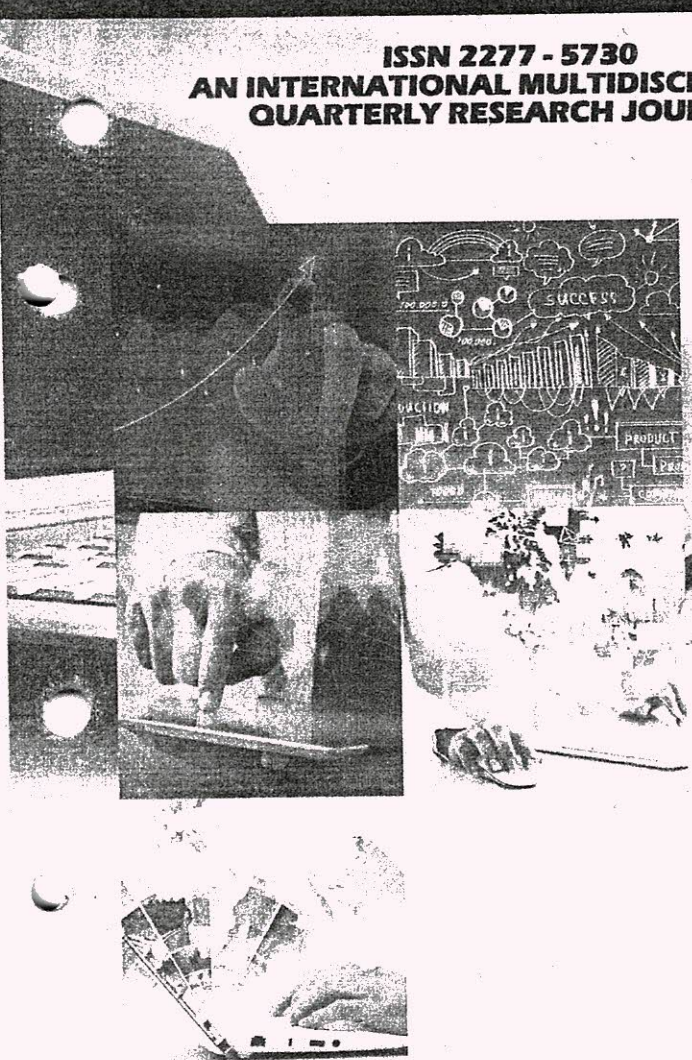


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1. An Overview of Autonomous Colleges in Maharashtra

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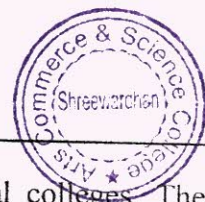
Abstract

Higher education in India is played remarkable role in the development of the country. But because of increasing number of college's autonomy in higher education is a need of today's global era. After 2008 the Autonomy in higher education is remarkable. Autonomy is required to provide job oriented education, learning practical oriented syllabus and curriculum. A University system and policy is common to all colleges, governing of colleges is similar, irrespective of their characteristic strengths, weaknesses and places have affected the academic development of individual colleges. The university cannot fulfil the need of individual college because the number of colleges is increasing day by day. The universities are facing difficulties to control on colleges. On the other side, the colleges do not have the freedom to offering programmes which are need based as per local conditions. Colleges cannot design the syllabus, cannot provide various need based courses etc., hence Autonomy in higher education is a need of today.

Key Words: Autonomy, Higher Education, University, Colleges.

1. Introduction

The Autonomous colleges are significant for improving the quality of education, provide academic and operational freedom for betterment and more credibility. The University supervises the working performance of colleges and award of degree on behalf of university. It is too difficult for a University to see the various needs of individual colleges. The colleges also don't have the freedom to advancing their curriculum which is globally competent, locally relevant and skill oriented to promote employability. A University system and policy is common to all colleges, governing of colleges is similar, irrespective of their characteristic strengths,



weaknesses and places have affected the academic development of individual colleges. The Education Commission -1964-66 pointed out that, the exercise of academic freedom by teachers is a critical requirement for development of the intellectual environment of our nation. Except such a atmosphere prevails, it is difficult to achieve quality in our higher education system by students, teachers and management being co-partners in raising the quality of higher education, it is vital that they share a major accountability. Hence, the Education Commission (1964-66) recommended college autonomy, which, in essence, is the tool for promoting academic excellence. The special grant is also provided for development of the colleges.

2. Objectives of the Study

- 1) To Study the Concept of Autonomy, its merits and Challenges.
- 2) To Study Autonomy in Higher Education in Maharashtra State.

3. Methodology

The study is descriptive nature. The Study based on secondary data collected from various sources like Magazines, Internet Website, News Paper, Research Papers, journals etc. The study is related with the autonomous colleges of state university.

4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Concept of Autonomy: In simple form Autonomy means Freedom, Independence, non-interference and Self Government without giving details about how these synonyms are to be analysed but they do speak of degrees of autonomy comparing various types of universities.

Autonomy: "autonomy means" a privilege of the university conferred by the statutes to permit a college, institution or a university department to conduct academic programs and examinations, develop syllabus for the respective subjects and issue certificates of passing the examinations, etc. A college, institution or a university department which has been granted autonomy shall have full academic, administrative and financial autonomy subject to provisions of the Act and Statutes and the guidelines issued by the UGC from time to time. (*Maharashtra Universities Act- 2011.*)

Autonomous College: "autonomous college", "autonomous institution" or "autonomous department" means a college, institution or department to which autonomy is granted and is designated to be so by Universities Act. (*Maharashtra Universities Act- 2011.*)

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Objectives of Autonomy

The National Policy On Education (1986-92) Formulated The Following Objectives For Autonomous Colleges. An Autonomous College Will Have The Freedom:

- 1) To Determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi, and restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs, make it skill oriented and in consonance with the job requirements.
- 3) To prescribe rules for admission in consonance with the reservation policy of the state government/national policy.
- 4) Promote research in relevant fields.
- 5) Evolve methods of assessment of student's performance, the conduct of examinations and notification of results.
- 6) Use modern tools of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity.
- 7) Promote healthy practices such as community service, extension activities, projects for the benefit of the society at large, etc.

To use the modern technologies of learning to be found in a fit Stocked library, the modernized laboratories and computerized analytical equipment including teaching films and demonstrations, closed circuit TV, etc. Autonomy is an essential condition for the effective performance of an organisation whether it is a university or college.

Table No. 1

Autonomous Colleges in Maharashtra

Est.	Name of the University	Types of College	Total Autonomous Colleges	Percentage of College
1958	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	Technical Institutes Mgt. Institutes Traditional Colleges	1 - 1	02 3.44%
1990	North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon.	Technical Institutes Mgt. Institutes Traditional Colleges	1 - 1	02 3.44%
1948	Savitribai Puhle Pune University, Pune	Technical Institutes Mgt. Institutes	6 2	12 20.70%

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		Traditional Colleges	4		
1923	Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj, Nagpur	Technical Institutes	4	06	10.35%
		Mgt. Institutes	1		
		Traditional Colleges	1		
1916	Univ. S.N.D.T. Women's University	Technical Institutes		01	1.72%
		Mgt. Institutes	1		
		Traditional Colleges			
1983	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University	Technical Institutes	1	03	5.18%
		Mgt. Institutes	1		
		Traditional Colleges	1		
1962	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	Technical Institutes	6	10	17.24%
		Mgt. Institutes	1		
		Traditional Colleges	3		
1994	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University	Technical Institutes	1	02	3.44%
		Mgt. Institutes	-		
		Traditional Colleges	1		
1857	University of Mumbai	Technical Institutes	4	20	34.49%
		Mgt. Institutes	3		
		Traditional Colleges	13		
Total Autonomous Colleges		Technical Institutes	24	58	100%
		Mgt. Institutes	09		
		Traditional Colleges	25		

(Source: UGC Status List of Approved Autonomous Colleges as On 27.11.2018)

Table No.1 shows Autonomous Colleges in Maharashtra. In these table 34.49% colleges i.e. 20 colleges receive autonomy under Mumbai University, which is well known and oldest university, established in 1857. Only 2 Colleges i.e. 3.44% are Autonomous under Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University which is establishment in 1994. The Shivaji University established in 1962 and 17.24% college under the university are received autonomy i.e. 10 colleges. 12 colleges received autonomy under Pune University i.e. 20.70% and the university established in the year 1948.

Autonomy given Period: Autonomy Year classification is done in ten years, currently the colleges need to take autonomy because of change in education system, trends, fashion, cultural etc.

Signature



Table No. 2

Autonomy given Period

Sr. No	Period of Autonomy	Number of Colleges	Percentage
1	Year 1988 to 1998.	3	5.18%
2	Year 1998 to 2008.	11	18.96%
3	Year 2008 to 2018.	33	56.90%
4	Year 2018 Onward.	11	18.96%
Total Autonomous Colleges		58	100%

(Source: UGC Status List of Approved Autonomous Colleges as On 27.11.2018)

Table no. 2 Shows the year in which the Autonomy is given to the colleges. In the year ten years period from 1988 to 1998 only three colleges are received the autonomy. In next ten years i.e. from 1998 to 2008 total 11 colleges are declared as autonomous. The highest percent of college given autonomy in the year 2008 to 2018 i.e. 56.90% colleges in numbers 33 colleges are received autonomy status in this period. That means the colleges of autonomous is increasing trends. The autonomy is important to development and changes in higher education. In the year 2018 onward 11 colleges received autonomy i.e. 18.96% college.

Challenges of Autonomy Colleges

1. Challenge of relevance and innovation in future.
2. How does one get ideas for stable innovation, for new and applicable courses?
3. Introduce latest syllabi for advance centres of learning including various universities will be stable help to introduce innovative changes in the curriculum.
4. Compete to private and professional university, colleges and institutes.
5. Provide practical oriented education to the students.
6. Maintain quality of education in Autonomy.

Merits of Autonomous Colleges

1. The Continuous Internal Assessment would reduce the fear of the single, all main final examinations, as there would be no such examination or its fear under Autonomy.
2. The end-of-Semester Examination would be one among some. Beside with the feat the tension and pressure and attempts to pass the single examination through unethical means also would disappear.

Signature



3. The Board of Studies and Academic Council, being small and compact, can function quickly and capably, and respond to the changing needs of society quickly by introducing relevant courses.
4. In Autonomy, the course professor would be completely responsible for teaching and evaluating his/her own students for a section of the syllabus.
5. She/he would be the individual authority of the pass or failure of the students for that section, and hence would use significant power over the students.
6. There is always a possibility that this power could be misused through bias or favouritism.
7. Correct checks and balances should be built into the system and implemented faithfully in order to protect against such mistreatment of power.
8. The previous would give an idea of the responsibilities of the Autonomous Colleges, and what was expected of them in the urgent future and in the long run.
9. Expected to demonstrate how the decentralisation of Exams would immediately eliminate the long standing problems of corruption and violence in the conduct of mass examinations, and the continuous Internal Assessment would ensure continuity in application on the part of students.
10. In Autonomy the preamble of new and important courses, innovative curricula and imaginative methods of teaching and learning, would convert higher education, making it of higher excellence and relevance. Those were the hopes and expectations.
11. The faculty of an Autonomy college had prepared themselves academically and psychologically for autonomy through various seminars, workshops, conference and personal study Autonomy has been implemented with far great success than in Colleges it was richly clear that most of the Autonomous Colleges had tried to implement Autonomy to the best of their ability, but with changing degrees of success.
12. The short term objective of conducting exams without encountering the huge problems of the parent University has been more or less achieved fully.
13. The best to implement Autonomy in College is depending upon the quality, capability and motivation (financial and non financial motivation) of the faculty.

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14. This is most evident in the matter of starting new and innovative curricular and co-curricular programmes in the Colleges.
15. Despite criticisms natural out of ignorance, that there has been very little change in the course structure in Autonomous Colleges, the range and scope of new and innovative courses introduced in most Autonomous Colleges over the years is truly amazing. One has only to use a couple of days on the campus of a good
16. Autonomous College and work together with the staff and students to discover out for One-self the sizeable changes that have taken place in the curricula of different disciplines.
17. Changes in approach of staff and students to education as a change agent and a subscriber of society's needs.

(Source-https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/9165907_Revised-Guidelines-for-autonomous-college-15.05.2017.pdf)

5. Findings

1. Autonomy to 33 colleges given in year 2008 to 2018 i.e. 56.90% colleges are from total autonomous colleges.
2. Under Mumbai University 34.49% colleges i.e. 20 colleges are autonomous.
3. Currently Autonomy in higher education is significantly increasing and also the autonomous colleges running successfully.

6. Conclusion

Autonomy means a freedom of the university conferred by the statutes to permit a college, institution or a university department to perform academic programs and examinations develop syllabus for the particular subjects and issue certificates of passing the examinations, etc. Currently it is need to change our education system because the current education system is more theoretical, old and not local need based. Practical oriented, skill based and employee oriented education is required, hence it is need to colleges adopt autonomy in college and institution. Researcher concludes that the autonomous status in Maharashtra is increasing trend and after year 2008 to onward the autonomous college's status is remarkable and it is running successfully.



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