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A critical study on the responses of participants of UGC academic staff college

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Abstract

This study will deal with organized and deliberate endeavours of UGC in promoting standard of professional education in the country. This study will investigate the refresher courses offered for physical education professional under career advancement scheme. For this study responses of resource persons were collected, who had taken classes in these ASC's. Total numbers of respondents were 600. Data were collected by administering self-made questionnaire. The findings revealed that, participants rendered latest knowledge of the field, fulfils candidates' expectation, keep themselves abreast with latest information of the field, provides immense practical values, but were not happy with the attentiveness on the part of participants.

Keywords: Refresher Course, Orientation Program, Resource Person

1. Introduction

The goal of higher education is not to award degrees on the basis of indifferent instruction and dubious and unreliable system of evaluation. The goal rather is to develop the younger people of the country in such a manner that they not only have a satisfying personal life but can also make a worthy contribution to the progress of the society to which they belong. The institutions of higher education, therefore have to provide all round development of the students - intellectual, physical, moral and spiritual development of the mind, body, heart, personality, disseminate knowledge, promote skills and develop outlook so as to produce, young persons who are intellectually, alert, physically strong, morally upright a ethically sensitive, socially committed and economically self-reliant. Then alone can be institutions of higher education fulfil their purpose. The only way to do this is to ensure that the quality of higher education is such as fulfils these goals.

The National Policy Education recognized the need for improving the status of the teacher and proposed to provide opportunities for professional and career development, so that teachers can fulfill their role and responsibility within the system of higher education. It was proposed to enhance the motivation skills and knowledge of teachers through systematic orientation in specific subjects, techniques and methodologies, and thereby inculcate in them the right kind of values, which would in turn encourage them to take initiative for innovation and creative work.

Keeping the above objectives in view, the following steps were proposed.

1. To organize specially designed orientation programmes in pedagogy educational psychology and philosophy, socio-economic and political concerns for all new entrants at the level of lecturers.
2. To organize such programmes (orientation/ refresher courses) for serving teachers to cover every teacher at least once in 3-5 years.
3. To encourage teachers to participate in seminars, symposia, workshops.
4. To organize refresher courses for serving teachers to cover every teacher at least once in 5 year.

Keeping the above, in view and realizing the lacunae in the professional development of College/University teachers, the University Grants Commission (UGC) thought of organizing orientation programmes for new entrant and Refresher

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Courses for the benefit of in-service teachers at various levels of their progression. The commission rightly thought that both the orientation and refresher courses should be organized with an entirely different philosophy so as not to replicate traditional B.Ed. programme. In the seventh five-year plan; the university grants commission formulated a new scheme, which came to be known as the scheme of establishing Academic Staff Colleges (ASCs)

The purpose of this study was to analyze critically and to review of courses under career advancement scheme offered by UGC, Academic Staff Colleges of various universities for physical education professionals. The views of resource person regarding the participants, course content, course material, infrastructure, and honorarium and regarding the lodging and boarding facilities were also taken into consideration for proper analysis of the refresher courses. The data was collected through questionnaire, phone calls, e-mails and personal interviews etc.

2. Procedure

Selection of subjects

This study will deal with organized and deliberate endeavours of UGC in promoting standard of professional education in the country. This study will investigate the refresher courses

offered for physical education professional under career advancement scheme.

Since in the implementation of this scheme a vast Government Machinery, personnel working at various capacities such as, resource person, course coordinator, director of ASC, subject expert's views and opinion are significant.

For this study responses of participants were collected, who had taken classes in these ASC's. Total numbers of respondents were 600.

Collection of Data

Data were collected by administering self-made questionnaire, which was duly formulated by the help of experts. The questionnaire comprised of 23 questions, out of which eleven were answered in YES/NO and remaining 12 with options (a) Not at all, (b) To some extent and (c) To a great extent.

3. Analysis of Data and Results of the Study

Findings

The results are presented in this chapter in tabular form and in pie diagrams further the discussion of findings was made intensity wise, which is as follows:-

Table 1: Chi-Square Analysis of Responses of Participant of Refresher Course at ASC (UGC) N – 600

Statements	No. of Responses	% of Responses	No. of Responses	% of Responses	chi-square
	Yes	Yes	No	NO	
1. Do you think Refresher Course are essential for in-service teachers/ employees?	512	85.33%	88	14.66%	299.63
2. Do you think Refresher Course are essential for upgrading the subject knowledge?	565	94.16%	35	5.83%	468.17
3. Refresher Course should not be made compulsory for promotions.	265	44.16%	335	55.83%	8.17
4. Are you of the opinion that Refresher Courses are not serving any purpose and they should be done away with.	141	23.50%	459	76.50%	168.54
15. Whether seminar & workshop were part of your course content?	582	97%	18	3%	530.16
16. Whether Refresher Training were part of your course content?	388	64.66%	212	35.33%	51.63
17. Did the course you have attended offered training in the use of Teaching Gadgets & Teaching Aids?	457	76.16%	143	23.83%	164.33
18. Are you satisfied with training of Teaching Gadgets & teaching aids?	423	70.50%	177	29.50%	100.86
19. Did the course you attended offered computer training?	513	85.50%	87	14.50%	302.46
20. Are you of the opinion that course content should compulsorily include training of computer education?	513	85.50%	87	14.50%	302.46
21. Did the course you attended covered practical Teaching & Coaching, relevant to sports and games?	406	67.66%	194	32.33%	74.91

Table 2: Budgetary Allocations for Academic Staff Colleges from University Grant Commission to Conduct Orientation & Refresher Courses

Year	Amount Allotted (Rs. In Lakhs)	% of Increase in Amount allotted from Previous Year	% of Decrease in amount allotted from Previous Year	Grant Released	% of Increase in Grant Released	%of Decrease in Grant Released
2000-01	1600	-	-	1612.79	-	-
2001-02	1950	21.87%	-	1967.19	21.97%	-
2002-03	3000	53.84%	-	3017.15	53.38%	-
2003-04	3000	-	-	2124	-	29.60%
2004-05	2800	-	6.66%	2468	-	16.19%
2005-06	2000	-	28.57%	2004	-	18.80%

It is clearly evident from the table No. 2, that the amount which was allotted in the budget had increased in the year 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2005-06, whereas it was decreased in the year 2003-04 and 2004-05.

4. Discussion of Findings

The findings revealed that, resource persons rendered latest knowledge of the field, fulfils candidates' expectation, keep themselves abreast with latest information of the field,

provides immense practical values, but were not happy with the attentiveness on the part of participants. They were satisfied with the honorarium and accommodation. They were also satisfied with the standard of ASC they have visited.

5. Summary

1. UGC Refresher Courses of Physical Education are worth beyond any doubt. It is crucially important for knowledge up-gradation for Lecturer/Sports Officer working in Colleges/Universities.
2. Participation in refresher courses as mandatory requirement for promotion is well justified administrative policy to ensure participation and hence in larger aspects benefits society ultimately.
3. Existing UGC refresher courses to great extent has retained standard by following UGC guidelines for course implementation within limitations, capacity, resource availability of individual ASC's. Hence ultimately standard of courses vary according to ASC's.

6. Recommendations

In the light critical analysis of present study, following recommendations are made:

- The existing pattern' of participation in Refresher Courses for promotion in service very well justifies ensuring maximum participation and ultimately benefits the society
- UGC should frame comprehensive guidelines for ASC's for running the Refresher Courses. Further a monitoring system should be established by UGC to monitor the attentiveness of the participants.

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