NURTURING SOCIAL EQUITY
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
Bahadurshah Zafar Marg
New Delhi-110002 (INDIA)
www.ugc.ac.in

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
New Delhi
The true potential of India’s youth can be harnessed only through access to higher education. However, our national effort in increasing such access could be futile without nurturing social equity. The immense potential of our youth belonging to the vulnerable sections of the Indian society is as yet untapped.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has all along given emphasis in enhancing participation of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Minorities, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Persons with Disabilities (as defined in the PWD Act, 1995) and Women in higher education.

Some of the notable schemes of the UGC for nurturing social equity for various beneficiary categories in vogue are Indira Gandhi Post Graduate Scholarships for Single Girl Child, Residential Coaching Academies for Minorities, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SCs & STs, and Maulana Azad National Fellowships for Minorities, Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SCs, STs, and Women etc.

This brochure outlines a number of initiatives launched by the UGC towards enhancing access with equity through provision of various fellowships, post-graduate scholarships, coaching schemes, residential coaching academies for minorities, support to institutions with relatively higher proportion of SCs, STs, Minorities, capacity expansion for OBCs, support to persons with disabilities, empowerment of women, etc. On the conceptual plank, centre for studies of social exclusion and inclusion have been established in a number of Central, State and Deemed to be universities.

The UGC is committed not only to strengthen the ongoing programs but also to continue to innovate meaningful programs with great vigour to achieve increased participation of SCs, STs, Minorities, OBCs, PWDs and Women in higher education.

We in the UGC believe that nothing can prevent India from occupying its rightful place among the leading knowledge societies of the world when every young eligible Indian from the weaker section, also, partakes in the exciting enterprise of Indian higher education.

It is hoped that the policy makers and the academia will find this brochure useful.

New Delhi
June, 2013

Ved Prakash
Chairman, UGC
A Snapshot:
Access to higher educational opportunities continues to bear the stamp of multiple dimension of inequalities that characterize our society: gender, caste, religion, class, locality and disability. Social group-wise Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) not only varies from region to region and from state to state but also from district to district within a particular state. Sometimes these gaps are pretty large. There are pockets in the country wherein the GER is as high as in some of the developed parts of the world while in others it is abysmally low.

The UGC has addressed these identifiable inequalities by initiating various measures to enhance participation of such groups in higher education. The brochure highlights some of these initiatives which the University Grants Commission has undertaken in the recent past.

In its sustained efforts to nurture social equity in higher education, the UGC has supported nearly 18,94,001 Students from as many as 6,562 Institutions, involving an Expenditure of ₹ 4,683.75 crores in the recent past.
# Schemes for Nurturing Social Equity – Categorywise

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<td>Women’s Hostels with special focus in Minority Concentration</td>
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<td>Training programs for Women Managers.</td>
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<td>Development of Women Studies Centers.</td>
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<td>Infrastructure facilities for Women Staff</td>
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<td>Model Degree Colleges in 374 identified Educationally Backward</td>
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<td>Districts (EBD), Central University in each State.</td>
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</table>
Initiatives Towards Enhancing Access with Equity

- Capacity Expansion for OBCs
- 24,000 students benefitted
- Remedial Coaching for SC/ST/Minority
- Fellowships
- Special Cells for SC/ST (128)
- Support to Universities in different areas
- 47 colleges of University of Delhi
- 12 Central Universities
- 8 Deemed to be Universities
- Residential Coaching Academies (5)
- Fellowships
- Special Urdu Academies (3)
Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC Candidates

No. of Fellowships Awarded: 10,707
Expenditure: ₹ 479.20 Crores

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST Candidates

No. of Fellowships Awarded: 4163
Expenditure: ₹ 207.89 Crores
Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST Candidates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Fellowships</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>₹ 2.00 Crores</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>₹ 11.98 Crores</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>₹ 17.02 Crores</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>₹ 21.39 Crores</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>₹ 25.56 Crores</td>
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Post Graduate Scholarship for SC/ST Candidates in Professional Courses

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Scholarships</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>₹ 0.03 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>₹ 2.00 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>₹ 8.46 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>3936</td>
<td>₹ 27.94 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Equal Opportunity Cells for SC/ST/Minorities/OBC

- No. of Universities: 158
- Expenditure: ₹ 155 Lakhs

Coaching Scheme for SC/ST/Minorities /OBC

- Number of Universities: 176
- Expenditure: ₹ 50.04 crores
Residential Coaching Academies for Minorities/SC/ST

- Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad
- Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
- Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
- Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
- B.R. Ambedkar University, Lucknow

Total Universities: 5  Total Expenditure: ₹ 42.08 Crores

Coaching Classes for SC/ST/OBC & Minorities

- UGC-ERO, Kolkata
- UGC-SWRO, Bangalore
- UGC-NERO, Guwahati
- UGC-SERO, Hyderabad
- UGC-CRO, Bhopal
- UGC-WRO, Pune
- NRCB, New Delhi

Total Expenditure: ₹ 319.64 Crores  Total No. of Students Benefitted: 18,35,560
Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minorities

No. of Fellowship Awarded: 2266
Expenditure: ₹42.58 Crores

No. of Fellowships

₹ in Crores

2009-10 2010-2011 2011-2012

No. of Fellowship Awarded: 2266
Expenditure: ₹42.58 Crores
Support to Colleges with relatively higher proportion of SC/ST/ Minorities

No. of Colleges
3,028

UGC Support to Colleges with relatively higher proportion of SC/ST/ Minorities

₹ 69.41 Crores

Assistance provided through 7 Regional Offices of UGC
Capacity Expansion for OBC Students

Institutions Benefitted: 67
Students Benefitted: 24,000 approx.
Expenditure – ₹ 2314.83 Crores

12 Central Universities
(₹ 1477.53 crores)

8 Deemed to be Universities
(₹ 132.93 crores)

47 Colleges of University of Delhi
(₹ 704.37 crores)

24,000 Students benefitted
Support to Persons With Disability (PWD)

- Teacher preparation in Special Education (TEPSE)
- Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (HEPSN)
- 131 Universities
- Expenditure ₹ 24.12 Crores
- Visually Handicapped Teachers
Centres for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusion

- No. of Universities: 32
- Expenditure: ₹ 18.98 Crores
Schemes for Empowerment of Women

- ₹ 20.23 crores for 158 Women Study Centres
- ₹ 45.97 crores for Award of 12,884 Indira Gandhi PG Scholarships
- ₹ 46.98 crores for Basic Infrastructure Facilities for Women Staff
- ₹ 11.62 crores for 252 Programs for Women Managers
- ₹ 883.97 crores released for 2,310 Women’s Hostels

Expenditure ₹ 1000 Crores approx.
Schemes for Empowerment of Women

Promotion of Higher Education in Educationally Backward Districts

73 Model Degree Colleges

10 States

₹ 52.06 Crores

7 Minority Concentrated Districts

Regulatory Reforms to Foster Social Equity

UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012

Under these regulations, each university is required to appoint an Ombudsman for redressal of all kinds of grievances of students ranging from admissions, reservations, non-payment of scholarships, delay in declaration of results, student amenities, unfair evaluation, quality of education, harassment and victimisation etc.

UGC (Grievance Redressal) Regulations, 2012

Under these regulations, all Institutions of higher learning are obliged to take appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of the students without any prejudice to their caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, gender and disability and promote equality amongst students of all the sections of the society.
The UGC proposes to further pro-actively address the concerns of social and regional equity in higher education, as its futuristic agenda.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and Regional Equity : Futuristic Concerns</th>
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<td>The UGC proposes to further pro-actively address the concerns of social and regional equity in higher education, as its futuristic agenda.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>• UGC will endeavour to provide continued special support to historically disadvantaged groups for their faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>• UGC will make sustained efforts to improve enrolment ratios and reduce drop-out rates, specially for girl children among SCs/STs/OBCs and Minorities. Equal Opportunity Cells to be made proactive to ensure equity and inclusion. Ensuring necessary inputs for maximum utilization of 27% seats for OBCs in all Central Educational Institutions.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>• UGC will design special schemes to address equity and inclusion in respect of Minorities, Women and Weaker sections.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>• UGC will review the existing schemes for social and regional equity and, if necessary a new system may be designed to overcome the difficulties experienced in the past and to ensure that special interventions for the disadvantaged categories are implemented in letter and spirit.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>• UGC will launch multi-sectoral development programmes in 90 Minority Concentration Districts to further strengthening and ensuring increased participation of minority groups in higher education.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>• UGC will initiate special action plans for persons with disabilities in consultation with stakeholders to ensure that their concerns are adequately met as defined in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>• UGC will strive to enhance participation in higher education through new and innovative programmes for the North-eastern Region.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>• UGC will make concerted efforts for implementation of reservation policies in Universities and Colleges with a view to ensuring increased participation of marginalised sections of the society in higher education.</strong></td>
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