

Academic Bank of Credit – A Panacea Pill

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ABSTRACT

UGC is established to maintain the quality of education in Higher Educational institutions. To ensure quality it introduces various schemes from time to time. To bring transformational changes in the education system UGC has introduced the Academic Bank of Credits. Where learners are free from clutches of rigidity of Indian education.

The main purpose of establishing an Academic bank of credits is to promote student-centric education, a learner-friendly teaching approach with multiple entries and multiple exits in education. Mr. Narendra Modi Prime Minister of India has unveiled the Academic Bank of Credit for the nation on July 29th, 2020.

Now Academic Bank of Credits is a gazette notified regulation for the higher educational institutions of India to join for multiple entries and multiple exits of students in various institutions.

Present conceptual paper through's light on the concept of Academic Bank of Credits, its objective, functions, process, and advantages of the academic bank of credits in Higher educational institutions.

Keywords: Academic Bank of Credits, Higher educational institutions

The concept of the Academic bank of Credits in Education exists in many countries like the United Kingdom, South Korea, and Canada. University Grants commission raised the Idea of the Academic Bank of Credits in 2019 and afterward adopted the idea in 2020 for discussion.

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Academic Bank of Credits:

It is an online Virtual or digital storehouse that stores the credits of the students earned in the process of their studies in Indian Universities. The students earn credits from their studies and the parent registered Institution will deposit the credits in the ABC account of the student. It helps the students to have multiple options to join and leave various institutions, and the credits earned can be transferred to other institutions. The purpose of ABC is to make students skillful professionals. It validates offline and online courses such as NPTEL, SWAYAM, and V-Lab. If implemented successfully it can be a game-changer.

Research Reviews on Academic Bank of Credits: A few researches were conducted in the area of ABC. The review of literature reveals the following ones.

1. Robert P.Mc. Caffery (1980) published an article "Degree credits, academic learning, and job mobility for adult students through field experience". This article is related to working adult students and their experimental learning modes. It concludes that like younger students adult working learners also learn from job situations. However, the problems of both differ and are unique.
2. Terrence C. Mason, Robert F. Arnove & Margaret Sutton (2001) Published an article on "Credits, curriculum, and control in higher education: Cross-national perspectives" They conducted their studies in three countries Indonesia, Nicaragua, and Vietnam. They studied the use of academic credits and monitoring the performance of the students linked with policies and institutions associated with the capital market-driven economic system. Their study revealed that there is a linkage between higher and vocational education and countries' economic and political systems, standardization, efficiency and technocracy of the country, and control of the curriculum.
3. Results reveal that academic credits transformed the university into a narrowly focussed institution meant for utilitarian value rather than an institution of universal pursuit for knowledge.
4. Taiji Hotta (2019) worked on "The Development of 'Asian Academic Credits' as an Aligned Credit Transfer System in Asian Higher Education" This article analyses 24 Asian countries and territories and their current trends in credit-related governmental regulations in the universities. It says that AAC or the Asian Academic credit system can play a Vital Role in higher education provided its given flexibility, Regionality, and innovative learning environment in Asian countries.
5. Bird, Kelli A., Castleman, Benjamin L., Fischer, Brett, Skinner, Benjamin T.(2020) "Who Should Re-enrol in College? The Academic and Labour Market Profile of Adults with Substantial College Credits But No Degree" This research focuses on the adults who lost a job because they do not have degrees but have credits. The researcher provided the details of academic, employment, and of earning trajectory of some college but not degree students (SCND). It focussed on the re-enrolment and completion of course intervention.

Objectives of Academic Bank of Credits:-

The main objectives of ABC are

- To promote the child-centric education
- To emphasize the learner-friendly teaching approaches
- To follow an interdisciplinary approach
- To allow students to opt for the courses of their choice
- To opt for the best teachers for the chosen subject
- Help students to study according to their own pace

ABC encourages an open educational system that guarantees' students academic growth and development. The student secures credit with courses he completes and it gets transverse when he shifts from one institution to other to pursue higher education by enjoying multiple entries and multiple exits. ABC is a virtual platform maintained by UGC with the approval of the central government. There are different types of courses under the ABC scheme where credits are deposited.

Compulsory core courses which are mandatory for all the students are

- Discipline-specific courses under core courses
- Open elective courses for trans disciplinary exposure which are not related to the course

- Value-based or skill-based courses are opted by the students to enhance their skills according to their requirements.

- Knowledge enhancement of ability enhancement courses which are compulsory for all the students.

All the courses are framed in such a way that there will be a pool of courses under a course. ABC accumulates, all the credits gained by the students perusing the courses from the registered institutes of ABC.

Students of Higher educational institutes can avail themselves of the facility of ABC. All higher educational institutes established by central act or state act of provincial act, Deemed Universities, Autonomous colleges can register under ABC. After registering under ABC such institutes have to mention the same on their websites for public awareness. The students who got enrolled after 2021-22 will be eligible to register in ABC. But ABC does not directly accept any document from the registered students, instead, the parent institutions will upload the credits after the examination has been conducted and results have been announced.

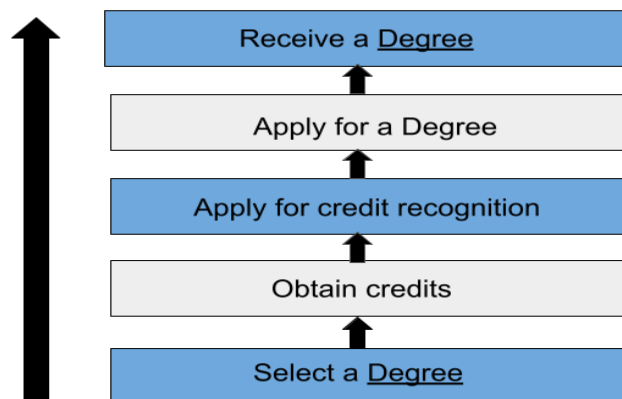
The students who got enrolled in a University of any Higher educational institution must get at least 50 percent of credits from their parent institution and the remaining they can procure from any other institute of their interest. ABC is only responsible for credit accumulation, credit transfer, and credit verification and redemption, and registered higher educational institutes will award degrees or certificates to the students. The students can avail themselves of the facility of ABC for seven years. It means their credits will be stored for seven years in ABC for redemption.

Role of Academic Bank of Credits:

ABC has to perform the following functions as mentioned below.

1. **Credit accumulation**:-It is the facility given by ABC to the students of HIEs to consolidate and transfer credits earned by the student while undergoing the course.
2. **Credit recognition**:-It is the process where ABC recognizes the credits earned by the student during the course in higher educational institutions.
3. **Credit Transfer**:-It is the transfer of credits of the students earned while pursuing the course in one higher education instruction to another higher educational institution.
4. **Credit redemption**:-It is the process of reclamation of credits earned by the students to get a degree, diploma, or certificate course.

Process of Academic Bank of Credits:



Source: <https://ipsrsolutions.com/academix/academic-bank-of-credit-a-new-regulation-of-ugc>

1. **Step-I** Students need to open an academic account in ABC by filling in their name, course details
2. **Step-II** Getting Individual ID and password to log in and check their accumulated credits
3. **Step-III** Creation of credit structure by the government based on course
4. **Step-IV** uploading the credits of the students after conducting examinations in the digital portal by the parent institution
5. **Step-V** Evaluation and Verification of credits by ABC
6. **Step-VI** Transfer of credits to other course and institution
7. **Step-VII** Authenticating credits regularly by ABC
8. **Step-VIII** Redemption of credits by the students within seven years of duration after completion of the course.

Advantages of Academic Bank of Credits:

Academic Bank of Credit gives importance to the student's needs, interests, and opportunities hence it is learner-friendly which encourages multi-disciplinary holistic education. It provides flexibility to the curriculum for interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary courses for the students to pursue education according to their interests, abilities, and opportunities with flexibility and mobility in higher educational institutions. For this purpose, ABC provides a credit transfer facility to get their degrees. This eliminates year loss or semester loss of the students.

The mechanism of the degree-granting system differs from state to state. When a student wants to move to other institutions he has to fulfill certain formalities, phase problems in getting degrees. ABC concept in NEP 2020 makes this process flexible by standardizing credits and developing uniformity in HEI.

Most of the HEI's are following an age-old curriculum, without modifying it for changing societal needs. Hence ABC opens a platform for all HEI to restructure their curriculum and update it. ABC provides an opportunity to integrate all HEI.

ABC is a move towards internalization and globalization of the higher education system to make them more global institutes. It reduces dropout rates as student mobility becomes easier. And enhances the gross enrolment ratio in HIE and grows as a developed nation by representing sustainable development.

Challenges of Academic Bank of Credits:

UGC has made it mandatory for all the higher educational institutions to join ABC without Their consent. Whether all the central universities, state universities, autonomous institutions, the private university would like to be a part of ABC or not is a debatable topic.

Will all the HIE be able to restructure all the courses of various programs according to the recommendations of NPE2020 is also a concern. Credits allotted for different courses, the flexibility of multiple entry and exit, expenditure incurred in the process, funding, and support from the higher commission of India, need to sort out before implementation. Coordination between the National Higher education Regularity council, National accreditation council, Higher education grants council, and General educational council also plays a very important role in implementing ABC. Critics expressed that this NPE 2020 will pave the way to foreign universities to enter our country and promote privatization and commercialization of education in the name of a global curriculum. Let us hope that

this ABC in NEP 2020 will bring revolutionary changes, transparency in Higher education facilitating quality and freedom to the students and enhance joyful learning.

Reference:

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