

Guidelines for Quality Assurance of  
BSFYP in Affiliates of Public Sector  
Universities in Punjab

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## **Guidelines for Quality Assurance of BSFYP in Affiliates of Public Sector Universities in Punjab**

The rationale for introduction of BSFYP- *BS Four Years' Program (semester system)* is to shift from the conventional system of higher education- offering 02 years' degree program based on annual system of examination since it hindered the achievement of developmental goals as intended through the ideal of knowledge enhancement among scholars. For the purpose of improving students' academic learning, knowledge and understanding, the BSFYP is aimed at inculcating concept-based learning which requires a dedicated academic environment. With introduction of a breakthrough in tertiary education setup in Pakistan and especially in Punjab province, the higher education providers are entrusted with more responsibility of ensuring necessary arrangements i.e. qualified human resource, allied infrastructural facilities and availability of other learning resources. The Universities in Punjab that are offering BSFYP have comparatively qualified human resource including teaching and administrative staff, large infrastructural facilities and a considerable amount of finances. However, when these Universities grant affiliation to other institutions, the quality of the BSFYP starts diminishing which not only harms the spirit of 04 years' academic program, but also the society in the long run.

Therefore, in order to ensure uniformity in quality standards of BS 04 Years' Program being offered in the affiliated colleges and Universities, some aspects pertaining to the colleges may need review as per the following guidelines:-

### **1. Admission Cycle**

- The admission cycle should start simultaneously in the Universities and respective affiliated colleges.
- The Universities should develop and publish a clear timeline for admissions in all BS Programs being offered in respective universities and their affiliated colleges.
- In order to ensure uniformity, merit policy including criteria for admission eligibility of students should be announced/ displayed on the same date in the universities as well as in the colleges.

## **2. Timelines for Academic Session**

The academic calendar for BS programs in affiliated colleges and Universities lack uniformity and consistency due to which the students of affiliated colleges face delays in their results. In order to ensure uniformity of timelines regarding academic activities in affiliated colleges, the academic sessions in the Universities and their affiliated colleges may start on the same date.

## **3. Provision of Access to Library and Laboratory to College Students**

- The reference materials and experimentation equipment available in the libraries and laboratories of affiliated colleges are limited in comparison to the Universities', due to which the students enrolled in colleges are not provided with same exposure. This leads to contrasting quality of graduates of the same University, in addition to non-conformity to the national standards as defined by the respective academic bodies in Pakistan. Therefore, the students enrolled in affiliated colleges should be granted access to the central library of affiliating Universities through issuance of library cards.
- After ensuring safety measures, the affiliating Universities may also grant access to relevant laboratories to the students enrolled in programs requiring sophisticated lab equipment. This will provide students with increased learning opportunities, resulting in improved quality of graduates of affiliated colleges.

## **4. Standardization of Examination and Assessment System**

There is a lack of coherence between the conduct of examinations and assessments and the quality of question papers set for BS programs in affiliated colleges. This existing state is not at par with the affiliating Universities' standards. Hence, a uniform examination and assessment system should be developed and implemented by the affiliating Universities.

## **5. Introduction of Training Programs for Capacity Building of Affiliated Colleges' Academic and Non-Academic Staff**

- Development of capacity of organizational human resource is imperative to cope with emerging challenges and to ensure quality standards. The Universities' academic and non-academic staff frequently receives in-house trainings and capacity development programs organized by Higher Education Commission. However, the knowledge and skills of academic and non-academic staff working in affiliated colleges are perceived to be non-comparable to that of affiliating Universities' staff which are considered to be the basis of diminished quality of education being imparted in the affiliates.
- In order to ensure compliance with the quality standards, the affiliating Universities need to develop schemes for the capacity building of academic and non-academic staff working in their respective affiliated colleges to improve their skillset required for quality higher education.

## **6. Coordination and Monitoring Mechanism for Affiliated Colleges**

- Quality assurance of degree programs offered in affiliated colleges is the prime responsibility of the respective affiliating Universities. However, the quality enhancement cells/ departments in the affiliated colleges are either physically non-existent or not performing actively. There is no proper mechanism available to ensure quality and attainment of learning outcomes of the BS programs in affiliated colleges.
- The affiliating Universities may develop a comprehensive monitoring mechanism, KPIs and CQIs for their affiliated colleges to ensure quality of higher education ensuring minimum national standards.
- The performance of the QEC and attainment of KPIs should be monitored in the respective affiliated colleges should be monitored on regular basis for proper remedial action by the colleges.

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