FOUR YEARS

OF

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

2017-2021

November 2021

PATRON

Shri. Arif Mohammed Khan
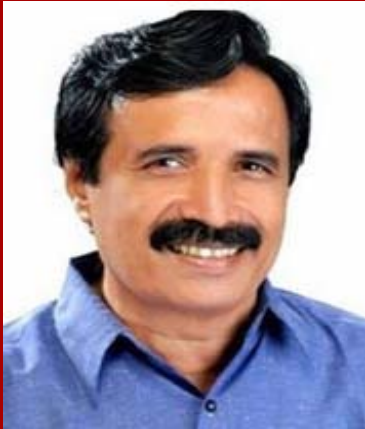Hon'ble Governor of Kerala

VISITOR

Shri.Pinarayi Vijayan
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala

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Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education

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Preface

The Kerala State Higher Education Council came into existence on 16th March 2007, with the renowned educationist and historian Dr. K.N. Panikkar as its first Vice-Chairman and Professor Thomas Joseph as the Member Secretary. Sri. T.P. Sreenivasan, former Ambassador was the Vice-Chairman and Dr P. Anvar was the Member Secretary of the second Council, formed on 12th October 2011. There was a time lag of over a year for the constitution of the third council. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal, former Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and renowned historian, was appointed as One-Man Commission in 2016 to review the performance and activities of the Council and propose amendments to the Act, 2007. The Commission submitted its report to the Government in January, 2017. In accordance with the report the Kerala State Higher Education Council (Amendment) Act, 2017 was promulgated The Kerala State Higher Education Council Amendment Act 2018 stated that the Council will collaborate with *Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)*

One Member Commission

One Member Commission headed by Prof Rajan Gurukkal after wide consultation with major stakeholders, submitted its report to the Government in January 2017. In accordance with the report the Kerala State Higher Education Council (Amendment) Act, 2018 was promulgated which among other things incorporated provisions in Act to collaborate with *Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan* (RUSA) and evolve common academic guidelines for the universities in the state for recognition / approval for equalization of academic programmes.

Subsequently Professor Rajan Gurukkal was appointed as the Vice Chairman and Dr. Rajan Varughese former Pro vice chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, as Member Secretary of the third Council, constituted on 7th November 2017.

The Council's Structure and Function

The Kerala State Higher Education Council Act, 2007 empowers the Council, with a three-tier structure, consisting of an Advisory Body, Governing Body and Executive Body; to review and coordinate the implementation of policies in all higher education institutions in the State including Universities, research institutions and colleges. Network various programmes in higher education undertaken and promoted by the Central and State

Governments and by national level regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, National Council for Teacher Education, Medical Council of India, Bar Council of India and other similar statutory bodies.

The Council shall:

(a) Render advice to the Government, Universities and other institutions of higher education in the State

(b) Coordinate the roles of the Government, Universities and apex regulatory agencies in higher education within the State

(c) Evolve new concepts and programmes in higher education;

(d) Provide common facilities in higher education without impinging upon the autonomy of other institutions of higher education.

Statutorily mandated to regulate, promote and monitor the higher education sector of the State, the council is chaired by the Minister of Higher Education. The Council's responsibility includes the preparation of a general policy for higher education and creation of regulations or proposing amendments to laws to ensure equity, access and excellence in higher education. Further, it sets the terms and criteria for recognising the different types of academic programmes and Degrees issued by universities in the country and abroad. Accordingly the Council has been keen in initiating critical discourses on the contemporary higher education issues and generating state of the art knowledge base for advising remedial measures to the institutions and the Government.

This publication is intended as a summary of initiatives taken by the Council in academic and administrative reforms in higher education. Additionally, the publication serves as a sketch of the context, designs and strategies adopted in the implementation of reforms. Further it provides an idea of the political economy and social implications of educational policy reforms introduced at the national level.

About this Publication

This publication is intended to provide for an overview of the activities undertaken in compliance with and expected of the above stipulations in the Act of 2007 as amended in 2017. It sheds light on the various issues that popped up in the field of higher education nationally and globally during the past four years and measures adopted from time to time. All that one might find as the Council's achievements resulted from the considered

democratic action of the Executive Body with the approval of the Governing Body and under the guidance of the Advisory Body. It is necessary to acknowledge the hard work put in by the Research Officers (Manulal P. Ram, Shefeeque V., and Priya K. Nair), and the Documentation Officer (Deepika Lakshman) and Assistant O/o Member Secretary (Krishna Kumar P J) Research Associate (Sri. Dileep M) and the unstinting administrative support of the Registrar (Smt. Vanaja P.S.) and Finance Officer (Smt. Ajitha K.) for bringing out this short volume on the activities of the third Council. Infact the entire academic and administrative staff of the Council has contributed to the functioning of the Council. The entire list of KSHEC staff during this period is given in the appendix.

Dr. Rajan Varughese
Member Secretary

Thiruvananthapuram,
   07-11-2021

LOOKING BACK

Looking back, we are proud to note that the Council was able to make its presence felt not only in the state but at the national level as well. At the very inception of the Council, the University Grants Commission approved it as a model worth emulating nation-wide. Reviewing the Council's activities during the past four years 2017-2021, it is immensely gratifying for us to put on record the contributions made in the field of higher education, by way of regulatory measures, curricular restructuring, policy recommendations, new initiatives, and preparation of plan perspectives for future higher education.

A lasting contribution of the Council is the resolution of the conflicts between the university and autonomous colleges through statutory reforms of Autonomous Colleges regulations in Kerala. Establishment of the Open University, inordinately delayed, came true as a result of the Council's lead role in submitting the executive plan with a draft legislation for the Ordinance.

Very significant contribution of the Council to the student community is the Handbook of Equivalency/Recognition of Academic Programmes that has resolved to a great extent the problem of universities in the state refusing to recognise the Degrees and Academic programmes reciprocally and disapproving of the degrees and programmes of universities outside the state, including the prestigious institutions of national importance.

Guidelines for New Programmes in Emerging Areas and Admission Procedure Reorganisation of Engineering Colleges are of great use for the institutions, academic community and the Government. Similarly, the academic appraisal of the performance of Inter University Centres in the various universities in the state is an important document for the Government to take policy decisions regarding the opening of new inter-university centres, their structure, composition, and functioning. Similarly, the rules of Service for the Non-Teaching staff in Unaided colleges are of great help for the employees, institutions concerned, and the Government.

An aspect that received the Council's transforming intervention is the curricular restructuring of Post-Graduate and Teacher Education Programmes. Introduction of the Outcome Based Education (OBE) in the higher education institutions has been a major nationally mandated step of quality assurance. This has set in a remarkable improvement in the quality of teaching, learning and evaluation. As an integral feature of OBE the Council

has successfully persuaded all the universities in the state to declare their Graduate Attributes and ensure transparency of institutional commitment to the production of graduates demonstrating competencies that ensure their employability and social commitment. For the first time in the state the Council; got all the universities to have identified and published the attributes that they promise to nurture in the graduates. Restructuring of the Examination System is a much wanted task the Council has completed by proposing an up-to-date model of international standards.

Of the main Policy recommendations of the Council, the most notable are those regarding the formation of a Directorate of Legal Education, the introduction of Under Graduate Vocational Programmes, the creation of Teaching and Non-teaching Posts of Universities by the government on the advice of the council, the unification of fees to be levied from Foreign Students in the Universities in Kerala. A Critical Appraisal of National Education Policy 2020 rendered by the Council was helpful for the State to selectively adopt it without violating its own policy of equitable access and distributive justice. Similarly, the Council's recommendations generated from a Conference on Disaster Preparedness and Geoscientific strategies have been helpful for the State government in operationalising the idea of building NAVA KERALA. The Council's recommendation of the Scheme of Earn While You Learn (EWYL) is a seminal concept of great relevance to the times.

Among the New Initiatives of the Council the most outstanding is the State Assessment and Accreditation Centre (SAAC). Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) is the next. All Kerala Higher Education Survey – 2020 done by the Council provides crucial data regarding the status of the infrastructure including the digital technological facility in the State's higher educational institutions. Another New Initiative of the Council, extremely very significant in the national context of Brain Drain is the Brain Gain linked to as a part of the Erudite Scholar-in-Residence Programme. Kerala Academic Library Network (KALNET) linking the libraries of universities, colleges and research institutions is a widely acclaimed move of the Council. Establishment of Repository of Academic Resources is yet another New Initiative of the Council. Likewise, the E - Journal Consortium planned to be hosted at the Council's website is highly economic and timely. The Digital Enablement of HEIs in the State, a joint project with the Digital University is an equally urgent and essential New Initiative of Council. *Prabudhata,* seeking to impart critical knowledge generated in higher education institutions including Research Centres has been a strikingly new move initiated by the Council under quality assurance.

Always the Council has been futuristic in its advisory support. Its international Journal *Higher Education for Future* published by SAGE is now one of the high-ranking journals of higher education in the world. Some of the studies published have good citation indices. Future plans COVID 19 Turn in Higher Education based on the Council's document is foremost among them. The Council takes care of all the major merit cum means and meritorious schemes of Higher Education Scholarships. Prestigious Merit Reward Schemes like the Chancellor's Award and the Kairali Research Awards are being administered by the Council. Similarly, the Chief Minister's Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship, the most recent addition to the State's merit scholarships is being looked after by the Council.

At the fag end of the present Council's four year tenure, the Council has been privileged to have its sustained engagement in coordinating a Two Day Workshop on 'Empowering Higher Education' as required by the Ministry. In collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, the Council undertook the preparation of the Action Plan for Empowering Higher Education in Kerala.

Ever since its inception the Council has been designing its activities by embracing higher education as a critical tool for building up a knowledgeable citizenry well equipped with attitudes and skills essential for participation in governance and public policy debates, which ensures a strong democratic polity, sustainable economy and equitable social development.

Activities of the past four years briefly described under each section demonstrate the leadership and competencies involved in persuading the higher education institutions to apply reforms effectively. As a whole the content of this publication reflects the Council's vision, leadership and organisational dynamic in engaging with universities for reforming their practices without affecting their autonomy. In fact, it shows how the initiatives of the Council consistently espoused the general principle of autonomy even while enforcing the nationally mandated schemes of quality assurance. It clearly shows the efforts of the Council in helping the university update and enhance the quality of teaching, learning and researching.

Prof.(Dr.)Rajan Gurukkal P.M.
Vice Chairman

Thiruvananthapuram,

07-11-2021

Advisory Body Meeting of KSHEC held on 17th November, 2018

Governing Body Meeting of KSHEC

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE THIRD COUNCIL: 2017-21

The Kerala State Higher Education Council in its first meeting reviewed the existing Study Reports of the Council and resolved to pick the most urgent among them to update and prepare their implementation plans rather than venturing upon new studies. Accordingly, the Council constituted several committees for the purpose. The task of updating involved field level empirical assessment for the preparation of regulatory measures, executive procedures and plans.

1. REGULATORY MEASURES OF ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

The following Committees were appointed for the above-mentioned purposes:

a) Statutory Reforms of Autonomous Colleges in Kerala

Chairman: Dr. Joy Job Kulaveli (Executive Member, KSHEC).

After hearing various stake holders including teachers and Management representatives, the Committee formulated a comprehensive report on the functioning of autonomous colleges in the State.

Recommendations:

> - Measures were suggested to reconcile the existing anomalies in the University Act and the Autonomous College Act.
> - Formulated a draft legislation incorporating several provisions lessening the hardships encountered by the stake holders.

Based on the report of the KSHEC the Government of Kerala promulgated an Ordinance, streamlining the functioning of autonomous colleges. Several recommendations of the committee were incorporated in the new Act-University laws (Third) Amendment Act 2021.

b) Draft Legislation of Open University

Chairperson: Prof. Fathimathu Zuhara (Executive Member, KSHEC)

The committee was constituted by the KSHEC for updating the extant Report and evolving executive procedures as well as the implementation plan for establishing an Open University in the State. Accordingly the Committee proposed the steps to be adopted towards the setting up of the Open University. While an open learning system possesses some inherent advantages over the traditional

system of education in some respects, its specific capacity to address the multiple educational needs of a large student mass was considered more significant for a State like Kerala in the present context.

Recommendations:

- The University Grants Commission (ODL) Second Amendment Regulations, 2018, insists that only those Higher Educational Institutions having valid accreditation from NAAC with a minimum CGPA of 3.26 on a 4 point scale can conduct Distance Education programmes, the continuation of the currently running programmes in the four affiliating Universities of the State is under threat.

- Students seeking enrollment to higher education programmes is on the rise every year in the State and the available facilities are not enough to accommodate all aspirants.

- Universities functioning in dual mode are overburdened and hence able to devote little time or effort for the quality of the programmes they offer.

Based on the Report, The Sree Narayana Guru Open University was established by the Government of Kerala with the passing of The Sree Narayana Guru Open University Act 2021 by the Kerala Legislative Assembly in March 2021.

c) Handbook on Equivalency/ Recognition of Academic Programmes

Addressing the students' nagging problem due to the insistence of equivalency certification of their Degrees and Academic Programmes by universities and the State Public Service Commission the KSHEC prepared a comprehensive handbook titled *Handbook of Equivalency for Academic Programmes/ Degrees of Universities.*

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Shri.Pinarayi Vijayan releasing "Handbook of Equivalency for Academic Programmes/Degreess of Universities" in the Advisory Meeting of KSHEC.

The Handbook is based on UGC guidelines for academic programmes and contains a detailed descriptions of Academic Programmes conducted by universities, the Areas of Knowledge and Graduate Attributes of these Programmes, Learning Outcomes, Degrees, and various nomenclatures. It is a compendium of consensual norms/guidelines based on current academic approaches and perspectives to be followed for reciprocal recognition of degrees offered by universities.

d) Guidelines for Starting New Programmes in Emerging Areas of Importance in Universities

Chairman: Prof. Rajan Gurukkal.

Recommendations

- The new academic programmes should be designed as integrated and interdisciplinary, capable of transcending disciplinary silos and leading to convergence. They may be developed as blended model with industry orientation

- PG programmes spread across different Universities facilitating mobility of students from Universities within the state may be introduced.

- Faculty with relevant expertise for these programmes may be appointed on tenure track before they are regularized and as Adjunct faculty.

- The additional expenditure necessary for running the programmes may be met by Government by giving additional funds to Universities as and when required in the form of matching grants.

e) Admission Procedure Reorganisation of Engineering Colleges

Chairman: Dr R. V. G. Menon, Former Principal, Govt. College of Engineering, Kannur.

Its main finding is that despite restrictions, students with very little capability in mathematics get admitted in Engineering Colleges and they fail in the Engineering Degree examinations. The present pass percentage for Engineering Degree Examination is below 40% in Kerala. If the admission standards are further lowered, even more students will fail in

the degree examinations. (This does not obviate the concessions extended to the SC / ST candidates).

Recommendations:

> · The questions for the Competitive Entrance Examination should be based on the NCERT prescribed syllabus for Higher Secondary Courses
>
> · 30% of the questions should be of comparatively lower standard so that the threat of scoring less than 10 marks can be minimized

f) Functioning of Inter University Centres in state Universities

Chairman: Prof. Rajan Gurukkal.

According to the committee's observations, the Inter-University Centres (ICU) at Higher education institutions intended to be directly under the Government but hosted by the university have been facing many problems due to the lack of clarity about their management.

Recommendations

> · Suggested guidelines for the functioning of IUCs stressing that its governance structure must be transparent and practical.
>
> · IUC s should also have separate budgetary allocation.
>
> · New undergradtuate programmes must be interdisciplinary. University level academic programmes in emerging fields of super-specialization must be research oriented.
>
> · University – Industry Tie-up must be part of academic programmes in science-tech fields and Hands-on/internship must be made mandatory for Masters , M.Phil and integrated Ph.D programmes.

The committee also made a list of newly emerging areas that have to be taught at higher education institutions.

g) Rules of Service for Teaching & Non-Teaching staff in Unaided colleges

KSHEC submitted details on the appointment of teachers and non-teaching staff of unaided colleges. The minimum qualifications were prescribed for faculty in keeping with UGC

Regulations. Provisions were also made regarding the service matters of staff in unaided colleges including salary and leave. The code of professional ethics was also stated.

Government of Kerala based on the recommendations of the council promulgated the Kerala Self Financing College teaching and Non-teaching Staff (Appointment and Service Conditions) Ordinance 2021, which has been passed by the State Legislature in November 2021.

h) Problems of Researchers in State Universities and Colleges

Chairman: Prof. J. Rajan, (Executive Member, KSHEC).

After conducting several sittings and hearings with the stakeholders, the committee recommended the following.

Recommendations

- Increase Central funding for Universities.

- Formulate a state policy on Academic Research.

- Develop Centres of Excellence in State Universities.

- Strengthen Industry-University Linkage.

- Modify Ph.D. regulation (UGC 2016) to solve the problem of shortage of supervising teachers and enhance the seats for Ph.D. programmes .

- Adopt uniform procedure for research related matters in universities.

i) Handbook on the Scheme of College Clusters

Cluster of Colleges scheme was introduced by the Government of Kerala through KSHEC following the UGC, NKC, MHRD, and RUSA stipulations for the optimum utilization of existing facilities for the expansion of higher education.

KSHEC conceives the scheme as a possible means to achieve high academic quality through the optimum utilization of the existing facilities; infrastructural as well as academic. National goals of access, equity and quality constitute the basic objective. Co-operation in Teaching Learning, Research and Extension in a cross-disciplinary perspective is the central academic objective. It is a multidisciplinary collaboration for achieving interdisciplinary teaching, learning, and research, enabling extension.

In addition to the existing clusters at Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode, KSHEC recommended the formation of three more clusters Palakkad, Kannur and Kasaragod. KSHEC has brought out a Handbook titled *Cluster of Colleges* that gives in depth details of the scheme to resuscitate its working' 'Cluster of College scheme'

j) Handbook on Outcome-based Education (OBE)

KSHEC brought out a handbook detailing the features of OBE and its relevance in Higher Education. This was based on a series of workshops conducted by the Council for BOS members and faculties of universities and colleges led by Prof. N.J. Rao (Former Director, CEDT, IISc Bangalore) and his team. OBE insists upon the determination of learning outcomes for U G and P G programmes. Well-defined outcomes of Courses and Programmes provide clarity of purpose in teaching/learning. It ensures quality control across the planning of curriculum, selection of instructional strategies, choice of learning experience, and preparation of tests. Informing learners about the outcome well in advance, OBE enables learners to be aware of their progress towards attaining the stated outcome. The Handbook offers guidelines in the framing of Programme Outcomes, Programme Specific outcomes and Course Outcomes with Graduate attributes.

k) State Level Academic Committee on Equivalency and Recognition of Degrees

Chairman : Prof.Rajan Gurukkal

KSHEC inquired into issues of Equivalency and prepared a report. As the main outcome of this Committee's Report the following two Government orders have been issued for resolving the problems of equivalency/recognition.

   a. *G.O.(Ms) NO. 272/2018/HEDN dated 13/11/2018*

The GO contained norms and guidelines relating to equivalency/ recognition of degrees calling for all universities HEIs and employers to recognize the degrees awarded by national institutes like IITs IISCs NITs, IISERs and other national stand alone institutions funded by the government and not to demand equivalency certificates.

There shall be reciprocal recognition of degrees awarded by the Indian Universities /other HEIs as listed by the UGC

b. *GO (Ms) No. 303/2018/HEdn. Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 17/12/2018*

The Government constituted a State Level Academic Committee (SLAC) for the purpose of disposing off disputes regarding the nomenclature of Academic degrees/ programmes The members of SLAAC: Vice Chairman KSHEC will function as the chairman of SLAAC, Vice Chancellors of all State Universities in Kerala and Member Secretary KSHEC are members.

2. CURRICULAR RESTRUCTURING

a) Restructuring of POST Graduate Curriculum

Chairman: Prof. E. D. Jemmis, Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore.

Recommendations:

- Programmes must be based on the model of Outcome Based Education (OBE) and ought to be multidisciplinary in nature.

- Programme Outcome for PG programmes must be identified by higher education institutions.

- Suggested appropriate credit load structure for UG/PG programmes

b) Restructuring of Teacher Education Curriculum (B.Ed.)

Chairman: Prof. Anilkumar K., Teacher Education, Regional Institute of Education Mysore (RIEM), Mysore

Recommendations:

- Composite institutions offering Teacher Education Programmes may be permitted to offer the 4 year Integrated Programmes in Teacher Education namely B.Sc. B.Ed., and BA. B.Ed.
- The existing stand-alone Government and Government Aided Teacher Education Institutions may be converted to composite institutions by offering the three year integrated Programme namely B.Ed., M.Ed. as per the NCTE Regulation 2014.
- The Admission to the 4 year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) may be made through a State-wide Common Entrance Examination (CEE) which focuses on assessing students' Teaching Aptitude.

c) Outcome based Education (OBE)

UGC has made it mandatory for all universities to follow the system of Choice Based Course (CBC) and Outcome Based Education (OBE). KSHEC has conducted several workshops to address Outcome Based Education and Curriculum redesigning for members of BOS at universities and colleges.

Outcome Based Education is an approach to education in which decisions about the curriculum and instruction are driven by the exit learning outcomes that the student should display at the end of the programme or a course. A student pursuing a general programme must attain Programme Outcomes (Graduate Attributes or GAs) as identified by the University. Programme Specific Outcomes are chosen by the Department offering the programme. Programme Outcomes (POs or GAs) relate to the knowledge, skills and behaviour the students acquire through the programme.

State universities and autonomous colleges have taken several steps to integrate OBE in to their designing the curriculum, teaching & assessment.

d) Graduate Attributes and Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes refer to the knowledge, skills and understandings that a student should gain as a result of the learning and experiences they engage with. Learning outcomes are that tell students what they will be able to do at the end of a period of time. They are measurable and quite often observable.

Based on the workshops conducted Universities in Kerala declared Graduate Attributes for different programmes. Graduate Attributes are important factors in planning the curriculum of any academic programme. NAAC refers Programme Outcomes as the equivalent substitute of Graduate Attributes. Outcome based Education (OBE) postulates the Programme Outcomes (POs) for UG/PG programmes in general and Programme Specific Outcomes (PSOs) for discipline specific outcomes. Integration of generic attributes in the curriculum ensures that students develop skills that will better equip them for the work environment as well as for self-employment.

e) Restructuring of Examination System

Chairman: Prof. N. J. Rao (Indian Institute of Science Bangalore)

The committee went into the hackneyed problems faced by the prevailing system of examination

Recommendations:

- Reforms must be made in the Systemic structure, Curriculum, the way technology should be used in the mechanism of teaching –learning and summative assessments.
- Implementation of OBE and the use of Taxonomy of Revised Bloom and assessment based on OBE framework
- Multidisciplinary undergraduate education must be encouraged.
- Faculty must be trained in the use of ICT in teaching and evaluation.
- HEIs must have a dedicated cell focusing on Technology for Education encompassing thev entire teaching/ learning life cycle.

f) Restructuring of the Academic Programmes in K.R.Narayanan National Institute of Visual Science & Arts

Based on the expert opinion given by Shri. Kumar Shahini, the Council recommended that K.R.Narayanan National Institute of Visual Science & Arts, Kottayam, should be developed as an autonomous institute, which can be elevated to the level of **The Film and Television Institute of India, Pune** or **Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata**. This can ensure a bright academic future for the institute and liberate it from controls and regulations which will stifle creativity and timely technological updation of the institute. It also recommended restructuring of the academic programmes of the institute as two year PG Diploma programme following the credit semester pattern. The 2 year PG Diploma programme suggested for the institute under the restructured pattern include, Animation & Visual Effects, Cinematography, Editing, Sound Recording and Design, Direction & Screen writing and Acting.

3. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

a) On the Formation of the Directorate of Legal Education

Chairman: Prof. K. Vikraman Nair, Former Director, SILT, MG University, Kottayam

The committee found that the existing system of having just one section in the Department of Higher Education in the Secretariat is inadequate to address the problems and remedy the grievances that arise in Law colleges.

Recommendations

- A Directorate of Legal Education with the senior most Principal among the Government Law Colleges as the Director of Legal Education.

- A skeletal administrative staff may be deputed from the existing Section in the Secretariat without incurring any undue additional financial burden to the State

b) Undergraduate Vocational Programmes

It was found that affiliated colleges were forced to either stop the B. Voc. programmes or convert them to self-financing courses after three years of UGC funding. Most of the sectors and specializations identified by the UGC are already taken care of in the present Engineering and Management education system in Kerala.

As the state's approach in Higher Education sector has been horizontal, with a strong sense of distributive justice and equity, starting such courses in self-financing stream would negate the very purpose of educational policies in the state.

c) Standardizing the Teaching and Non-teaching Posts of Universities

Chairman: Adv. K. T. George, Retired Additional Secretary, Law Department & Former Registrar of KSHEC.

The committee suggested as amending the ordinances/statutes/regulations of every university for enabling the PSC to make recruitment to the posts would be a cumbersome and time consuming process rules may be made by the Government on the basis of section 3 of the Kerala Public Service Commission Act, 2015.

Recommendations

- · The entry cadre of all universities have to be standardized and incorporated in the rules to be issued for enabling the PSC to prepare select lists for these standardized posts.
- · Universities may be given freedom to decide upon the qualification, experience, age criteria, etc. for promotion to any posts including entry cadre posts set apart by the Universities for Promotion from their existing employees.
- · Protection may be given to existing regular employees with respect to their scales of pay, if the newly proposed scale is lower than the existing scale of such employees.

d) Unification of Fees in Respect of Foreign Students Studying in the Universities in Kerala

The report submitted by the Vice Chancellors of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam & Kannur University

Recommendations:

- · Fix at least the self-financing fee charged for regular course to ICCR sponsored students and those from SARC and Least developed nations

- · All Universities have to introduce a single window system in the Administration, to cater the administrative and academic affairs of International students.

- · Govt. support to construct International Students Hostel in each University.

- · Promotion of internationalization by introducing foreign language courses with visiting foreign faculty and teaching interns.

e) Critical Appraisal of National Education Policy 2020 and Kerala

Chairman: Dr. Prabhath Patnaik, Professor JNU, New Delhi

The six member committee was appointed to scrutinize the recommendations in the new policy, with special reference to Kerala and on matters pertaining to higher education. The

report included a general estimate of the policy perspectives of NEP, specific issues that need to be taken up for discussion with the Central Government/ Central regulatory authorities with a view to the implementation of NEP in Kerala and a note on Research and Innovation in the HE sector in Kerala

The report among other things noted that the policy fails to recognize the constitutional obligation by the center to recognize in an appropriate manner the power of states on matters of education. It virtually bobbed the states of their constitutional rights and gives overarching power to the center. It proposes to create an excessively centralized structure of authorities. The NEP undermines the social equity and democratic access to education.

With regard to NEP and Kerala, the following recommendations were made.

Recommendations

- Centre has to increase funds to increase the GER, to further the Scheme of Cluster of Colleges and to encourage research.
- Marginalized Sections must have access to higher education and for this the Commitment to Policies of Reservation must be reaffirmed
- States that Successfully Implemented UGC Plan of Action must be incentivized.
- The National Research Foundation must fund Socially Productive Research.
- Institutions of multidisciplinary nature have to be established.
- Genuine autonomy should be ensured in HEIs and new modes of Affiliation Systems must be explored.
- The SAAC Model of State Level Public Agencies of Assessment and Accreditation must be encouraged.

National Seminar on "National Education Policy 2019" held at Thiruvananthapuram

f) Earn While You Learn (EWYL) Scheme

This scheme is envisaged to enable students to work part time as interns/apprentices while pursuing academic programmes in Universities and Colleges. This will enable them to earn money as well as to obtain employable skills.

Models of EWYL scheme

- Internships, Cooperative Education, and Apprenticeships. Internships inherently self-supporting and need no financial support.

- Cooperative Education provides financial support but is less flexible. It necessitates changing the time schedule of the colleges/universities for enabling students to earn through part-time jobs.

- Apprenticeship model is usually associated with a labor or union-related job in a specific industry, hence not scalable as a general model though it scores high in most evaluation categories, it is not as widely feasible as Cooperative education and Internships.

g) Rebuilding Kerala: Conference on Resilience

The unprecedented nature of excess rain and subsequent flood calamities in the state during 2018 and 2019 has resulted large scale damage to various sectors of the state. To overcome the damages suffered, the state has conceptualised various initiatives under the larger perspective of Rebuild Kerala initiative, which states that:

"Rebuild Kerala Initiative presents a unique approach to rebuilding the State. The Government established the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) to "bring about a perceptible change in the lives and livelihoods of its citizens by adopting higher standards of infrastructure for recovery and reconstruction, and to build ecological and technical safeguards so that the restructured assets could better withstands floods in the future".

The implementation approach is to implement activities through competent agencies with a detailed project document and execution timeline. Action is being taken to prepare project documents and submit them to various funding agencies via departments such as Agriculture, Water Resources, Environment, Public Works, Local Governance, Transport, Fisheries and Disaster Management"

In response to the above steps of the government initiative, the Kerala State Higher Education Council has invited research projects and topics from academic institutions for engaging activities in support of this objective. This has brought out a number of proposals from Universities, especially Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (SSUS) Kalady, Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University etc.

The council has submitted these proposals with specific remarks obtained from subject experts have submitted to the government for future course of action.

h) International Conference on Thoughts and Ideas for a Resilient Kerala

The Conference held during 27-30 December 2018 at Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram, India debated about the multidimensional aspects of resilience in the context of the heavy rains and devastating floods and landslides in Kerala in 2018.

The conference paid homage to the lives lost due to floods and landslides, acknowledged the instant, heroic and selfless efforts of ordinary people such as fisherfolk, young people, various voluntary groups and local administration in the search and rescue efforts. The conference also acknowledged the leadership provided by the State and Central governments, including the contribution of military, National Disaster Response Force, police and the media.

The conference, through various presentations and discussions, analysed the multidimensional aspects of disasters and resilience, taking note of the global experiences and giving due attention to local relevance and appropriateness.

In addressing the issue of rebuilding resilience, the Conference paid specific attention to the following:

1) Kerala's cultural and socio- economic contexts;

2) Aspiration to build a modern, sustainable and resilient society;

3) United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals;

4) The United Nation's definition on resilience: i.e. "the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

i) Conference on 'Social Preparedness of Disaster Management and Geo-Scientific Strategies'

Based on the conference on "Social Preparedness of Disaster Management and Geo-scientific strategies" a book of proceedings was released. It contains papers presented by the experts who attended the conference on following titles.

- Cross Disciplinary Illiteracy and Social Preparedness in Disasters: Role of Academics
- Silence of Implementation and its Peril on Environment
- Past sea disturbances and modified Kerala Coast: A geo-archaeological interpretation
- Role of Geoscientists in Natural Disasters: An appraisal of monsoon related calamities in Kerala
- 'Kerala Deluge of 18': A geo-climatological caveat
- The Need for Bottom-Up Approach in Disaster Preparedness: The Case of Kerala Floods
- Practical Strategies for saving lives from killer Landslides: A field Inference
- Undertaking Small Projects of Social relevance-a pivotal step in Resilient Kerala by PG students
- Sustainability in Construction: Approach of rebuilding in post disaster scenario of Kerala
- പ്രളയപാഠങ്ങൾ : ദുരന്തമുഖത്ത് ഒന്നിച്ചു നിൽക്കാം ചെറുത്തു തോൽപ്പിക്കാം
- പ്രകൃതിദുന്തം: നേരിടൽ തന്ത്രങ്ങളിൽ ഉന്നതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ പങ്ക്
- കേരളവും സുനാമി സാധ്യതയും മുൻകരുതൽ നടപടികളും

j) Kerala State Higher Education Plan

The KSHEC prepared the Kerala State Higher Education Plan to be submitted to RUSA mission authority Department of Higher Education, MHRD, Government of India in May 2018.

4. NEW INITIATIVES

a) State Assessment and Accreditation Centre (SAAC)

The primary objective of the SAAC is to assess and assign state level accreditation and grades to all higher education institutions in the state including universities, government and aided colleges, autonomous colleges and self financing institutions/colleges. The Council had incorporated the establishment of SAAC as a major initiative in our plan proposal for 2019-20 and accordingly, the Honourable Governor declared the decision of the Government to establish the Centre under KSHEC. The Council conducted several district wise programmes for colleges pertaining to various aspects of SAAC.

It envisages to stimulate and promote the horizontal and sustainable development of all higher education institutions of Kerala by employing transparent and methodical measuring means having global, national, state level, regional and local bearing, with prime focus on quality, excellence, competency, adaptability, inclusiveness and social/ development linkage.

Consultative Meeting on SAAC held on 27th May, 2019 at Board room of KSHEC, Thiruvananthapuram

Apart from the seven criteria for assessment proposed by NAAC, three state specific core values of SAAC have been adopted through measurable criteria-framed metrics. They are: (1) Ensuring Social Inclusiveness, (2) Striving for Equity & Excellence, and (3) Fostering Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook.

Bishop Moore College Mavelikkara was the first higher education institution in the state to be   accredited by the SAAC with A grade (CGPA 3.21)

b) Faculty Development Centre (FDC)

The Faculty Development Centre (FDC) in the Kerala State Higher Education Council was formed as per various provisions in Section 4 of the Kerala State Higher Education Council Act 2007 with the aim to enhance the quality of teaching-learning activity in the state

universities and the affiliated institutions by providing advanced training with the help of experts from the field of pedagogy, and other disciplines of higher education.

A large number of activities have been held under this unit, which includes Faculty Development Programmes (FDP) for the teaching faculty in the state universities and colleges. Every year, the council conducts FDP on various themes especially focusing on the Philosophy of Science, Online Education and MOODLE-LMS among others. The council has stepped up the training programmes of one week duration as per the UGC regulations 2018 under Faculty Development Programmes on various subjects like Philosophy of Science, Theory of research Writing, Online Education in Higher Education Institutions, FDP in Arts and Humanities, FDP in Commerce and Management.

Objectives

1. To ensure quality improvement in higher education by setting high standards for teaching career enhancement of teachers 'competencies in terms of academic excellence, research orientation and teaching skill with rigorous training.

2. To impart professional training at the induction level so as generate professionalism which would remain in the individual throughout the service,

3. Equip the teachers with necessary competencies, skills and attitudes that will enable them to face the challenges of the modern world effectively.

Prof. Suresh Das (Emeritus Professor (Chemistry) engaging a session in the Faculty Development programme held at Ernakulam

c) Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF)

The council envisages the creation of a Kerala-specific ranking index, which will be termed as Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) for universities and colleges on the lines of the National Institutional Ranking Framework in the state of Kerala. This will enable holistic and comprehensive ranking of the 1500+ higher education institutions in the state. This will be a pioneering step in the country.

d) All Kerala Higher Education Survey

The report of All Kerala Higher Education Survey (AKHES) 2020 contains useful information on various aspects of Higher Education in Kerala. It covers details of teaching and non teaching staff, programmes conducted under various faculties, student enrolment, scholarships, examination, accreditation and infrastructural facilities in Higher Education Institutions and provides data for evidence based decision making and planning. This is the first report prepared by the Kerala State Higher Education Council since the Government of Kerala designated the KSHEC as the nodal agency for establishing the Kerala State Unit of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHSE). The report has been prepared based on information collected online through the KSHEC portal wherein most of the institutions of higher learning in the state have registered themselves and uploaded information in the Data Capture Format. The research team of the KSHEC also collected data directly on a number of parameters. It covers details of teaching and non teaching staff, programmes conducted, students enrolment, scholarships, examination, accreditation and infrastructural facilities in HEIS.

e) Erudite- Scholar in Residence Programme and the Brain Gain Project

'ERUDITE Scholar-in-Residence' was introduced in 2010, during the term of the first Higher Education Council. This enabled Universities in the state to invite Nobel Laureates and other eminent scholars to interact with young researchers. The present Council rejuvenated the programmeme with the full conviction of its predominant role in inspiring our talented researchers, and in opening up new opportunities for them to develop international research collaborations. In the previous four years 121 Scholars visited the various higher education institutions in Kerala on this scheme. The ERUDITE Scholar-in-Residence was revised and integrated with the Brain Gain Project. The scheme envisages that the academics will utilize their sabbatical to visit Kerala and offer their expertise.

Some of the eminent academicians who visited the state under the scheme are

- **Dr. Michael Levitt** (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2013)

- **Sir. Richard J. Roberts** (Nobel Laureate in Physiology/Medicine in 1993)

- **Prof. Ada E. Yonath** (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2009)

- **S.R. Srinivasa Varadhan** (The Abel Prize Laureate 2007)

- **Dr. Jokha Al Harthi** (Man Booker Prize Winner in 2019)

- **Prof. Jonathan Gregory Dollimore**, (Senior Research Fellow, Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham)

Erudite Lecture by Prof. Ada E. Yonath (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2009) at the Senate Chamber, University of Kerala.

f) Building up database on Keralite-Academic diaspora around the Globe

KSHEC is building up a database with details of the Keralite academic diaspora to ensure their greater participation for enhancing the quality of higher education in the state. This Project is financially supported by the Kerala State Planning Board. As part of building up the database, KSHEC maintains a registration portal open to scholars for providing their details through online mode. It has so far obtained details of 200+ scholars from different filed of knowledge areas academics from among the diasporic communities across the globe.

This database includes the details of Scientists, Social Scientists and Humanities Experts in Universities and research institutions abroad, Medical Professionals Technocrats/CEOs of Multinational Establishments, Economists, Environment/Biochemistry/ Sustainability/ Resilience/Disaster Management Experts working in the famous Universities and Research Institutions the world over and specializing in emerging areas of knowledge. 'Brain Gain' is intended to persuade eminent non-resident Indian professors, particularly Keralites, who are experts in their areas, to visit Kerala as Scholars-in-Residence, and if possible to teach a course in selected programmes.

- Attract, share, involve, integrate and incorporate Keralite-Academics in advanced fields of science, technology, and social sciences for the quality enhancement in higher education institutions in Kerala

- Effectively implement the Erudite-Scholar in Residence cum Brain Gain programme
- Launch the programme of brain circulation by bringing the experts as short-term teachers, part-time collaborators, and co-supervisors in researches in the universities
- Locate experts in science-tech hybrid fields relevant to the transformation of higher education to knowledge economy and enhancement of the states' intellectual property contributions
- Establish communication directly with the experts who possess the expertise
- Identify experts in high-tech industries and invite them for generating ideas for the reconstitution of the curricula of the higher education institutions
- Provide advisory support to the government by using the above database in relevant matters of expertise.

g) Kerala Academic Library Network: A Shared platform for academic resources of libraries in Kerala (KALNET)

The Kerala Higher Education Council proposed two initiatives in January 2020 in line with the declared mandate of the Council for providing quality higher education and common facilities to universities in the state. Kerala Academic Libraries Network (KALNET) and E-Journal Consortium

Kerala Academic Libraries Network (KALNET) brings on a common platform the collections of all the libraries of the HEIs of the State which would be accessible to all researchers.

KALNET links Library data from various university libraries. At present 11 universities, 147 libraries and 15 lakh titles of books and journals are brought under a single search interface.

The open source-based search interface offers various features like spelling suggestions and auto completion of queries. In the second phase the Higher Education Council of Kerala plans to provide live status of the availability of the library materials.

Important features of the KALNET

- · A single, unified catalogue to search for items across the collections of different academic libraries in Kerala.
- · Quick searches based on the Title, Subject, Author, etc.
- · Better integration of the Library's traditional print materials, electronic and digital collections.
- · Ph.D theses, Postgraduate dissertations, Daisy Digital talking books (audio books) and various reports are also indexed.
- · Advanced searching with Boolean operators and limits for more precise results, as well as a "Narrow Search " feature to limit, sort and refine the search results
- · A Virtual Browse feature for print books to see what's related to the book by subject area
- · When viewing a record, the user will be offered suggestions of resources that are similar to the current resource.

The participating Universities are:

University of Kerala, Cochin University of Science and Technology, University of Calicut, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala Agricultural University, Kannur University, Sree Sankaracharya University, Malayalam University, Kerala Veterinary University, Kerala University of Fisheries, The National University of Advanced Legal Studies

h) E - Journal Consortium - e-journal access to all the state universities

The Governing Body of KSHEC resolved to establish a consortium of e journals in the State to cater to the needs of the academic community in wake of the rising costs of subscription to e journals and the paucity of funds faced by the universities. The KSHEC acts as the nodal agency of the consortium for which the state government as earmarked Rs.10 crores in the state budget for 2021-22.

i) Digital Enablement of HEIs in Kerala: Implementation of Learning Management System. *Let's Go Digital* Scheme

This plan is in response to the call of the Government to 'Go Digital' in teaching/learning in higher education. The intention is to establish Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) in all the higher education institutions in the state, especially colleges and universities, in 100 days. The plan proposes the implementation of a centralised model that is resource-frugal, easier, quicker, and less expensive.

This model is based on the technology of Virtual Machines Docker Containers System (VMDCS), which requires only minimum number of actual machines. It can provide each university and college in the state its own Moodle portal giving access to all students and faculty to use them to supplement their teaching and learning. The Digital University will set up the centralised cloud space for KSHEC in SDC for all higher education institutions in the state, providing each college/university its own dash board to manage its activities through LMS. As per the proposal of the Council, the Digital University will set up a centralised cloud space for KSHEC in SDC and create instances for universities and colleges. Individual faculty will have the privilege to manage his or her courses in the system. A Network File System Storage of around 5 TB will be needed. Videos will also be uploaded on YouTube channel with restrictive access to supplement the Network File System Storage. KSHEC is providing institutional training to the universities & colleges in the state for equipping them to implement LMS and to avail the centralized cloud/server facility for hosting their LMS contents.

j) Prabudhata: Socialising the Benefits of Higher Education

Prabudhata is a project conceived and implemented by the KSHEC in collaboration with the Karakulam Grama Panchayathin Thiruvananthapuram District. As a model project Prabudhata aims to make use of potential of the local self governments and Kudumbashree to deliver the benefits of higher knowledge to the community and to garner, in return, inputs, themes, thoughts and ideas for meaningful research and studies from the society. The project to considered as a harbinger of a new democratic knowledge culture.

As a pilot project under this scheme, Dr. Shaji E, Associate Professor, Dept of Geology, University of Kerala was entrusted to work on "Groundwater Resources of the Karakulam Gramapanchayath, Thiruvananthapuram District" and the study report has been submitted.

k) All India Higher Education Survey (AISHE)

KSHEC has been designated as the nodal agency for All India Higher Education Survey (AISHE) by the Ministry of Human Resources Development. The council oversees the collection of data related to all HEIs in the state based on the DCF developed by the MHRD. As per the latest survey of AISHE 2019-20, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Kerala is estimated at 38.8% compared to the All-India Average of 27.1%. The survey covers programme-wise, programme enrolment, gender, social group, minority and Persons with disabilities (PWD) and foreign students distribution.

l) IT infrastructure Survey in HEIs

In the context of Covid-19 lockdown and emergence of blended learning, Kerala State Higher Education Council initiated a survey to assess IT infrastructural facilities and the Technology-Enabled Learning environment prevailing in the Universities and colleges in the state. The primary aim of this survey is to assess the Technology-Enabled Learning environment including availability of digital devices, online accessibility, and affordability of the same in the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in the State. The questionnaire tries to gauge the ground reality of the online mode of the teaching – learning process in the Higher Education sector. The survey will also be useful for policy formulation especially in the context of the efforts of the state Government to bridge the digital divide and the implementation of the Digital Enablement of HEIs in the state. The data is collected at the institutional, Faculty and Student levels.

m) E-Learning Hub for MOODLE- LMS

The Kerala State Higher Education Council has been entrusted by the government of Kerala to implement the digital enablement drive of higher education institutions in the state under the banner of the programme "Lets go Digital" focusing on MOODLE based Learning Management System (LMS) in association with the Digital University of Kerala. The programme has trained more than 3500 faculty members in the state and training has been conducted at the institutional level for selected colleges of the state in the first phase.

As part of the training programme, the trained faculty members can avail of the a large number of e-contents of various courses that are uploaded on the Council's portal to enable them to conduct MOODLE based classroom course and its management. Such course contents are made by the faculty members of various colleges and they have access to modify, edit and enrich the courses they prepared as part of the training programme and also to build

up its quality and content at any point of time. This has helped the faculty members for content creation and running of courses of their choice even in the absence of LMS facility in their institution. Teachers who have prepared or enrolled in the e-hub facility of KSHEC can also run their course with students of their institution using this facility.

n) Online Digital Repository of Course Materials

Kerala State Higher Education Council provides a dedicated portal for students to access online study materials on various courses in UG/PG programmes in different subject disciplines of the state universities in its website www.kshec.kerala.gov.in under the title 'Online Study Materials 'this repository has been developed in association with faculty members of government, affiliated colleges and universities in the state. A wide range of study materials for B.Sc./B.A./B.Com./B.B.A. and M.Sc./M.A./M.Com. programmes, are available. Students can easily choose it according to their interest and demand as the website provides user-friendly windows for search, view and downloading. The material is supplied in the form of pdf documents, power point presentation and videos formats. The council does the preliminary screening of the learning material received from the faculty members.

There is provision to provide feedback in council website from the student and teacher community in order to modify the learning resources. The council initiatives like outcome-based education (OBE) and faculty development programmes have provided ample structural support to develop these online contents.

LOOKING FORWARD

a) COVID 19- Turn in Higher Education: Policy Advisory Document Prepared by the State Higher Education Council for the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala

This Policy Document has four parts. It contains an assessment of the COVID-19 impact on the capitalist economy and a discussion of the distinct manifestations in Kerala. This is done with a view to understanding the transformative force of the pandemic. Speculative thoughts on the vicissitudes of the capitalist economy constitute the second part. A historical overview of the pandemic impact on higher education and a review of the COVID19-induced changes in the sector make the third part of the document. The contemporary challenges in the higher

education field and its recommendations of preparatory measures to be adopted are given in the final section

b) Higher Education Scholarship Scheme

Higher Education Scholarship Scheme, which is being implemented by the Kerala State Higher Education Council, with the financial support of the State Government is one of the most acclaimed and popular initiatives in higher education sector. It is an imaginative scheme formulated in line with the declared objectives of the Higher Education Council to promote equity, access and excellence in higher education. 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 3000scholarships 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 1st Year	Rs.12,000/- (Rs. 15,000/- for PH Students)
UG 2nd Year	Rs.18,000/- (Rs. 22,500/- for PH Students)
UG 3rd Year	Rs.24,000/- (Rs. 30,000/- for PH Students)
PG 1st Year	Rs.40,000/- (Rs. 50,000/- for PH Students)
PG 2nd Year	Rs.60,000/- (Rs. 75,000/- for PH Students)

c) Chancellor's Award

The Chancellor's Award was instituted by the Honorable Governor and Chancellor of Universities of Kerala, Shri. Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam, in 2015 to nurture the spirit of healthy competition among the State Universities in Kerala so that they will evolve as vibrant centers of learning. In addition to the Chancellor's Award, a separate award was instituted in 2017 for The Best Emerging Young University in Kerala.

In 2017-18 a Selection Committee consisting of nine members headed by Bharat Ratna. Prof. C.N.R. Rao was constituted by the Kerala State Higher Education Council for selecting the best Universities for the awards. The decision was based on achievements of Universities in areas such as academics, pedagogy, research and social inclusiveness. In the revised scheme, the universities are categorized into Multidisciplinary and Specialized University.

Winners

Year	Category	
	Multidisciplinary Universities	Specialized University
2015	University of Kerala	
2016	Mahatma Gandhi University	
2017	Cochin University of Science and Technology	Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University
2018	Mahatma Gandhi University	Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University
2019	Cochin University of Science and Technology	Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University
2020	Cochin University of Science and Technology & Mahatma Gandhi University	Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur

The Chancellor's Award ceremony held at Kerala Raj Bhavan

d) Kairali Research Awards

The Government of Kerala have announced Kairali Research Awards to those candidates who excel in a particular subject with an aim to encourage the most eminent research scholars and research pedagogues of the state. The Kerala State Higher Education Council has been designated as the secretariate for the Kairali Research Awards. The selection committee chaired by Prof. P. Balaram, former Director, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore (IISc) includes eminent scholars from various disciplines**.**

This award is given under four categories of scholars viz. *Kairali Gaveshaka Puraskaram, Kairali Gaveshana Puraskaram, Kairali Lifetime Achievement and Kairali Global Lifetime Achievement Award.*

Dr.R Bindu, Minister for Higher Education Presenting the Global Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. M.R. Raghava Varier in the presence of Prof.Rajan Gurukkal(Vice Chairman, KSHEC). Prof. Sabu Thomas and Dr. P.Sanal Mohan (Recipients of Kairali Lifetime Achievement Award) are also seen.

- **Kairali Lifetime Achievement Award** and **Kairali Global Lifetime Achievement Award**s are given to eminent Indian scholars in the domains of Arts and Humanities, Science, Social Sciences in India and abroad.

- **Kairali Gaveshaka Puraskaram** is for researchers who excel in the area of their research work. Students who have completed Ph. D are given opportunity to continue innovative research in interdisciplinary areas.

- **Kairali Gaveshana Puraskaram** is for faculty members who excel in their research output and who are expected to pursue innovative research programmes in cutting edge areas in future.

Scholars working in the domains of Arts and Humanities, Biological Science, Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences are eligible to apply.

During the period, 2019 and 2020 the council could complete the process of selection of Kairali Research Awards and submitted the list of awardees to the government for declaration of awards. Award ceremony was organised on 30ᵗʰ September 2021 and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala has distributed the awards to the recipients.

e) Chief Minister's Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The Government of Kerala have introduced the prestigious **Chief Minister's Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowships scheme** for meeting innovation and development needs of the state through promoting quality research spanning the sectors like social, economic, agriculture, development and industry. The scheme envisages 500 individual Post Doctoral fellowships and each one carries an amount ranging from 50,000/- to 1,00000/-per month.

f) Perspective Plans

1. State Higher Education with Special Reference to Arts & Science Colleges in Kerala
2. For Setting Up New Engineering Institutions
3. Starting New Polytechnics in the State
4. New colleges of Architecture in the State

g) Action Plan for Empowering Higher Education

A workshop was conducted jointly by The Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala & The Kerala State Higher Education Council on October 2021

Higher Education in the State of Kerala is poised for a quantum leap in quality and performance. The government is committed to the task of ensuring quality without compromising on access and equity. The budget for this financial year 2021-22 has put forward several proposals for increasing access as well as innovative schemes for ushering the state's higher education into a knowledge-based economy. It is time for us to translate these dreams into reality by charting an effective course of action that can bring about a much needed paradigm shift in the field. Curriculum reforms, infrastructural development, and educational planning will have to go hand in hand to open a floodgate of change that will eventually make higher education a harbinger of social justice and development. The workshop on ' Empowering Higher Education' was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister of Kerala **Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan** and the discussions in the workshop were led by **Dr. R. Bindu**, the Honourable Higher Education Minister.

The themes identified for discussion included:

Enhancing Quality of Educational Content and Delivery, Financing of Higher Education

Improving Outcome in Higher Education, Academic Collaboration, Industry Partnership & Community Linkages, Redefining the Legal Framework of Higher Education and Institutional Strengthening.

The discussions were based on the budget proposals (2021-22) on higher education with the following specific objectives.

- · Perusing the problems identified and remedial measures proposed
- · Improving the proposals
- · Preparing the Implementation plan
- · Specifying the fund required, the immediate agency responsible and the time limit for what needs to be done

The workshop focused on preparing an Action Plan to implement the various aspects of the themes detailed in the approach paper. The consolidated outcome of the two day deliberations in the workshop is presented theme-wise in the following sections, which include recommendations, implementation plan, implementation agencies, time frame and financial requirements.

Appendix (a)

Government Orders on guidelines for equivalency/recognition of academic programmes & setting up of State Level Academic Council (SLAC)

File No.HEDN-B2/209/2018-HEDN

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Abstract

Higher Education Department- Norms/Guidelines Relating to Equivalency/Recognition of academic Programmes or Areas of Studies and Nomenclature and Degrees of Other Universities - Approved - orders issued -

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HIGHER EDUCATION (B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.272/2018/HEDN Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 13/11/2018

Read 1 *Letter No. KSHEC-A7/302/MS-Dret../2018 (3) dated 26.07.2018 from the Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council.*

ORDER

Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) vide letter read above has forwarded the Norms/Guidelines relating to Equivalency /Recognition of Academic Programmes or Areas of Studies and Nomenclature and Degree of Other Universities.

Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to approve the following Norms/Guidelines Relating to Equivalency/recongnition of Academic Programmes or Areas of Studies and Nomenclature and Degree of Other Universities.

NORMS / GUIDELINES

1. All universities, higher educational institutions (HEIs), agencies and employers shall recognize the degrees awarded by national institutes like Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), and other national level stand-alone institutions funded by Government.

2. All universities/HEIs/employers in the state shall recognize the BS/MS degrees of IISERs, IISc, State/Central Universities, and other HEIs funded by the Government.

3. No equivalency/recognition shall be insisted upon for degrees obtained from National Institutes like Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) or other institutions recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC).

4. There shall be reciprocal recognition of degrees awarded by the Indian Universities/other HEIs as listed out and updated by the University Grants Commission.

5. Universities/HEIs/Employment Agencies/Employers in the State shall follow the nomenclature of degrees prepared and listed by the UGC.

6. Universities/HEIs/Employment Agencies/Employers shall follow the conditions, policies and procedure stipulated by Association of Indian Universities (AIU) for according

File No.HEDN-B2/209/2018-HEDN

recognition/equivalence of qualification / Degrees awarded by Foreign Universities.

7. Universities/HEIs/Employment Agencies/Employers shall approve/ recognize Degrees acquired through Open and Distance Learning complying with the latest University Grants Commission Open and Distance Learning Regulations.

8. Equivalency/Recognition of Degrees acquired through Open and Distance Learning before the promulgation of the UGC Open and Distance Learning Regulations, 2017 shall be decided by the university concerned.

9. Universities/HEIs/Employment Agencies/Employers shall approve/ recognize Degrees awarded by Private Universities with the recognition/approval of the UGC, and which comply with the relevant UGC norms/regulations as amended from time to time.

(By order of the Governor)
M. G RANJITH KUMAR
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

To:

The Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council

The Registrar,
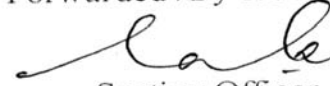
Kerala University / M.G. University / Calicut University / CUSAT / Kannur University / Thunchath Ezhuthachan MalayalamUniversities / Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit / NUALS / A P J Abdul Kalam Technological University

The Principal Accountant General (Audit/A&E)), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Stock file[HEDN-B2/ 209/2018-HED] / Office copy

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

File No.HEDN-B2/209/2018-HEDN

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Higher Education Department- Constitution of State Level Academic Committee (SLAC) in Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) - Approved - orders issued.

HIGHER EDUCATION (B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.303/2018/HEDN   Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 17/12/2018

Read 1 *Letter No. KSHEC-A7/302/MS-Dret./2018 (3) dated 26.07.2018 from the Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council.*

2 *G.O. (MS) No.272/2018/HEDN dated 13/11/2018*

ORDER

As per the Government Order read above Government approved the Norms/Guidelines relating to Equivalency/Recognition of Academic Programmes or Areas of Studies and Nomenclature and Degree of Other Universities. The Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), vide the letter read above, has requested to establish a State Level Academic Committee (SLAC) in KSHEC for the purpose of disposing of objections/disputes/complaints regarding the nomenclature of Academic Programmes/Degrees and according approval/recognition/equivalence.

Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to constitute a State Level Academic Committee(SLAC) for the purpose of disposing of objections/disputes/complaints regarding the nomenclature of Academic Programmes/Degrees and according approval/recognition/equivalence, as follows:

Vice Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council as Chairman and Vice Chancellors of all State Universities in Kerala and Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council (Convenor) as members.

Universities/Higher Educational Institutions/Employment Agencies/Employers shall refer unsettled issues of nomenclature of Academic Programmes/Degrees and their approval/recognition/equivalence to KSHEC for decision by the SLAC. In all issues of nomenclature of Academic Programmes/Degrees and their approval/recognition/equivalence the aggrieved candidates shall appeal to the Kerala State Higher Education Council for the decision by SLAC.

(By order of the Governor)
VIJAYAKUMAR.R
JOINT SECRETARY

To:

The Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council.

File No.HEDN-B2/209/2018-HEDN

The Registrar,

Kerala University / M.G. University / Calicut University / CUSAT / Kannur University / Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam Universities / Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit / NUALS / A P J Abdul Kalam Technological University/ Kerala University of Health Science/ Kerala Veterinary & Animal Science University/ Kerala University of Fisheries & Ocean Studies/ Kerala Agricultural University.

The Principal Accountant General (Audit/A&E)), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

Web & New Media, Information and Public Relations Department.

www.highereducation.kerala.gov.in.

Stock file[HEDN-B2/ 209/2018-HED] / Office copy

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

Appendix (b)

Committee Reports 2017-21

Sl. No	Title	Chairman/Chairperson
2017-18		
1	Report of the Committee to Study the Academic and Other Aspects of the Functioning of the Autonomous Colleges in the State	Dr. Joy Job Kulavelil
2	Guidelines for Starting New Programmes in Emerging Areas	Prof. Rajan Gurukkal P.M
3	Report of the Committee to Frame Guidelines for Equivalency/ Recognition of Degrees/Diploma of Universities and Institutions	Prof. Rajan Gurukkal P.M.
4	State Assessment and Accreditation Centre (SAAC) Manual	KSHEC
5	Interim Report of the Committee to Study the Problems of Inter University Centres	Prof. Rajan Gurukkal P.M.
6	Report of the Committee to Evolve Implementation Procedures for the Institution of the Kerala Open University	Prof. Fathimathu Zuhara
7	Perspective Plan for Starting New colleges of Architecture in the State	KSHEC
8	Perspective Plan for State Higher Education with Special Reference to Arts & Science Colleges in Kerala	KSHEC
9	Report on B.Voc Courses in State Universities	KSHEC
10	Perspective Plan for Setting up New Engineering Institutions.	KSHEC
11	Perspective Plan for Starting New Polytechnics in the State.	KSHEC
12	Report on Implementation of Prabudhatha	KSHEC
13	Conference Proceedings- Disaster Preparedness.	KSHEC
14	Report of the Committee to Study the Admission Procedure in Engineering Colleges in Kerala	Prof. R. V. G. Menon

2018-19		
Sl.No	Title	Chairman/Chairperson
1	Report of the Committee Constituted for Standardizing the Non-teaching Posts of the Universities	Shri K. T. George
2	Report of the Committee for Restructuring Post Graduate Curriculum in State Universities/ Colleges	Prof. E. D. Jemmis
3	Interim Report of the Committee for Curriculum Restructuring in Teacher Education Programmes (B.Ed)	Prof. Anil Kumar K.
4	Hand book on Equivalency of Academic Programmes	KSHEC
5	Report of the Committee for The Formation of Directorate of Legal Education for Government Law Colleges in the State of Kerala	Prof. (Dr.) Vikraman Nair
6	Report on Legal Education in Kerala and the Feasibility of Starting Three Year LLB Evening Course in Govt. Law College, Ernakulam	KSHEC
7	Mode of Appointment of Registrar/ Controller of Examinations/ Finance Officer in Universities in State	KSHEC
8	Report of the Committee to Study the Problems of Filling up Teaching Posts in Universities	Dr. Fathimathu Zuhara

2019-20		
Sl.No	Title	Chairman/Chairperson
1	Report on Academic performance of Autonomous colleges in the state.	KSHEC
2	Report on Earn While You Learn Scheme	KSHEC
3	Report of the Six Member Committee on National Education Policy 2020 and Kerala	Prof. Prabhat Patnaik
4	Chancellors Award Revised Guidelines	KSHEC
5	Covid19 Turn in Higher Education	KSHEC
6	Handbook on Outcome Based Education	KSHEC

2020-21		
Sl.No	Title	Chairman/Chairperson
1	Report on Examination Reforms in State Universities	Prof. N.J. Rao
2	Report on the Unification of Fees in Respect of Foreign Students Studying in the Universities in Kerala	Dr.Sabu Thomas Dr. Gopinath Ravindran
3	Chief Minister's Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship	KSHEC
4	Project Grant Guidelines - Kairali Research Awards	KSHEC
5	Digital Enablement of HEIs in Kerala - Implementation of Learning Management System (LMS): Plan Proposal	Prof. Rajan Gurukkal. P.M Dr. Saji Gopinath
6	Problems of Researchers in State Universities and Colleges	Dr. J. Rajan

Appendix (c)

Other Reports

Sl.No	Title	Chairman/Chairperson
1	All Kerala Higher Education Survey Report 2020	KSHEC
2	IT Infrastructure Report	KSHEC

Appendix (d)

Sl.No	GOs/Regulations/Ordinance/Notifications	Year
1	Constitution of State Level Academic Committee(SLAC) in Kerala State Higher Education Council	2018
2	Norms/Guidelines Relating to Equivalency/Recognition of Academic Programmes or Areas of Studies and Nomenclature and Degrees of Other Universities	2018
3	Rules of Recruitment of Non-Teaching Posts of the Universities through PSC	
4	University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance-2019	2019
5	Sree Narayana Guru Open University Ordinance 2020	2020
6	University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2021	2021
7	Handbook on OBE	2020
8	Kerala Self Financing College Teaching and Non Teaching Employees (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021	2021

Appendix (e)

Sl. No	Annual Reports
1	Annual Report of Council 2016-2017
2	Annual Report of Council 2017-2018
3	Annual Report of Council 2018-2019
4	Annual Report of Council 2019-2020
5	Annual Report of Council 2020-2021

Appendix (f)

Sl.No	Ongoing Schemes
1.	All Kerala Higher Education Survey
2.	Brain Gain cum Building up database of Keralite-Academic Diaspora
3.	Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF)
4.	Chancellor's Award
5.	Kairali Research Awards
6.	Chief Minister's Nava Kerala Post Doctoral Fellowship
7.	Cluster Colleges Scheme
8.	E journal Consortium
9.	Kerala Academic Library Network(KALNET)
10.	Erudite –Scholar –in –Residence –Programme
11.	Faculty Development Centre-Training Programmes
12.	Journal Publication-Higher Education for the Future
13.	Prabhudhata
14.	Higher Education Scholarship
15.	State Assessment and Accreditation Centre (SAAC)
16.	Support for Implementing Outcome Based Education in HEIs

Appendix (g)

Staff of the Council		
Sl.No	**Name**	**Designation**
1	**Smt. Vanaja P.S**	Registrar
2	**Smt. Ajitha K**	Finance Officer
3	**Dr. Shefeeque V**	Research Officer
4	**Dr. Manulal P.Ram**	Research Officer
5	**Dr.Priya K. Nair**	Research Officer
6	**Smt. Deepika Lakshman**	Documentation Officer
7	**Smt.Rashmi P.R**	Assistant Registrar(i/c)
8	**Sri. Dileep M**	Research Associate
9	**Sri. Sandeep S Nair**	System Analyst
10	**Sri. Sreejith M.G,**	Assistant
11	**Smt. Sabitha**	Assistant
12	**Smt. Asa Rani,**	Assistant
13	**Smt. Divya A S**	CA O/o the Vice Chairman
14	**Sri. Krishna Kumar P. J**	CA O/o the Member Secretary
15	**Sri. Rajkumar B**	Assistant
16	**Smt. Lathika K.,**	Assistant
17	**Smt. Vimala S**	Data Entry Operator
18	**Smt. Sherin A.S**	Data Entry Operator
19	**Sri. Syam S**	Data Entry Operator
20	**Smt. Ajitha S**	Data Entry Operator
21	**Sri. Jose Raj S**	Office Attendant
22	**Sri Bincy Thomas**	Office Attendant
23	**Sri. Vysakh B**	Office Attendant
24	**Sri. Antin Vinod H**	Driver
25	**Sri. Selvarajan**	Driver
26	**Sri.Lijukumar K.L**	Driver

THE HINDU

Varsities to guarantee graduates a set of skills

Sarath Babu George

Each varsity will prepare Graduate Attributes, which are qualities students will acquire after a course

The higher education sector in Kerala has taken its first step towards outcome-based education, which will make the graduates competent enough to meet social expectations.

The Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) has set in motion a process to assist State universities in adopting the mechanism. The universities will identify their Graduate Attributes, which indicate skills and qualities that graduates will develop, in addition to knowledge in their core subjects, while doing a course. At a recent meeting of its governing body, Education Minister C. Ravindranath directed the Vice Chancellors to entrust the faculty deans with the task.

The council has already commenced workshops for finalising the skills for various courses, the basic requirement for the task.

Workshops, led by N.J. Rao of the Indian Institute of Science

(IISc) Bengaluru, were recently conducted for the chairpersons and members of the Board of Studies of the University of Kerala and the Mahatma Gandhi University. The next workshop will be organised for the faculty of the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) in February.

Council vice-chairman Rajan Gurukkal said no university in the country had prepared Graduate Attributes which, he pointed out, comprised of competencies guaranteed to graduates. The learning outcome or competencies each university promises will vary, while certain fundamental attributes of international validity will be common to all, he said.

"Development of competencies such as higher cognitive ability, sharper analytical faculty, better language power to communicate the fundamentals of the discipline,

and application of knowledge, besides basics of computational skill, interdisciplinary learning under ICT environment will be the common elements in the Graduate Attributes of the universities in Kerala," Prof. Gurukkal added.

KSHEC Member Secretary Rajan Varughese said that declaration of Graduate Attributes would bring many advantages. These included high academic quality and a student-centric approach. "Prior statement of attributes will ensure clarity in the objective of teaching and help students in self-evaluation. It will democratise and make transparent the processes of teaching and evaluation."

Courtesy: The Hindu