

## Implementation of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in Discipline of Library and Information Science

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**Abstract** - In every society education plays a significant role in building a good nation. There are numerous institutions playing this role in our country. Now they have entered into semester based system to introduce Choice Based Credit System (CBCS). Lack of relationship between education and skill development in learning phase needs redesigning of education system and globally accepted evaluation. Indian higher education institutes have been dependant on marks or percentage for evaluating students. The marks specified in the field of study acquired by this CBCS system, can help students opt their own choice based subjects and have mobility to join different institutions. This paper highlights the Choice based credit rating system in Library and Information Science, its impact on learner and Teacher, pros and cons of it. To improve the quality of education the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) took a vital step for implementing a universal system of education all over the India. Most of the disciplines in arts and science have a regular 3 years under graduate course be it in honours and general pattern. But Library and Information Science (LIS) as a subject has not been able to develop its under graduate course of three years in this specific field. However University of Calcutta has developed a 3 years BA/BSC honours in Library and Information Science. A significant amount of literature has been published in CBCS but none of them are available relating to LIS field.

**Keywords:** CBCS, MHRD, Semester Based System, Universal System, Skill Based Learning, LIS

### I. INTRODUCTION

Choice based credit rating system is a universal new education policy taken by the ministry of human resource development, Government of India under the sole responsibility of University Grants commission from the year 2015. The main purpose of introducing this system is to ensure the ability of enhancing the quality of education and increase academic efficiency in Indian Higher Education system. A student can easily join another institution with their credit earned within the running years of course. No doubt, CBCS has increased the probability of education with full potentiality to the students. It is a system of evaluation which offers maximum opportunities to the students to learn core subjects with other courses from another discipline. It is a tool to lessen the gap between the students of various courses as it has rules and regulations of offering core subjects with addition of the subject of another discipline. So, it is said that CBCS

gives emphasis on the universal, continuous and comprehensive evaluation.

Library and Information Science is considered to be an interdisciplinary course. This subject has various topics that are applications of other subjects such as Library Management came from Management Studies. Earlier computers were introduced in the Libraries and with the passage of time the application of computers has increased. Hence under CBCS system various topics are divided to be included in the core course and elective course. However decision should be taken universally by the professionals in this discipline so that the course will benefit the students in the long run. This is a service oriented course whereby we need to fulfil the demands of the user. The topics to be included in the core course should be updated at certain intervals because with time as developments take place in this discipline core courses should also change. In Library and Information Science things are changing particularly due to the advancements in Information Technology, changes in the scholarly world and various changes taking place in other disciplines.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Roy, Khanam & Devi (2013) in their study found that science students had a greater positive attitude towards CBCS in comparison to arts students.
2. Kelkar & Ravishankar (2014) conducted a research where he revealed that 42% teachers agreed in attaining the objective of CBCS, 39% felt the objective was not satisfied whereas 18% were not sure. In order to determine the focus of CBCS on teaching or evaluation, (62.5%) felt the emphasis on evaluation while (20%) felt emphasis on teaching and (15%) felt equal weightage was given to both teaching and evaluation.
3. Hasan & Parvez (2015) has talked about the role played by Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) in initiating a new Education Policy. Most colleges and universities in India evaluate on the basis of marks or percentage preventing the students to move to other institutes in pursuit of their desired subjects. However CBCS will provide an opportunity to learners to pursue course of their interest. He also discussed the Pros and Cons of CBCS giving suggestions for proper implementation.

### III. BASIC STRUCTURE

CBCS courses divided mainly into three parts. These are as follows:

*A. Core Subject/Course:* Core course in the main subject for the discipline of Library & Information Science which should compulsorily be studied by a candidate. Now some of the topics that can be included in the core course are given below

1. Library and Society
2. Library Management
3. Information Sources and Services
4. Information Users
5. Document Processing
6. Information Retrieval
7. Research Methodology

*B. Elective Course:* Elective course is a course which can be chosen from a pool of courses and which may be very specific to the discipline of study here Library & Information Science and which gives an extended scope on exposure to the discipline/subject. Elective courses are divided into 3 parts. These are:

*1. Discipline Specific Elective Course (DSE):* Discipline Specific Elective courses may be offered by the main discipline/subject in the field of Library & Information Science. Some related topics to be included are;

- a. Marketing of Information Products and Services
- b. E-learning and Content Development in Library

*2. Dissertation/Project:* An elective course designed for special/advanced knowledge such as supplement study to a project work and a student studies such a course on his own with an advisory support by of his/her teacher/faculty member is called dissertation/project.

- a. Fundamentals of Metadata
- b. Preservation and Conservation of documents

*3. Generic Elective Course (GEC):* A Generic elective course chosen generally from an unrelated discipline/subject, with a personal interest of this subject of any student.

- a. Bibliometrics and Scientometrics
- b. User Studies in Digital Era

*C. Ability Enhancement Course:* The ability enhancement courses may be of two types. These are

*1. Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses (AECC):* This course based upon the content that leads to knowledge enhancement and these are mandatory for all disciplines. These courses are;

- a. Spoken English
- b. Technical Writing

*2. Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC):* It is a value based and skill based courses and these are aimed at providing hands

on-training, competencies, skills etc. This type of programs should be must for a candidate to get his degree in Library & Information Science. He should get a practical real life experience by working along with the Library staff to enhance his hands on expertise in this field.

- a. Internship Program (1 to 3 months)
- b. Working with an Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS) eg: KOHA, SOUL, etc.
  - i. Core Courses (CC): Total - 84 credits
  - ii. Discipline Specific Elective (DSE): Four courses- each course= 6 credits, (5 theoretical segment + 1 tutorial related segment) Total - 24 credits
  - iii. Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC): Two courses- each course = 2 credits, Total - 4 credits

### IV. GRADING IN CBCS SYSTEM

Grade points are based on percentage of marks awarded for each course will form the basis for calculation of SGPA (Semester Grade point average) and CGPA (Cumulative grade point average). All the registered credits will be considered for the calculation of final CGPA.

TABLE I A 10 POINT GRADING SYSTEM WITH LETTER GRADES AND PERCENTAGE OF MARKS SHOWN BELOW

Letter grade	Percentage of marks	Grade point
O (outstanding)	Marks $\geq 80$ to $\leq 100$	10
A+(Excellent)	Marks $\geq 70$ to $< 80$	9
A (very good)	Marks $\geq 60$ to $< 70$	8
B+(Good)	Marks $\geq 55$ to $< 60$	7
B (Above average)	Marks $\geq 50$ to $< 55$	6
C (Average)	Marks $\geq 45$ to $< 50$	5
P (Pass)	Marks $\geq 40$ to $< 45$	4
F (Fail)	Marks $< 40$	0
Ab (Absent)		0

So, for passing any course a student should have to secure a minimum of 4 grade point except that he/she will not be passed in the proposed course.

### V. WHAT IS CREDIT AND HOW DOES IT COUNT

In CBCS course credit is most important thing. It is the indicator of student's evaluation. Credit has three parts that is

1. Lecture class,
2. Tutorial Class and
3. Practical class.

Basically credit is the summation of all three classes.

If any student has one lecture class, one tutorial class and one practical class then his/her credit will count as:

- 1 lecture Class = 1 credit
- 1 Tutorial Class = 1 credit and
- 1 Practical Class = 2 credits

Where all the practical classes will get always 2 credits. So, it works like a student should have completed a course successfully and earned the credits if he/she secures an acceptable letter grade in the range O-P. Letter grade F in any course implies failure of the student in that course and no credits earned.

### VI. ADVANTAGES OF CBCS

There are various advantages are included in this system. These are as follows:

1. It gives more priority to the students than the teacher.
2. It permits students to choose the topic of their own choice and interest in the related subject.
3. It permits students to take subjects from different discipline within the area of core subjects
4. It gives the students freedom to go to other institution as per their choice.
5. It takes education system at a global and universal position worldwide.
6. It promotes all round development of the student as it emphasise more on skill based education.
7. More classes on skill based courses enhance the employment ability of students in Libraries.
8. Cooperation and cordination among students has been raised to a certain extent .
9. Working ability and efficiency can be increased in Library housekeeping functions.
10. It ensures the universality and uniformity in education system in terms of evaluation.
11. It gives more stress on maximum use of ICT application in libraries.
12. Equality among the students can be enhanced through this system as it has the grading system.

### VII. DISADVANTAGES OF CBCS

This system has so many disadvantages also. These are as follows:

1. The most problem is faced by teachers as they will have to spend more time on preparing questions and papers. So their workload would increase a lot.
2. Transferring of students from one university/ institution to another may create a problem both for teachers and students.
3. With the amalgamation of core subject and other discipline, subject may create a jargon for the students.
4. Extra burden may be created to find out the exact marks of a student.
5. Students may become callous about reading as no pressure will be given to them and seriousness of

students will go away from the examination as much to continuous or internal assesment and evaluation.

### VIII. CONCLUSION

All the topics mentioned in the core course and elective course have been dicussed in different programs under the discipline of Library and Information Science. But the students have failed to satisfy the users. Hence there are certain reasons we need to focus on such as teaching techniques, training aspects, dissertation, project work, Internship program, etc. The internship program must be taken up seriously in order to provide the students with a practical hands on training of all the services that take place in the Library. Hence this new era of CBCS will surely provide an advantage to all the students enrolled in this discipline. Education system always needs proper rules and regulations because it creates a legacy to the society. And a society can prosper through education. So, it needs to change or reform or reevaluate the education system after a certain period of time. Because education system can build a nation of future. Choice based Credit rating system is the parameter, that can make a change in our education system. It can make a revolution for our future generation. More stress on practical classes makes a student proficient in his professional development and enhance their ability of working properly with full confidence. So, we need to think globally.CBCS is a system which will be beneficial tool for not only our education system also for the students all over the country.

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