

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

UGC Meeting

March 2008

Agenda Item No : To consider the Report of UGC Expert Committee to prepare Model DPR for 374 New Colleges to be set up in Educationally Backward Districts (Low GER Districts) in the country

Background:

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had announced in his independence Day Speech on the 15th August, 2007 inter-alia as follows:

” We will also ensure that adequate numbers of colleges are set up across the country, especially in districts where enrolment levels are low. We will help States set up colleges in 370 such districts.”

The Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development requested the University Grants Commission vide their letter No.8426/JS(HR) dated 17.09.2007 to prepare a model Detailed Project Report (DPR) so that these colleges provide the highest quality of education in various programmes of study with an emphasis on courses which are in demand by the economy as well as our society.

Accordingly, the Chairman, UGC constituted an Expert Committee consisting of the following to prepare a model Detail Project Report (DPR) for 370 New Proposed Colleges in Educationally Backward Districts,(EBD), Low Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) Districts in the country:

Sl.No.	Name of Expert	Designation
1.	Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan, Former Vice Chancellor, Madras University, New No.5 First Street, Nehru Nagar, Adyar, Chennai – 600 020	Convenor
2.	Prof. Sachidanand Sinha, Centre for Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University,	Member

	New Delhi – 110 067	
3.	Dr.T. Chinnaraj Joseph Jaikumar, Principal, The American College , Madurai – 625 002 (TN)	Member
4.	Prof. Anil Wilson, Vice Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University, (Former Principal St. Stephen’s College, Delhi), Shimla – 171 005	Member
5.	Dr.K.P.S. Unny, (Former Registrar, Jawaharlal Nehru University), Brindavan, Near D.P. Office, West Yakara Road, Palakkad – 670814 (Kerala)	Member
6.	Dr.(Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal Joint Secretary, UGC, New Delhi	Member Secretary

The Expert Committee had six meetings on

- (i) dt. 14.11.2007, (ii) dt. 11.12.2007,(iii) dt.11.1.2008, (iv) dt.19.2.2008, (v) dt.7..3.2008 and (vi) 17.3.2008. The Committee has now submitted its Report.

Recommendations of the Committee:

The Committee has recommended new criterion for identifying educationally backward districts (EBDs) based on Gross Enrolment Rate (GER)

The UGC adopted overall literacy rates as the single indicator for disbursement of funds under the educationally backward areas scheme during the Tenth Plan. Districts that had overall literacy rates below the national average (i.e. 65.4 per cent) were identified as educationally backward. Accordingly, the number of such districts, as per the Census 2001 was 294 for the country as a whole.

It has now been proposed that the following two indicators be considered for identification of educationally backward districts:

- a. Districts with GER in higher education below the national average i.e. 12.4 (excluding the ITI and other polytechnics), and
- b. Districts with College-population ratio per lakh persons in 18-23 year age group below the national average i.e. 12.0; a higher priority assigned to districts with CPR either equal to or below 4.0 per lakh population. It may be noted that barring such

districts located in remote, hilly, forested and tribal preponderant areas, which have low population size, most others having GER lower than the national average have college-population ratio below 4.0. It is therefore imperative that supply constraints in such districts are removed by location additional colleges.

The following formula defines GER (Higher education):

$$\text{GER} = \frac{\text{All enrolled in post higher secondary classes}}{\text{Total population in 18-23 age group}} \times 100$$

College-Population Index (C-PI) per lakh population is defined as under:

$$\text{C-PI} = \frac{\text{No of educational institutions offering post Higher Secondary Degree/diploma in the 'X' district}}{\text{Total Population in 18-23 years age in 'X' district}} \times 100,000$$

The Committee has recommended model detailed project report (DPR) for setting up of one college in each **374 educationally backward districts**, Low Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in various states of the country. It has been recommended to establish them as “Constituents Colleges” of the respective Universities in whose jurisdiction the colleges might come under, and are to be maintained and nurtured by the respective university academically, administratively and financially facilitating flexibility and freedom for the colleges in all their academic functions eventually evolve as “Autonomous Colleges of the respective university within a minimum period of 5 years time.

The budgetary requirements for each of these 374 proposed model colleges across the country amounts to Rs.2, 992.00 crores as one time non-recurring budget and Rs.561.00 crores per annum under the recurring budget, based on the projection of Rs.8.0 crores per college as the non-recurring cost and Rs.1.5 crores per annum per college under the recurring expenses required for salaries and hiring charges (Rs.1.0 crore/college) and college running and maintenance requirement of Rs.50.0 lakh/college)

The Committee has recommended that 100% of the non-recurring cost of establishing the Model Colleges may be met by the Central Government and the State Government may commit that the required land for the colleges would be provided by the concerned State Government. 100% of the annual recurring expenditure needs to be met by the concerned State Government to be channelised through the respective university.

The Report of the Expert Committee is attached (Annexure – I).

Previous Decision of the Commission:

The Commission has been approving the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

Point under consideration

To approve the Model Detailed Project Report (DPR) for establishing 374 New colleges in educationally backward districts in country. The same may be sent to M/HRD.