

JUSTICE S K AGARWAL (RETD.),
CHAIRMAN, PROF. J M KHURANA, DEAN, STUDENTS'
WELFARE (MEMBER), PROF. DEVESH SINHA, DEAN,
FACULTY OF SCIENCE (MEMBER)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE NEED FOR CONTINUATION OF
THE SPAN PERIOD AND THE APPLICATION OF
ORDINANCE X-C TO THE SAME

Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, vide judgment and order dated 9th May, 2014 passed in *Raid Huda Vs. University of Delhi & Ors.*, (LPA No.189/14), directed University of Delhi, & other connected matters to lay down Policy Guidelines to be followed by the Universities regarding (a) the need to continue with the span period and (b) whether Ordinance X-C of University of Delhi Calendar applies to the span period also. The Academic Council was further directed to pass a Resolution on both the aspects giving reasons therefor.

2. In pursuance of the above directions, the Academic Council deliberated upon the matter and vide Resolution No. 42 dated 21.1.2015 authorized the Vice Chancellor to constitute a Committee to look into all aspects of the matter and submit its recommendations at an early date. The Vice Chancellor constituted this Committee, and the same was communicated to the members by the Registrar vide letter no. Aca1/2015/409 dated 25th March, 2015.

3. The Hon'ble Court in the concluding portion of the judgment inter-alia observed, (a) To get over the issue of such candidates/ students blocking the seats, facilities and amenities of the University, such facility can be made available to only those who have the requisite attendance in all years/semesters but have been unable to pass the examinations; (b) Instead of span period of time, number of attempts to pass the examination in a subject can be prescribed; or (c) To allow such students/candidates to continue the educational courses/programs as permitted in an Open School/University and to issue Degree/Certificate to them different from a Degree/Certificate issued to the others, who have completed the course/program within the duration prescribed therefor and to let the employers/others dealing with them to judge their skill and acumen. The Hon'ble Court also held :

"We do not consider ourselves competent or qualified to take a decision on the aspects which we have highlighted above and we also do not have available all the materials/factors which may be relevant for taking such a decision. All the stakeholders are also not before us. We therefore refrain from judging on the aforesaid two rival aspects.....". It was further observed

"Court must act on sure grounds, especially when matters of policy, socio-educational investigation and expert evaluation of

variables are involved and held that to doubt is not enough to demolish."

Material Collected

4. For the purposes of proper appreciation of the issues involved namely whether to grant or not to grant special chance to the students (beyond the prescribed span) and / or to allow them to appear and pass the examination as well as the applicability of Ordinance X-C in such cases, a questionnaire was framed and suggestions were invited from the Principals of all the Colleges, HODs, Director SOL, Director NCWEB and Dean Examinations, so that the same can be treated as the material for reaching the conclusion.

5. The suggestions were placed before the Committee which were quite voluminous therefore, Shri Ram Dutt, Joint Registrar was required to prepare a summary of the information received from the Principals of the Colleges, HODs, Director, SOL, Director, NCW, NCWEB, and Dean Examinations, upto 2011-12.

6. The Committee examined the material and deliberated upon the same at length and it was prima facie of the view that from the facts and circumstances revealed from the perusal of the said suggestions, and taking into consideration that the students some time have to

leave the course because of economic and/or other personal reasons beyond their control, the Committee was of the view that the span period of about two years be provided to such like students in special circumstances.

7. However, when the Report was being drafted, it was noticed that the High Court, vide judgment dated 27.11.2014, passed in Anita Saini & Ors. Vs. University of Delhi, had also issued directions to the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi to lay down the guidelines to be followed in the matter of need for having span period for completing courses/programs being offered by the Universities. In view of the same, it was found appropriate that the University should also seek information about the policy guidelines, if any on the subject. The Committee has now been informed that the University Grant Commission, vide letter dated 15th October, 2015, has notified the Guidelines on the determination of a Uniform Span Period within which a student may be allowed to qualify for a degree. The relevant portion of these guidelines reads as under:

"1. Normally, the student is expected to complete his programme within the minimum period as laid down under the relevant Regulation of the university which should be in conformity with the UGC Regulations on the award of First Degree and Masters Degree and also in line with the notification,

issued from time to time, on Specification of Degrees under Section 22 of UGC Act, 1956.

2. A student who for whatever reasons is not able to complete the programme within the normal period or the minimum duration prescribed for the programme, may be allowed two years period beyond the normal period to clear the backlog to be qualified for the degree. The general formula, therefore should be as follows:

a) Time Span = $N+2$ years for the completion of programme.
Where N stands for the normal or minimum duration prescribed for completion of the programme.

b) In exceptional circumstance a further extension of one more year may be granted. The exceptional circumstances be spelt out clearly by the relevant statutory body concerned of the university.

c) During the extended period the student shall be considered as a private candidate and also not be eligible for ranking.

3. Ordinarily, no student should be given time beyond the extended period of two years. However, in exceptional circumstances and on the basis of the merits of each case university may allow a student one more year for completion of the programme.


4. These guidelines are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the statutory bodies and universities governing the grant of degrees."

8. The Committee as noted above, was also proposing to submit similar suggestions on the need for continuation of the span period and the applicability of ordinance X-C to the same.

9. In view of the fact that the Guidelines have been laid down by the UGC, on the issues in question, no further suggestion are required and it is recommended accordingly.

10. The Report of the Committee is concluded herewith.


1. JUSTICE S K AGARWAL (RETD.), (CHAIRMAN)


2. PROF. J M KHURANA, DEAN, STUDENTS' WELFARE
(MEMBER)


3. PROF. DEVESH SINHA, DEAN, FACULTY OF SCIENCE
(MEMBER)

New Delhi:
Date: 26.10.2015



प्रो. (डॉ.) जसपाल एस. सन्धू
सचिव

Prof. Dr. Jaspal S. Sandhu
MBBS, MS (Ortho), DSM, FAIS, FASM, FAFSM, FFIMS, FAMS
Secretary



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
(मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)
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By Speed Post

D.O.No.F.12-1/2015(CPP-II)

15th October, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

The University Grants Commission has formulated the **Guidelines on Determination of a Uniform Span Period within which a Student may be allowed to Qualify for a Degree** which are available on the UGC website www.ugc.ac.in. You are requested to kindly peruse the same for your esteemed University.

With regards,

/Yours sincerely,

(Jaspal S. Sandhu)

The Vice-Chancellor
University of Delhi
Delhi-110007.

UGC Guidelines on Determination of a Uniform Span
Period Within which a Student may be allowed to
Qualify for a Degree.

The Commission has observed that universities across the country adopt varying span period within which a student may be allowed to complete a programme to be qualified for a degree. In order to evolve a uniform policy, the Commission had constituted an Expert Committee to consider the issue of determining a uniform span period. On the basis of the recommendations made by the Committee, the Commission has formulated following guidelines for compliance of the universities:

1. Normally, the student is expected to complete his programme within the minimum period as laid down under the relevant Regulation of the university which should be in conformity with the UGC Regulations on the award of First Degree and Masters Degree and also in line with the notification, issued from time to time, on Specification of Degrees under Section 22 of UGC Act, 1956.
2. A student who for whatever reasons is not able to complete the programme within the normal period or the minimum duration prescribed for the programme, may be allowed two years period beyond the normal period to clear the backlog to be qualified for the degree. The general formula, therefore should be as follows:
 - a) Time Span = $N+2$ years for the completion of programme.
where N stands for the normal or minimum duration prescribed for completion of the programme.
 - b) In exceptional circumstance a further extension of one more year may be granted. The exceptional circumstances be spelt out clearly by the relevant statutory body concerned of the university.
 - c) During the extended period the student shall be considered as a private candidate and also not be eligible for ranking.
3. Ordinarily, no student should be given time beyond the extended period of two years. However, in exceptional circumstances and on the basis of the merits of each case university may allow a student one more year for completion of the programme.
4. These guidelines are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the statutory bodies and universities governing the grant of degrees.
