



प्रो. डॉ. जसपाल एस. सन्धू  
सचिव

*Prof. Dr. Jaspal S. Sandhu*  
MBBS, MS (Ortho), DSM, FAIS, FASM, FAFSM, FFIMS, FAMS

Secretary

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विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग  
University Grants Commission

(मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)

बहादुरशाह ज़फ़र मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110002  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

Ph.: 011-23239337, 23236288,  
Fax : 011-23238858, email : jssandhu.ugc@nic.in

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Dear Vice-Chancellor,

India is a country with great diversity where different religions, castes and cultures exist in not so homogeneous a society. The Indian society is characterised by social divisions and these inequalities are barriers to access to educational resources to the disadvantaged sections of the society. The disadvantaged sections of the society include Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes (non-creamy layer), Women, Minorities and differently abled persons. The recent status in the field of demography have shown that still a large population of our country is disadvantaged and marginalised. In the field of higher education, the University Grants Commission feels that education is a source of social and economic equality and all the citizens of this country should have equal access to quality education. Keeping this in mind, the UGC had recommended to the universities / colleges to set up Equal Opportunity Centre (EOC). The functions of the Equal Opportunity Centres are to sensitize universities/colleges about the problems of the marginalized/disadvantaged sections of the society so that they are able to improve their performance not only in the education but also in other spheres of life. The functions of EOCs are also to sensitize the mainstream sections of the society towards the problems of the marginalized sections of the society. The EOCs are also meant to monitor the various schemes / policies of the Government of India and State Governments relating to marginalized/disadvantaged sections. EOCs are also empowered to ensure that there is an effective functional SC/ST Cell as has been mandated in the DoPT Brochure on Reservation for SC, ST & Other Backward Classes in Services. The EOCs, besides looking after the above are also to become an effective tool for gender sensitization and ensure participation in all socially relevant activities of the Universities/ Colleges and NSS.

I am quite sure that your esteemed university has already in existence a functional **Equal Opportunity Centre** for monitoring the activities mentioned above. UGC desires to create a data base of the activities pertaining to the redressal of the grievances of the marginalized/disadvantaged sections of the society which were presented before the EOC of your university and affiliated colleges of your university. I would appreciate if you kindly instruct the Advisor of EOC to send to the undersigned the data in a tabulated form pertaining to receipt of grievances and redressal thereof in the next 15 days of the issue of this letter. The data may be sent to email [eoc.ugc@gmail.com](mailto:eoc.ugc@gmail.com)

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Jaspal S. Sandhu)

The Vice-Chancellor of all Universities.

Copy to :

The Publication Officer, UGC, New Delhi for uploading on UGC website.

(Jaspal S. Sandhu)