

***Workshop on
Introduction of Semester System in
Undergraduate courses under
Gauhati University***

POST-WORKSHOP REPORT

May 31st 2011

Birjhora Mahavidyalaya

A workshop on ‘Introduction of Semester System in Undergraduate Courses under Gauhati University’ was held on 31st May at Birjhora Mahavidyalaya, Bongaigaon. This was jointly organized by Birjhora Mahavidyalaya and Bongaigaon College. Faculty members of colleges from Bongaigaon and Chirang district participated in this workshop.

Name of the workshop	Introduction of semester system in Undergraduate Courses under Gauhati University
Date	31-05-2011
Time	11 am to 4 pm
Organizers	Birjhora Mahavidyalaya & Bongaigaon College
Venue	Birjhora Mahavidyalaya, Bongaigaon
Resource persons	Prof D. K. Sharma, Director, College Development Council, Gauhati University Dr D. Choudhury, Deputy Controller of Examinations, Gauhati University
Participants	<i>Attached List</i>

The workshop was initiated by the welcome address delivered by Dr K. K. Sarma, Principal in Charge Birjhora Mahavidyalaya. He extended his warm welcome to the audience and thanked them for their participation in the programme. He stressed on the need and importance of such a workshop in the present higher education scenario.

This was followed by the felicitation of the resource persons conducted by Dr G K Medhi. The dignitaries were felicitated by being offered a “*phoolam gamoosa*” by members of the college staff.



The first part of the lecture session had Prof D. K. Sarma addressing issues concerning the logic in introducing semester system in undergraduate courses under Gauhati University. This was followed by acquainting the participants with the steps which the university proposed to take up in such a system. Following directives from the UGC recommending the introduction of this system, the G U authorities had a series of threadbare discussions with principals, educationists, students, experts and other stakeholders on the merits and demerits of the semester system. The result was the decision of introducing the semester system at undergraduate levels in the colleges under GU from the 2011-2012 academic year.



He spoke on the advantages of such a system. They include

- Regularity in holding classes including minimization of teaching day wastages.
- Increased motivation and competitiveness among students.
- Increase in professional satisfaction of teachers.
- Teacher-student relationship becoming stronger.

Prof D Sarma then explained in detail about the various norms and modes of teaching learning under this system. These consisted of

- Qualifying norms of attendance for students.
- Internal and external examinations.
- Teaching/learning methods like Home assignment, Project Work. Library work, Group discussion, Seminar presentation and Sessional tests.

The second part the session was on administrative and examination procedures which were addressed by Dr. Dhruba Choudhury. These included

- G U registration date limit for newly admitted students.
- The academic calendar for the semester system.
- Syllabus up gradation.
- Mobility of students.
- Evaluation of answer scripts in zonal clusters.
- Introduction of grading system

Dr D Choudhury expressed his opinion that the system which was being introduced was a diluted version of the actual semester system. The period of transition would see the introduction of modular courses, one hour class timings, teacher autonomy in designing their courses. He stressed that he welcomed constructive suggestions of the involved teachers. He further assured the participants that he would present these suggestions at the regular semester system taskforce meetings. He stressed on the role of teachers and their involvement in the semester system for quality education at college level.

A lively interactive session followed whereby all the participating teachers presented their doubts, views and suggestions to Dr Choudhury. Dr Choudhury engaged in a stimulating discussion with them. He said that review and correction of the newly formulated rules would be possible through continuous discussion among the concerned people.



The workshop concluded with Dr H Das, principal Bongaigaon college delivering the concluding speech. Dr Das extended his thanks to Dr K. K. Sarma, Principal Birjhora Mahavidyalaya for initiating the holding of such an important workshop. He expressed his gratitude to the resource persons for their enlightening lectures and their interaction with the teaching community of the colleges present. He further welcomed the introduction of the semester system saying that such a step would bring about a new awareness of the education process in colleges and increase the quality of education. He was hopeful that all initial difficulties could be surmounted by co-operation of the stakeholders of college education.

The vote of thanks was offered by Dr A Borah.

