

3.1 UGC :

3.1.1 Introduction :

The UGC was first formed in 1945 on the basis of the report of the CABE on Post War Educational Development to oversee the work of the three Central Universities of Aligarh, Banaras and Delhi. Consisting of four members its initial concerns related to the three central universities of Delhi, Benaras and Aligar. Its membership was increased in 1946-47 and it was empowered to deal with other universities. Although the university education commission, 1948 had strongly recommended its establishment, it was only in 1953 that the UGC was established with a full time Chairman, a Secretary and eight members. It was given statutory status in 1956. The commission at present consists of 12 members and a Chairman and Vice Chairman, all appointed by the Government of India. Its responsibility was extended in 1947 to cover all Indian universities. August 1949 a recommendation was made to reconstitute the UGC along similar lines to the University Grants Committee of the United Kingdom. This recommendation was made by the University Education Commission of 1948-1949 which was set up under the chairmanship of S. Radhakrishnan to "to report on Indian university education and suggest improvements and extensions" In 1952 the government decided that all grants to universities and higher learning institutions should be handled by the UGC. Subsequently an inauguration was held on 28 December 1953 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Minister of Education, Natural Resources and Scientific Research.

In November 1956 the UGC became a statutory body upon the passing of the "University Grants Commission Act, 1956" by the Indian Parliament.

In 1994 and 1995 the UGC decentralised its operations by setting up six regional centres at Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bhopal, Guwahati and Bangalore. The head office of the UGC is located in New Delhi.

3.1.2 Division of UGC :

Accreditation for higher learning over Universities under the aegis of University Grants Commission is overseen by following sixteen autonomous statutory institutions :

- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
- Distance Education Council (DEC)
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- Bar Council of India (BCI)
- National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)
- Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)
- Medical Council of India (MCI)
- Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)
- Indian Nursing Council (INC)
- Dental Council of India (DCI)
- Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH)
- Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM)
- Rehabilitation Council
- National Council for Rural Institutes
- State Councils of Higher Education
- Council of Architecture

UGC and CSIR has jointly conducted NET examination for a longtime. At present CBSE is conducting the NET examination.

□ 3.1.3 Teacher Education Committee :

To upgrade the standard of education UGC has formed 'Teacher-Education Committees' consisting of seven members for two years duration. It provides awareness of new innovations and research in teacher- education. The national fellowship and teacher fellowship are granted for encouraging research and teaching work. The UGC provides the Travel grants to the universities for attending international conferences and seminars. Emeritus fellowships are provided for retired professors of the universities. Presidential facilities for university and college teachers are also provided. Research associates are appointed for postdoctoral work. Thus, UGC has made a significant contribution for the development of teacher education.

□ 3.1.4 Research :

The UGC is giving substantial grants to university teachers for conducting their own research. In 1953-54 The Ministry of Education initiated a scheme for giving grants to teachers, colleges and Departments of Education in universities in order to enable them to carry out research on education problems chosen by them and approved by the Central Ministry. It is to be carried on by the staff of the training colleges assisted by some research fellows assign to them and some financial facilities. Equipment is provided to facilitate the completion of the project.

□ 3.1.5 Centres for Advanced Studies :

For the improvement of standard of teaching and research in India UGC has setup centres for Advanced study in different branches of knowledge. Baroda as the centre for Advanced study in Education which functions on an all India basis and aims at raising standards of teaching and research in Education.

□ 3.1.6 Functions of University Grants Commission :

- It provides funds to the various higher educational institutes.
- It carries out the function of co-ordination, determination and maintenance of standards in institutions of higher education.
- In addition to these the University Grants Commission also performs the following functions as well.
- Promoting and coordinating university education.
- Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
- Framing regulations on minimum standards of education.
- Monitoring developments in the field of collegiate and university education; disbursing grants to the universities and colleges.
- Serving as a vital link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning.
- Advising the Central and State governments on the measures necessary for improvement of university education.
- It encourage higher level research work and teaching activities by providing financial assistance.
- UGC provides the fellowship for teachers and project work for retired universities and college teachers.