

Seeking Comments from Academia and public at large
on
National Higher Education Qualification Framework(NHEQF).

A uniform description of higher education systems at the national level in the various higher educational institutions is of great importance for transparency, comparability and mutual understanding at home and abroad for students, institutions and employers. A National Qualifications Framework is the unequivocal description at the national level of the education system, which is internationally understood, which describes all qualifications and other demonstrable learning achievements (based on certificates) in higher education and relates these to each other in a coherent way, and which defines the relationship between higher education qualifications.

NHEQF would expect the higher educational system to mark a departure from certifying the educational qualification on the basis of duration, entry qualification and other extant markers to a system of quantifying and certifying the pre-defined competencies and learning outcomes germane to the level and discipline concerned which may be termed as “generic descriptors” of qualification. Qualification framework, in other words, is document that specifies a set of attributes to be expected from a student before granting him certification / degree. NHEQF has become indispensable in the context of globalization. While many countries of the world have their own qualification frameworks in place, which includes even small and developing nations, India has yet to evolve it. It has, therefore, become imperative for India to frame NHEQW and align it with international benchmarks.

To accomplish this task, on the recommendations of CABE, the UGC has constituted a Committee to formulate the National Higher Education Qualifications Framework under the chairmanship of Prof Goverdhan Mehta. The mandate of the Committee is to evolve the descriptors, competencies and testing protocols for various qualifications for easy transition and mobility of students within India and abroad. While doing this, the issues related to the mechanism through which the competencies can be translated into credits and/or hours, the seamless amalgamation of the formal and non-formal modes of earning credits and fixing the minimum credits for certification will be discussed and incorporated in the committee’s report.

In this regard, UGC invites feedback and contributions from various stakeholders and civil society at large for the formulation of NHEQF of India to ensure that higher education becomes modular, flexible, competency based and allows seamless transfer for students. Feedback, which should not exceed 150 words, may be sent via snail mail or email at cppiisection@gmail.com by **31-12-2014**.