization of Higher Education – Quality Education for All (QEA).
- Ensure EQUITY to all especially to marginalized groups like SEBCs, SC/ST and other disabled.
- To make quality education affordable to all.
- Ensure ACCESS by balanced growth of Higher Education Institutions across the State.
- Expand the institutional base for ensuring ACCESS by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establishing new institutions in un-served and underserved areas by way of up gradation and consolidation.
- Enhance academic EXCELLENCE in all spheres of Higher Education.
- Adopting accreditation as a quality assurance framework.
- To create a global brand name in education with status as a global destination of information technology and IT - enabled services.
- Introduction of MIS to speed up the monitoring and feedback process.
- Streamline the funds from RUSA and the State Exchequer to the beneficiary institutions through KSHEC.

b) State Higher Education Plan (SHEP):

Kerala's Distinct Features

There are a few very significant and distinct policy features specific to the Kerala State, which have a transforming influence on the higher education sector. They are incompatibility of perspectives, special strategies of social preparation, quality assurance question, and Federal system related issues.

Incompatibility of Perspectives

A significant problem that disables the state higher education sector from taking benefits out of National Funding is the incompatibility of perspectives. Kerala has been pursuing an inclusive perspective of development, which combines growth with equity and access. As a result the state's approach of financial support in the higher education sector has been horizontal, with a strong sense of distributive justice. This is incompatible with exclusive approach of competitive selection and vertical privileging at the national level. Our national schemes are now increasingly harping on competitive selection of high graded institutions for enhanced financed support.

Kerala has been systematically working towards statewide quality enhancement through the implementation of nationally prescribed measures. Therefore, the state's preparedness in terms of developing basic prerequisites of institutional practices in universities and colleges for quality assurance is commendable. Kerala is the first state to implement all the UGC stipulated academic measures such as Semester System, Choice based Credit System, Curriculum development, Admission procedures, and Examination reform. Now the implementation of the UGC's current scheme of Outcome Based Education (OBE) with instructional transparency in teaching and purposeful understanding in learning is in progress under the initiative of the State Higher Education Council.

Strategies of Social Preparation

Kerala has set a model by itself in designing and implementing a variety of schemes of social preparation and academic quality assurance. Higher education initiatives of the state clearly show the conviction that the predicament of poor GER and low quality should be addressed with the help of a comprehensive package of social preparation strategies for enhancing the number of eligible youth with potentials to enter institutions of higher education. Instituting different scholarships of merit and means covering the entire duration and realms of higher education in arts, humanities, sciences and technology is an example. They are directly addressing economic backwardness, the main barrier, by adopting financial support as the prime strategy. Several other schemes also vouch for the state's commitment to social preparation through equitable distribution of economic resources. Various support schemes have been designed and instituted for addressing the unevenness in the learning capabilities of the youth. Special schemes have been introduced for nurturing academic interests in children at an early age, promotion of subject specific aptitudes through flexible choices, studies under the tutelage of mentors, field based direct learning, development of academic self-confidence through interaction with eminent scholars, motivation of the lagging, remedial care of the weak and those suffering from learning difficulties, etc. New initiatives involved schemes for improving infrastructural facilities in educational institutions, revamping of the curricula, providing of learning materials, introduction of effective faculty improvement measures, promotion of web-based content enrichment, and advanced instructional strategies based on electronic sophistication making the best use of NMIECT facilities. and ensured that they reach out even to institutions of interior areas. Erudite scholar-in-residence programme inviting Nobel Laureates and other academics of comparable eminence to Universities for academic benefits of interaction for students and teachers is an example of schemes helping

accumulation of non-economic resources.

The Kerala State Higher Education Scholarship is another example of social provisioning in higher education in the State. The main objective of the Scheme is to attract and retain talented students in non-professional academic schemes like sciences, humanities, social sciences etc. and about 3000 scholarships are given every academic year at the UG level to pursue non-professional courses and about 1200 scholarships are given at the PG level. Physically handicapped students are given 25% additional amount.

Category – wise Distribution of Scholarships

Open	OBC	SC/ST	BPL	PH
50%	27%	10%	10%	3%

Scholarship amount to UG and PG Students

Course	Existing Rate
UG 1 st Year	Rs.12,000/- (Rs. 15,000/- for PH Students)
UG 2 nd Year	Rs.18,000/- (Rs. 22,500/- for PH Students)
UG 3 rd Year	Rs.24,000/- (Rs. 30,000/- for PH Students)
PG 1 st Year	Rs.40,000/- (Rs. 50,000/- for PH Students)
PG 2 nd Year	Rs.60,000/- (Rs. 75,000/- for PH Students)

The Chancellor's Award

Another important incentive given to the state universities in Kerala is the Chancellor's Award. It has been instituted to nurture the spirit of healthy competition among the State Universities in Kerala, in becoming vibrant centers of learning. The prestigious award carries an amount of Rs. Five crores, a citation and Gold Plated Trophy . The prize money, provided by the State Government in its Budget, is meant for capital expenditure for any major project in the University.

Quality Assurance In Higher Education: Over emphasis of ‘NAAC’ grading

The quality assessment by NAAC is accomplished through a process of self-study and peer review using well defined criteria. The main purpose of assessment and accreditation is improvement and enhancement of quality, recognizing excellence, accountability, information providing and benchmarking.

Accreditation by NAAC is voluntary and is valid for 5 years. The progress in accrediting institutions is very slow in India. The 12th plan showed that only above one third of the universities and about one fifth of the colleges have been accredited at the beginning of the plan. India does not have an effective quality assurance system capable of overall supervision. However the challenge will be carrying out accreditation process on a large scale within a short period of time. An effective quality assurance system can help to ensure standards but the country has no such system in place currently capable of overall supervision. There is no mechanism for cross checking the validity of the data uploaded by private entrepreneurs in Higher Education and public institutions face several difficulties in this regard. Apart from NAAC grades, state – specific criteria such as, above national level GER of Kerala, (35.4%), the case of educational institutions with heritage value, level of enrolment of women, SC/ ST in higher education, larger allocation of budget share for education, higher level of GSDP to higher education etc should be considered for devolution of funds to Kerala.

Although there is a serious attempt at assuring objectivity through a reliable system of metrics, peer group visits based grading is not able to be objective as yet. NAAC itself conducted a study of the grading practice by deploying five teams to concurrently but independently assess an institution with the same data. Results showed over-shooting of the standard deviation fixed by NAAC.

Higher Education in a Federal System: Need for Consensus

In recent times several legislations pertaining to Higher Education were introduced by the central government and UGC which among other things, form the precondition for even applying for schemes under RUSA. They include UGC Regulations related to Autonomous Colleges and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC). These are Regulations related to the functioning of Autonomous Colleges in the country and Distance Education Programmes, which can impact the structure and quality of higher education institutions in the country. Earlier UGC was issuing only guidelines for Autonomous Colleges, called UGC Scheme for Autonomous Colleges. With the recent move to issue Regulations, UGC has crossed the threshold of its original provisions envisaged in the UGC Act. The well settled practice of holding meaningful consultations with the federating units, in matters related to higher education may be followed keeping alive the spirit of cooperative federalism.

c) Financial Contribution to Higher Education as a % of GSDP

The present State expenditure on Higher Education is 1 % of GSDP. The Government proposes to increase the expenditure to 2% of the GSDP by the end of the RUSA 2.0.

d) State funding- commitment and timelines:

The State government proposes to gradually increase to spend on the State higher education sector 2% its GSDP during the course of implementation. The State shall be providing its share, and the funds shall be transferred to the State Higher Education Councils (SHECs) within a time period of 15 days.

e) Agreement to create separate fund for RUSA:

To facilitate transfer of funds, proper banking arrangements have been made. The SHEC/ RUSA -SPD and beneficiary institutions have opened dedicated RUSA accounts in scheduled commercial banks/ nationalized banks.

The details of accounts are given below.

RUSA Account

Sl. No.	Name of College	Name of Bank	Account No.
1.	Govt. College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram	Canara Bank	0819101102235
2.	College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram	Canara Bank	2608201000087
3.	Govt. College, Attingal	Canara Bank	2790101010785
4.	Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad	SBI	35265183866
5.	Maharaja's College, Ernakulam	Canara Bank	0806101071826
6.	Govt. Brenner College, Dharmadam, Thalassery	SBI	35270174503
7.	PMG College, Chalakkudy	Canara Bank	0708101054501
8.	Govt. College, Madappally	Canara Bank	0753201001474
9	Govt. College Kasaragod.	Canara Bank	4204101000482
10	University College, Thiruvananthapuram	Canara Bank	0819101100311
11	Krishna Menon Memorial Govt. Women's College, Pallikunnu, Kannur	Punjab National Bank	4259000100527016
12	Govt. College, Mananthavady, Wayanad	Canara Bank	0248101020469
13.	SNGS College, Pattambi	Canara Bank	0853101067184
14.	Sri.C.Achutha Menon Govt. College, Kuttanellur,	Canara Bank	2940101027415

	Thrissur.		
15.	Govt. Arts & Science College, Meenchantha	SBI	67342875932
16	Govt. College, Kodenchery		0826101062078
17	Govt College Nedumangadu	Canara Bank	2683101014175
18	Tunchan Memorial Govt College, Triur	Canara Bank	0800101102360
19	NMSM College, Kalpatta	Canara Bank	0746101024210
20	University of Calicut	SBI	67322926915
21	SreeSankaracharya Sanskrit University, kalady	Union Bank of India	720802010000514
22	Cochin University of Science & Technology, Ernakulam	SBI	4663101003020
23	M G University, Kottayam	SBT	67339748466
24	University of Kerala, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram	SBI	67339400860
25	Kannur University	SBI	36947642356
26	UGC HRDC, University of Kerala	Canara Bank	2762101010375
27	RUSA - SPD	Canara Bank	0819101097660
28	KSHEC	Union Bank of India	336302010139637

f) Filling Faculty Positions:

The States proposes to fill the vacant faculty positions in a phased manner.

Government Colleges

The State has not imposed a ban on regular recruitment of faculty, and as such the total number of sanctioned posts of teachers in Government Colleges, including Training Colleges, is 2915. Of which 2676 (91.82%) posts are filled up. The remaining post will be filled in a time bound manner.

Aided Colleges

In the case of Aided Colleges in the state the Government of Kerala has issued specific orders fixing workload/teaching staff vide GO No. GO(MS) No.93/2018/H Dt.09-05-2018. This order will speed up the process of filling up of vacancies in aided colleges in the state.

Universities

Universities in the state are taking steps to fill up teaching post based on UGC Regulations and government norms of reservation.

g) Accreditation reforms:

The SHEC and RUSA –SPD are striving to get all the existing institutions accredited by NAAC. The State has taken steps to establish two official bodies, The Kerala State Assessment and Accreditation Council (KSAAC), and State Level Quality Assurance Cell (SLQAC) for aiding the colleges to get accredited.

- **Accreditation of Government Colleges**

Of the total 63 Government Arts and Science colleges 35 of them are accredited by NAAC. Steps are being taken to accredit the remaining colleges.

- **Accreditation of Aided Colleges**

Of the total 156 Aided colleges in the state, 88 colleges are accredited by NAAC at 'A' level, 39 colleges are accredited at 'B' level and the remaining colleges are taking steps to get accreditation.

h) Academic, Examination and Administrative Reforms

The universities in the State of Kerala (Kannur university, Mahatma Gandhi University, University of Kerala, University of Calicut and Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit) implemented several academic and examination reforms based on the action plan of UGC and KSHEC since 2009-10 academic year. They include

- Semester System
- Choice – based Credit System
- Curriculum development
- Admission procedures
- Examination reform

Universities in the state of Kerala initiated several academic and administrative reforms as per the directives of University Grants Commission during XI Five Year Plan (2008-2012), with a view to enhance both equity and excellence in higher education of University system and colleges affiliated to it.

- **Introduction of Semester System and Curriculum Development in Universities in Kerala**

In tune with the directions and guidelines of the UGC and curriculum framework development of KSHEC, the Universities in Kerala initiated several steps for the restructuring of the undergraduate system from 2009-10 academic year. Under the restructured programme, the undergraduate programme would be carried out through semester and credit system.

Syndicate sub committees were constituted for the preparation of detailed guidelines for the updation of the UG Syllabi and the Committees framed draft Regulations for Undergraduate programmes under Choice based Course-Credit-Semester (CBLSS) and Grading Pattern. The Academic Council of the Universities approved the Regulations for the new pattern and the Syndicate/ Senate adopted the same. In addition to the financial support, the Kerala State Higher Education Council played a catalyst role without interfering with the autonomy of the University in this regard by arranging a series of workshops, seminars and consultations at all levels. The curriculum frame work of under graduate (UG) programme was designed by a committee constituted by KSHEC under the chairmanship of Dr. M. Vijayan of IISC Bangalore.

Implementation of the Scheme : - Participatory Mode

Before introducing the scheme, several meetings of the stake holders were conducted and several Orientation Programmes – both for teaching and non-teaching categories in the College and University Level – were conducted. Various Boards of Studies, based on the guidelines prepared by the University and Higher Education Council, framed Scheme and Syllabi of the various programmes. From 2009 admission onwards, the new scheme was implemented in the affiliated colleges, for all the 108 undergraduate programmes in the traditional, vocational and new generation streams. The Universities of Kerala introduced the CBCSS well 2010-11 academic years.

Based on the detailed guidelines for restructuring Undergraduate courses on Choice Based Course-Credit-Semester System and Grading prepared by the Syndicate subcommittee, **Five day Curriculum workshops** were conducted in two phases. At the first phase, 14th and 15th of May 2009, preliminary discussions were conducted in the workshops and in the second phase, workshops were conducted from 20th to 22nd May 2009 to draft the Scheme and Syllabi. The workshop was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor on 14th

June 2009. Experts of various disciplines and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore participated in the workshops. Universities conducted **workshops/orientation programmes** for the entire academic community including Principals, Teachers, College Level Co-coordinators and Non-teaching staff of the affiliated colleges and University. Based on the academic calendar meetings were also conducted by the University for Principals and College level co-ordinators of CBCSS, in different zones under the universities.

Under the CBCSS Regulations for UG Programmes, a Co-ordinator was appointed in every college to act as a link between the University and individual colleges in matters relating to the conduct of CBCSS System in affiliated colleges. University level meeting of CBCSS Co-ordinators and teachers of affiliated colleges were held in June 2009.

The support staff in affiliated colleges were given training in the new pattern of restructured Credit-semester programme. The meeting programmes included IT enabled practical classes.

A University level Monitoring Committee consisting of the members of the Syndicate with Pro-Vice-Chancellor as Chairman and the Registrar as the Member Secretary monitored the progress of the implementation of CBCSS.

Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kannur university, Kannur, University of Calicut, Kozhicode University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and Sree Sankaracharya university of Sanskrit, Kalady introduced the Scheme of Credit-Semester and Grading system for its various undergraduate programmes from 2009-10 Academic year onwards. Kerala University introduced the CBCSS scheme in 2010-11 academic year. All the undergraduate programmes – Model-I, Model-II, UGC Sponsored and New Generation courses Restructured courses – except Private Registration, Distance Education and Professional courses were brought under the scheme. In Mahatma Gandhi University alone about 30,000 students were enrolled at the first degree level in CBCSS in the affiliated Arts and Science Colleges. A

common academic and examination calendar is followed by Universities for the CBCSS programmes, with fair degree of accuracy.

- **Choice- Based Credit System**

The Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes under the Choice Based Credit-Semester and Grading Scheme contain provision for a four (4) Credit Open Course. The general pattern of the programme consists of six specific categories of courses, namely Common, Core, Complementary, Open, Choice-based and Methodology courses. It is mandatory for all the students of Undergraduate programmes to earn these four credits during the Fifth Semester of their Programmes. The list of Open courses approved by various Board of Studies (BoS) alone will be permitted to be taken by the Colleges.

Workshops on Open Courses : Based on the draft guidelines issued regarding the conduct of Open Courses, University Level Workshops at different district head quarters were conducted for members of the Board of Studies and Teachers of the affiliated colleges. On the basis of the feedback from teachers, revised guidelines were finalised and implemented.

Open Courses in Under Graduate Programmes Under CBCSS

For the smooth conduct of classes and examination, selection and enrollment of students in Open Courses, the University formulated the following guidelines.

- 1) Students can choose the Course.
- 2) Their choice shall be recommended by the Faculty Advisor
- 3) There shall be a minimum of 15 students and maximum of 70 students for an Open Course study in a class.
- 4) The faculty position and infrastructural facilities should be taken into account.
- 5) The College Council should act as the Co-ordinating agency for selecting

the Open Courses in a College

- 6) The Principal and College Level Co-ordinator of CBCSS should act as the link between the Colleges and University in the resolution of all matters in this regard.
- 7) There will be no change in the work load on account of Introduction of Open Courses.
- 8) The four credits Open Course is a full-credit course and minimum of four hours in every week in the Fifth Semester shall be allotted for its study. A Separate list of students and Registers should be maintained by every Department.
- 9) One Common period/hour should be set apart every day for the conduct of Open Course in the Fifth Semester in every College. The time table for Open course shall be finalized by the College Council to facilitate hassle free mobility of students between department and cross subjects of study.
- 10) The details of Open Courses opted by the Colleges concerned have to be communicated to the University in the prescribed format within two weeks from the commencement of Fifth Semester.
- 11) Details of students in each Open course shall also be communicated in the prescribed format within one month from the commencement of the fifth semester.
- 12) Chairpersons of Board of Studies (BoS) (UG) shall submit Model Question Papers of all Open Courses within two months of commencement of the Fifth Semester.
- 13) The Chairpersons shall organize workshops for the preparation of Model Question Papers of Open Courses within one month of the commencement of fifth semester.
- 14) The details of internal evaluation of Open Courses shall be kept in the Department which offers the Open Course to a group of students.
- 15) The details of grades secured in Assignment/Seminar/tests, as part of

internal evaluation of Open Courses shall be submitted to the parent department of students, which shall be forwarded to the University along with details of other courses in the Fifth Semester.

Workshops on Open Courses :

Based on the guidelines issued regarding the conduct of Open Courses, University conducted three University Level Workshops for members of the Board of Studies and Teachers of the affiliated colleges. In the Vth Semester examinations for open courses were conducted in November 2011.

Monitoring System for the Implementation of CBCSS :

As per the Regulations, there were three level monitoring system for the implementation of the CBCSS in the affiliated colleges.

- **Department Level Monitoring Committee:** In every affiliated college, department wise Monitoring committees were established to co-ordinate the implementation of CBCSS of the Department level. It included all faculty members headed by the Head of the Department, Department –level Co-ordinators, Lecturers in charge of each class and a Faculty Advisor. The Department level Co-ordinator act as a link between the individual department and the College level Monitoring Committee. He also along with the Faculty Advisor interact with the students and teachers under the Department to co-ordinate / facilitate the smooth conduct of the teaching-learning activities and attainment of curriculum objectives envisaged in CBCSS. The Faculty Advisor helps the students in matters of selection of Complementary, Open and Choice Based Courses.

• **College Level Monitoring Committee:** College Level Monitoring Committee consists of Principal, Head of Departments / Department level Co-ordinators and the College level Co-ordinator. The College level co-ordinator plays the dual roles – (1) act as a link between the College and University in academic and administrative matters related to implementation of Credit-semester system and (2) as a meeting point for department level co-ordinators of the college concerned. University conducted co-ordinators meeting in every semester until the programme stabilized

• **University Level Monitoring Committee:** The University Level Monitoring Committee for CBCSS consisted of

- Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Chairman)
- Convener, Syndicate Sub Committee on Examinations
- Convener, Syndicate Sub Committee on Academic
- Convener, Syndicate Sub Committee on Affiliation
- Convener, Syndicate Sub Committee on Self Finance
- Controller of Examinations and
- Registrar (Member Secretary)

The Committee supervised both the Academic /Administrative and Examination related aspects of implementation of CBCSS. Meetings of the Principals, Co-ordinators, non-teaching staff of affiliated colleges were held in every semester to facilitate the smooth implementation of the CBCSS in the Colleges. Training programme for the University staff were organized. The Monitoring Committee was instrumental in creating an efficient Cluster of Colleges for Centralised valuation of Answer books. For this Nine zonal Centralised Valuation Clusters spread over four districts, covering 130 Arts and Science Colleges were operationalised. University staff were deputed to these

Centralised Valuation Camps with necessary internet enabled laptops for on-line transmission of Grades to the Central Computer in the University Campus.

The Academic calendar for various programmes was drawn up by the Monitoring committee, which helped the optimization of 90 mandatory working days in a semester. The calendar was prepared and supplied to affiliated colleges before the commencement of each semesters indicating the time frame for conduct and submission of internal examinations / grades and University level semester examination, based on the University general examination calendar published every year.

The members of the Monitoring Committee were given specific tasks of supervising the functioning of Centralised Valuation Camps in different region of the University.

Reforms of Admission Procedures

Admission to University Statutory Departments/ Schools/Inter University Centres:

Admission of students to M.Phil and Ph.D programmes are based on inter se merit and reservation norms of the Government. In the University Schools and Departments including Inter University Centres, admission are based on entrance examination and qualifying marks (50:50). Admission to M.Phil and Ph.D are based on the UGC Regulations for Ph.D, 2009.

Admission are completed in September every year and the University is centrally co-ordinating the admission process, except in the case of Professional courses (MBA and LLB) where the individual schools are given the freedom to conduct entrance examination.

Introduction of Centralised Admission Process (CAP) for Postgraduate (PG) and Under Graduate (UG) Programmes in Affiliated Arts & Science Colleges:-

All the affiliating universities in the State is following the Single Window System (SWS) of admission called Centralized Allotment Process (CAP) for PG and UG programmes since 2009-10. Apart from its social and educational significance in ensuring *interse merit* based admission in Government / aided and self-financing affiliated Arts and Science Colleges, the CAP initiative is considered as the finest example of democratization of student admission and modernization of University system with the state of the art technology

Before the commencement of admission every year, meetings were called for to discuss various issues relating the Centralised Allotment Process with Principals of the affiliated Colleges, Managers of the Colleges, Representatives of the Teachers' Organisations and representatives of Non-teaching organizations of the University. A draft Prospectus regarding the Centralised Allotment Process (CAP) was discussed in these meetings. Majority of the stakeholders welcomed the idea of the introduction of the CAP and asked for timely completion of the admission process. One section – the Management Association – raised several objections with regard to the implementation of the Centralized Allotment.

The Benefits of Centralised Admission Process (CAP): Democratization of College Admission

- The CAP initiative taken by the University in the admission of students for Postgraduate Programmes has been widely acclaimed by all the stakeholders in the higher education sector. The Principals of the affiliated colleges welcomed the move of the University for the CAP in the meeting convened by the University to discuss matters relating to the Postgraduate admission. The Colleges affiliated to the University got students from the entire State for the various academic programmes conducted by them.

- The CAP marked a notable increase in the number of students admitted to Postgraduate Programmes during 2010-11 compared to that of the previous year. It helped all the Government as well as aided Colleges fill up their entire seats. In Unaided Colleges also there was a considerable increase in the number of students admitted compared to the pre CAP period. Students from almost all the Districts of the State took admission to the Postgraduate Programmes of the University. Earlier, students from the nearby area of the colleges alone were available for admission to the Programmes during the past years. With the introduction of CAP, students across the State seek admission to colleges. This has resulted in a change in the social and cultural composition of the student community enrolled in different colleges. The rural and less known colleges are the major beneficiaries of CAP. It is significant to note in the context that students from Malabar region could secure admission to the Colleges of Central Travancore in a proportion unprecedented. The number of students from SC/ST and other backward community, who could secure admission to various Postgraduate Programmes, has increased with the introduction of CAP. The spot allotment for SC/ST categories was a great help to this. All this makes explicit as to how the CAP helped tremendously the cause of access/ equity in Higher Education.
- The Principals of many affiliated colleges have informed the University that the colleges got students to all their Postgraduate Programmes. The CAP provided a big relief to the Principals of Government Colleges too, who used to face difficulties in filling the seats with good students. The College authorities co-operated with the University in a big way by reporting the unfilled seats as and when it was sought by the University. It is reported that the hostels in several colleges, which were languishing due to poor enrolment, have fresh lease of life.

- **Examination Reforms**

1. Computer Automation of Examination Procedures and On-line Registration of Students

From 2011-12 admission, University introduced Centralised Allotment Process (CAP) for the undergraduate programmes offered in the affiliated colleges and the details of the admitted students in each college were submitted through on-line. These data are now being used by the University for preparing the Nominal Roll and Hall Tickets.

2. On-line Supply of Hall Tickets

University introduced on-line generated Hall Tickets for the CBCSS programmes. From the First Semester examinations (2009 November) onwards, the on-line Hall Tickets were generated and the Principals of the affiliated colleges were provided with a Pass word and using the Pass word, the Principals down loaded the Nominal Roll and Hall tickets of the students of their College. The same is extended to B.Ed. and B.Tech courses also, putting an end the old practice of making a rush about delivering the Hall Tickets at the door steps of colleges at the 11th hour.

3. Usage of Bar-coded Answer Scripts

Mahatma Gandhi University introduced Bar Coded Stitched Answer Books containing 24 pages, for the CBCSS examinations for the undergraduate programmes in November 2009. By implementing this Answer Books, malpractices in the conduct of examinations are being reduced to a great extent as the need for using additional/loose sheets are completely eliminated. The time consuming false numbering system was replaced by modern security systems of examination management, as well.

4. On-line Submission of Internal Grades

University developed soft wares for the on-line submission of Internal Grades and the Principals of the affiliated colleges using the password provided to them can submit the internal grades to the University on-line. This helps the University an easy and speedy compilation of Grades and finalization of results. The Colleges are directed to submit the Internal Grades in hard copy also duly signed by the Class Teacher, Head of the Department and Principal and this will facilitate the University to verify the veracity of the data submitted by the Colleges through on-line.

5. On-line Transmission of Valuation Data

The University organized Nine Zonal Valuation Centres for the valuations of Answer Books and in each Centre, an average of 3,000 candidates' answer books are being valued. The University developed softwares for on-line transmission of data from the Centralised Valuation Centres to the Computer Wing of the University (CETEX). This enabled the University to enter data easily, quickly and with accuracy. In the CETEX, the data received from the Valuation camps are integrated with the Internal Grades submitted on line by the Colleges and results were finalized. This was a major steps in the timely publication of results by the University.

6. Computerization of Tabulation Sections

University has computerised the Tabulation Sections of Undergraduate Programmes. Tabulation sections of B.Tech courses are also computerized and the data are entered in the Tabulation section itself, which is connected to the Centralised Computer Wing. This has remarkably accentuated the process of the finalization of results.

Review of Curriculum Reforms Introduced in Undergraduate Programmes

The conduct of UG programmes was consistently monitored and reviewed at various levels. They include:-

1. University Level

The Implementation Committee on CBCSS consisting of the members of the Syndicate with Pro-Vice-Chancellor as Chairman and the Registrar as the Member Secretary is monitoring the progress of the implementation of restructured CBCSS Programmes. The Committee convenes meeting constantly for discussing various affairs including finalization of academic calendar, conduct of Examinations, Valuation at C.V. Camps, Publication of Results etc. The academic, administration and examination branches of the University finetune the various aspects of the implementation of CBCSS under the supervision of the University Level Monitoring Committee.

2. Review by Board of Studies

The respective Board of Studies in various programmes conducted workshops for improving the curriculum. Curriculum review workshops are organized in Malayalam, English, Sanskrit, Tamil, Music, Chemistry, Botany, Physics, Mathematics, Commerce, History, Aquaculture and fisheries, Philosophy, Sociology, Economics Board of Studies at various College and in the University.

Based on the consensus arrived at the Workshops, Board of Studies have suggested certain modifications / additions / deletions and the same have been submitted to the University for approval. Necessary further orders in this regard were issued by modifying the existing Scheme/Syllabi of various programmes giving effect from the next academic year onwards.

Conduct of Practical Examinations

The practical examinations of the programmes were conducted immediately after completion of the Theory examinations. There was an Oral Examination for the Common course – English – Oral Communication Skill Test – and this was the first in the history of the Universities in Kerala that the Board of Studies in English prescribed such an examination and was widely appreciated by the teaching community.

Based on the feed back from teachers, recommendations of various Board of Studies and the practice in other Universities, University has decided to conduct the Practical Examinations of First, Third and Fifth Semester Examinations at the College Level (except that of English Common Course) and that of Second, Fourth and Sixth Semester Examinations at the University Level from 2011 admission onwards.

Examinations

The examinations of the undergraduate programmes are now being conducted by the University as per the schedule and the final results of all the 108 degree programmes of 2009 admission students published in July 2012, the first semester results of the new CBCSS was published in record time (with in 45 days) by Mahatma Gandhi Univeristy, University of Calicut and Kannur University.

Scheme of Evaluation

- **Direct Grading**

Direct Grading System based on a 5 point scale is used to evaluate the performance (External and Internal Examinations) of the students for each semester and the overall grade for a programme for certification was based on CGPA with a 7 point scale.

Re-structuring of PG Programmes :- Credit Semester System (CSS)

The Universities in the state implemented the Credit Semester and Grading System for all the Postgraduate Programmes from 2012-13 Academic year. University considered 2012-13 academic year as academically opportune time for this as the first batch of graduates under the CBCSS stream completed their programmes in the same year. Regulations for the PG Programmes was adopted by the Academic Council and the Syndicate of the University and Notification in this regard was issued. Meetings with various stake holders were conducted by the University and various Board of Studies conducted workshops for drafting / finalizing the Scheme and Syllabi. The various BoS submitted the final Scheme and Syllabi of the programmes and the approved Scheme and Syllabi of the PG programmes were uploaded in the University Website before the commencement of the first semester PG classes on September 2012.

- **Introduction of Semester System in Private / Distance Education Stream from 2012-13 academic year**

University framed and introduced Regulations for introduction of Credit-Semester and Grading Scheme for the Private / distance Education Stream for the undergraduate programmes from 2012-13 academic year onwards. This helped the mobility of students from regular to distance mode and vice – versa.

New Initiatives

1. Introduction of Academic Week

The new regulations for Credit-Semester programmes introduced ‘Academic Week’ as a unit of five working days in which distribution of work is organized from day one to day five, with five contact hours of one hour duration on each day. A sequence of 18 such academic weeks constitute a semester.

2. Vacation in November and May

As per the Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes under Choice Based Course-Credit-Semester System and Grading, the Semester breaks/Vacation will be one month each in November and May every year instead of April and May vacation. As required under Statute 37 of Chapter 23 of Mahatma Gandhi University Statutes, 1997, the Syndicate at its meeting held on 30.06.2011 resolved to make the “Mahatma Gandhi University Ordinance, 2011 regarding Academic Year, Semesters, Vacation and Holidays”. As per University Notification No.Ac.L/1/2011/Ord/ Vacation dated 3 September 2011, the above Ordinance, giving effect from 30 June 2011 was published for general information and the same was submitted to the office of the Chancellor of the University. The Higher Education Council meeting held on 18.11.2011 with the Pro-Vice-Chancellors of the Universities in the State resolved to recommend the Government to implement the Semester breaks during the months of November and April, as implemented in the Mahatma Gandhi University.

In the second stage of preparation of State Higher Education Plan (SHEP) the following 14 components are considered.

Component 1

Creation of University by way of up-gradation of Existing Autonomous Colleges

Maharaja's college Ernakulam is the only Government Autonomous college in the state, and it is the sole institution that could be considered for up-gradation to a University (public). The CGPA of the college is 3.11, and hence does not fulfill the eligibility criteria. Therefore the State is not in a position to apply for grants under this component.

Component 2

Creation of Universities by conversion of colleges in a cluster

The Government of Kerala has established the three 'Clusters' under the Cluster of Colleges Scheme' in the state in 2009.

In order to promote co-operation among the neighbouring colleges with a view to improving both access and quality of higher education imparted on the state, The Kerala State Higher Education Council has formulated a scheme named cluster of colleges .The council decided to set up three clusters at Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulum and Kozhikode.

The Kerala State Higher Education Council conducted discussions with the managers and Principals of the prospective partnering colleges, teacher representatives and student representatives. Govt. have approved the scheme of cluster colleges and accorded administrative sanction for the implementation of the scheme .Accordingly Principals, representatives of management signed the MoU on 19/3/09 and thus the cluster of college scheme came into existence at Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulum. Later a Cluster was established at Kozhicode .The higher education Council transferred a grant-in-aid of Rs.1crore for each cluster of colleges on the basis of the MoU. There are five colleges in each Cluster.

Formation of New Clusters

The Higher Education Council has proposed setting up of three Clusters in Palakkad, Kannur and Kasaragod districts to the government of Kerala.

Another proposal for the formation of three 'cluster colleges' has been presented by HEC to the Government.

However, the member colleges of the clusters have not yet secured the required CGPA for being converted to University (public). The state, thus, is not in a position to be apply for grants under this component.

Concrete steps are being taken to get the Government colleges accredited by NAAC and acquire the required CGPA.

The state has instituted a State Level Quality Assurance Cell (SLQAC) and (KSAAC) in order to assist colleges to get accreditation.

Component 3

Infrastructure grants to Universities

At present, only 6 out of 13 universities in the State have NAAC accreditation, and all the 6 are in receipt of infrastructural grants under RUSA phase-I.

Of the remaining 7 universities only Malayalam University and National University for Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS) come under the ambit of RUSA.

These Universities, especially Malayalam University, have been directed to take measures to obtain NAAC accreditation, so as to be eligible under this component. They are instructed to get prepared for NAAC accreditation at the earliest without waiting for the 5 year term.

Component 4

Enhancing quality and Excellence in Select State University (New) (100 Crore)

As of now, no University in Kerala has acquired Grade 1 status (ie. A++ with grade point 3.51- 4.00). However, 5 Universities have 'A' Grade, with MG University at the top with grade point 3.24.

Steps are being taken by the universities to increase their NAAC grading without waiting for the usual five year period of reaccreditation.

Component 5

New Model Colleges (General)

New Model College at Wayanad

State is willing to start a new model college in the district. The process is under way to identify location and prepare DPR for the same

Component 6

Upgradation of Existing Degree Colleges to Model Degree Colleges.

The following colleges in Wayanad district are eligible to get grants under this component.

- a) NMSM Government college, kalpetta
- b) Government College Mananthavady

Component 7

New Colleges (Professional)

Under this component new professional colleges can be proposed in two districts of Kerala – Idukki and Kasaragod.-in the field of Architecture, Fine Arts and Law.

Component 8

Enhancing quality & Excellence in Autonomous Colleges

Of the 19 autonomous colleges in Kerala, 6 Aided colleges have A++ NAAC accreditation (list attached).

Component 9

Infrastructure grants to Colleges

Infrastructure grant of Rs. 2 crore each were provided to 20 Government Colleges in Phase –I. 127 colleges in the State with NAAC gradation between 2.5 and 3.5 are eligible under this heading.

Component 10

Research Innovation & quality improvement (State as Unit)

In the state five universities are eligible to apply for funds under this heading as they have a NAAC grading above 3.01

Component 11

Equity Initiatives

In phase I of RUSA, Rs. 5 Crore had been allotted to the state under this component, of which the first installment of Rs. 2.5 Crore has been availed of by RUSA-SPD, and fully earmarked to provide ‘women’s amenity centres’ in 31 Government Colleges across Kerala. The second installment of Rs. 2.5 crore is proposed to be utilized for constructing a womens’ hostel in Attappadi, Palakkad district.

In the second phase we are proposing the case of HRDC of Kannur University and University of Calicut for construction of womens’ hostel.

Component 12

Faculty Recruitment Support

To avail of the grants under this component, 90% of sanctioned posts in Colleges and Universities are to be filled up. In Kerala the total number of sanctioned posts of teachers in Government Colleges, including Training Colleges, is 2915. Of which 2676 (91.82%) posts are filled up.

However, MHRD insists on institution-wise and subject –wise faculty position. Moreover, the expected student –Teacher ratio is 20: 1, and 25:1 for new institutions.

Government Colleges, University departments and aided colleges are eligible to apply.

Component 13

Faculty Improvements

HRDC of Kerala University is eligible to get grants under this component.

Component 14

Institutional Restructuring, Capacity Buildings & Reform

RUSA had received a total of Rs. 8.65 crore in two installments under this component in Phase – I. The first installment of Rs. 4.04 crore has been fully utilized and the second installment of Rs.4.61crore is currently being utilized. The grant is utilized for conducting programmes like Shasthrayan, National workshops, TSG meetings etc... and to meet the recurring expenses of RUSA State Project Directorate.

KSHEC and RUSA SPD are eligible to get grants under this component. The Funds are to be utilized for continuing the projects undertaken under Phase 1. RUSA SPD proposes to organize a national level workshop on RUSA Phase –II with representations from all states in India, showcasing the best practices of each state and initiatives in academic reforms. KSHEC is initiating an All Kerala Higher Education Survey to create a database of Higher Education Institutions, GER in the state, and all other information related to Higher Education in the state.

Baseline Data:

Sl. No.	Prerequisite	Key Questionnaire	State's response (YES/NO) / Commitment as per a set timeline
1.	State Higher Education Council	Does the State agree to Create the State Higher Education Council according to the suggestion made under RUSA	YES
2.	State Perspective Plan	Does the State agree to create and submit the State Higher Education Plan according to prescribed guidelines	YES
3.	Financial Contribution to Higher Education as a % of GSDP	Does the State agree to scale up to and maintain prescribed levels of funding to higher education as a % of State Gross Domestic Product (GSD)	YES
4.	Adherence to timelines for fund release	Does the State agree to share the project cost of the Government funded and aided institutions with MHRD in the applicable ration (10:90, 40:60)	YES
5.	Agreement to create separate fund for RUSA	Does the State agree to create separate fund for RUSA	YES
6.	Filling Faculty Vacancies	Does the State agree to fill up vacant faculty positions	YES
7.	Accreditation reforms	Does the State commit for all State HEIs to apply for accreditation	YES
8.	Academic, Affiliation and examination reforms	Does the State agree to implement all reforms mentioned under RUSA	YES
9.	Governance and Administrative reforms at State Level	Does the State agree to implement all the sectoral governance reforms mentioned under RUSA	YES
10.	Institutional governance	Does the State agree to implement all the institutional governance/	YES

	(Administrative) reforms	Administrative reforms mentioned under RUSA	
11.	Participation in AISHE	Does the State agree for all institutions to participate in AISHE survey and provide requisite data yearly?	YES

Conclusion

The performance of RUSA-SPD of the state had made a commendable performance in Phase I, with an average fund utilization of 88% covering Universities, Government Colleges and Academic Staff Colleges.

The Phase II of RUSA covers 14 components, and aided colleges in the state based on Government policy.

The State Higher Education Plan (SHEP) for the second phase was formulated after consultation and discussion at various levels with all stake holders. The Technical Support Group (TSG) workshop for this was conducted for three days from 7th to 9th of May 2018 at Kerala State Higher Education Council. The Executive Body and Governing Body of the Kerala State Higher Education Council with wide representation of the entire cross section of society including Students, Teachers, Academicians, Vice Chancellors of all universities, representatives of Local Bodies participated. Others who contributed to the plan preparation include Director RUSA –SPD, Co coordinator RUSA – SPD, Research officers of RUSA and KSHEC and other officials of RUSA and KSHEC.

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Member Secretary

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