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A Study on Curriculum Structure in Four Year under Graduate (FYUG) programme as per implementation of NEP 2020 in Affiliated Colleges with Assam University, Silchar

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Abstract:

The new National Education Policy (NEP) based on four pillars Access, Equity, Quality and Accountability aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in preschool to secondary level to 100 percent by 2030 and to increase the GER in Higher Education including Vocational Education to 50 percent by 2035 from 26.3 percent in 2018. It wants to ensure universal access at all levels of school education, attain Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), reform school curriculum and pedagogy and focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). For the implementation of NEP 2020, the government of Assam has started the Four Year under Graduate (FYUG) programme from the session 2023-24 in colleges of Assam. Like other universities of Assam, Silchar University has also started FYUG in its affiliated colleges under the banner of NEP, 2020. The main focus of the study is to discuss the curriculum structure in the FYUG programme in affiliated colleges under Assam University, Silchar. The study is descriptive in nature based on secondary data collected from primary guidelines published by Assam University, Silchar, the curriculum structure of the FYUG programme of Assam University, Silchar, the prospectus of different colleges, etc.

Keywords: FYUG programme, Courses, Evaluation etc.

Introduction: The National Education Policy (NEP) was started by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020 which aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in preschool to secondary level to 100 percent by 2030 and to increase the GER in Higher Education including Vocational Education to 50 percent by 2035 from 26.3 percent in 2018. The policy is released after 34 years in India with the motto Educate Encourage Enlighten and to transform India into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society through an education system. The NEP 2020 aims to promote a flexible education system under which the students get the opportunity to choose their courses and subjects according to their interests and aptitudes. It promotes multiple entry and exit points in education and the students can pursue their studies at their own pace. It is expected that NEP will help to build

a relationship between the learner and society at large. The new NEP is based on four pillars Access, Equity, Quality and Accountability.

Salient Features of NEP 2020:

- To ensure universal access at all levels of school education
It focuses on ensuring universal access to school education at all levels.
- To attain Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)
NEP 2020 has recognized Foundational Literacy and Numeracy as an urgent and essential prerequisite to learning and aims to achieve FLN in all primary schools until Grade 3 by 2023.
- To reform school curriculum and pedagogy
The NEP reforms school curriculum and pedagogy to improve essential learning and critical thinking and focuses on experiential learning. It allows the students to have increased flexibility and choice of subjects.
- To focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)
It has brought the formerly uncovered age group of three-six years under formal school curriculum guidelines and has placed a new 5+3+3+4 model with ages of 3-8, 8-11, 11-14 and 14-18 years.

For the implementation of NEP 2020 the government of Assam has started the Four Year under Graduate (FYUG) programme from the session 2023-24 in colleges of Assam, Already the admission process has started through 'SAMARTH' e-Gov Suite process. Assam University, Silchar is one of the universities of India with its 61 affiliated college's upto 31st December 2020. Like other universities of Assam, Silchar University has also started the FYUG programme in its affiliated colleges under the banner of NEP, 2020.

Objectives of the Study: The main focus of the study is to discuss the curriculum structure in the FYUG programme in affiliated colleges under Assam University, Silchar. However, the specific objectives of the study are:

1. To know about the FYUG programme
2. To know about the courses offered by the FYUG programme
3. To know about the evaluation process

Methodology: The study is descriptive in nature. It is primarily based on secondary data. The data is collected from FYUG Curriculum Structure as per NEP 2020 for colleges affiliated to Assam, University, Silchar, Primary Guidelines of Assam University, Silchar, Prospectus of different colleges published on different websites.

Discussion:

Four Year under Graduate (FYUG) programme: The FYUG programme is structured in a way that there are options for lateral Exit and Entry at various levels. Table 1 given below reflects the Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor's Degree and Bachelor's Degree with Honours and/or Research provided at the end of each year of exit under the FYUG programme.

Table 1: Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor's Degree, Bachelor's Degree with Honours and/or Research provided by the FYUG programme

Serial Number	Exit options	Semester
1	Certificate: After successful completion of 1 st year of study	2
2	Diploma: After successful completion of 2 nd year of study	4
3	Bachelor's Degree: After successful completion of 3 rd year of study	6
4	Bachelor's Degree with Honours and/or Research: After successful completion of 4 th year of study	8

Source: Primary Guidelines for implementation of NEP 2020 for UG courses affiliated to AU, Silchar

The FYUG program is divided into eight semesters with eight semesters of examinations. All the semester examinations will be conducted by the university. Students will be awarded a UG Certificate after successful completion of 1 year of study. After successfully completing two years, students will be provided a UG Diploma. After 3 years, Bachelor's Degree will be awarded. After successful completion of 4 years of degree, Bachelor's Degree with Honours or Bachelor's Degree with Honours and Research will be awarded. Students opting for project/dissertation will be given Honours with Research Degree and the students opting for additional three Discipline Courses in lieu of project/dissertation will be given Honours degree. To pursue the Four Year under Graduate (FYUG) Programme, the students should not have any arrear paper up to the 3rd year i.e. 6 semesters. The students for opting honours with research must obtain 7.5 CGPA up to 3rd year without any arrear. But there is no restriction of CGPA for only honours degree. In lieu of MIL, the students may opt for Alternative English.

Course offered under the FYUG Programme: Offering the FYUG programme is mandatory for all affiliated colleges under Assam University, Silchar. However, depending on the infrastructural limitation the college/department may not provide Honours with Research.

The courses of the FYUG programme comprise:

1. DSC: Discipline Specific Core
2. DSM: Discipline Specific Minor (for each subject, DSM is of two kinds, viz. 1st Minor & 2nd Minor)
3. IDC: Interdisciplinary Course
4. AEC: Ability Enhancement Course [Alternative English or MIL (Languages)]
5. SEC: Skill Enhancement Course
6. VAC: Value Added Course

Table 2 gives the Under Graduate (UG) Curriculum structure as per NEP 2020 for colleges affiliated with Assam University, Silchar.

Table 2: Under Graduate Curriculum structure

	DSC	DSM	IDC	AEC	SEC	Common VAC	Total Credit	Total Marks
I	DSC-101 DSC-102 Credit (3+3)	DSM-101 1 st Minor Credit(3)	IDC-101 Credit(3)	AEC-1 MIL-101 Credit(2)	SEC-101 Credit (3)	VAC-101 Credit (3)	20	650
II	DSC-151 DSC-152 Credit (3+3)	DSM-151 2 nd Minor Credit(3)	IDC-151 Credit(3)	AEC-111 EL-151 Credit(2)	SEC-151 Credit (3)	VAC-151 (EVS) Credit (3)	20	650
Certificate = 40 Credit								
III	DSC-201 DSC-202 Credit (4+4)	DSM-201 1 st Minor Credit(4)	IDC-201 Credit(3)	AEC-111 MIL-201 Credit(2)	SEC-201 Credit (3)		20	550
IV	DSC-251 DSC-252 DSC-253 Credit (4+4+4)	DSM-251 (1 st Minor) DSM-252 (2 nd Minor) Credit (3+3)		AEC-IV EL-251 Credit(2)			20	550
Diploma= 80 Credit								
V	DSC-301 DSC-302 DSC-303 Credit (4+4+4)	DSM-301 (1 st Minor) DSM-302 (2 nd Minor) Credit (3+3)			Internship with industry/Co mmunity/En gagement/Fi eld Study Credit(2)		20	550

V1	DSC-351 DSC-352 DSC-353 DSC-354 Credit (4+4+4+4)	DSM-351 (2 nd Minor) Credit (4)					20	500
Bachelor Degree=120 Credit								
V11	DSC-401 DSC-402 DSC-403 DSC-404 Credit (4+4+4+4)	DSM-401 1 st Minor Credit(4)					20	500
V111	DSC-451 Credit(4) (Research Methodology) for research, DSC of 500 level for Hons	DSM-451 2 nd Minor Credit(4)			Research Project/Dissertation Credit(12) Or DSC-452 DSC-453 DSC-454 Credit (4+4+4)		20	500

Source: Annexure-1, UG curriculum as per NEP 2020 for colleges affiliated to AU, Silchar

Table 3 given below shows the Credit of different Courses in respective years under the FYUG programme.

Table 3: Credit of different Courses in respective years under the FYUG programme

Sl. No.	Courses	Credit 1-year	Credit 2-year	Credit 3-year	Credit 4-year
1	DSC	12	32	60	80
2	DSM	06	16	26	34
3	IDC	06	09	09	09
4	AEC	04	08	08	08
5	SEC	06	09	09	09
6	VAC	06	06	06	06
7	Internship/Community Engagement/Field Study			02	02
8	Project/Dissertation/Additional			-	12

	03 DSC Courses				
Grand Total		40	80	120	160

Source: Annexure-1, UG curriculum as per NEP 2020 for colleges affiliated to AU, Silchar

Table 3 reflects that for the certificate, the credit to be earned is 40, and for Diploma the credit is 80. Similarly, the total credit to be earned for the Three Year under Graduate (TYUG) Programme and Four Year under Graduate (FYUG) programme are 120 and 160 respectively.

Clustering of subjects opting for DSC and DSM: Table 4 shows the clustering of subjects for opting for DSC and DSM under affiliated colleges of Assam University for the FYUG programme

Table 4: Cluster of subjects for opting for DSC and DSM for the FYUG programme

Cluster	Subjects
1	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Geology, Computer Science, Computer Application, Economics
11	Botany, Zoology, Anthropology, Chemistry, Geology, Statistics, Mathematics, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Computer Application, Industrial Fish and Fisheries(Only as DSM), Ecology and Environmental Science, Information Technology
111	Political Science, History, Economics, Philosophy, Geography, Sociology, Business Administration, English, Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Manipuri, Bodo, Assamese, Education, Persian, Commerce, Ecology and Environmental Science, Computer Application, Statistics, Mathematics, Mass Communication

Source: Annexure-111, clustering of subjects for opting DSC and DM FYUG programme under AU, Silchar

There are three clusters of subjects for opting for DSC and DSM under affiliated colleges of Assam University for the FYUG programme. Both DSC and DSM should be selected from within either of the clusters. The same subject can't be selected as DSC, DSM and IDC. Opting for one literature as DSC and other literature as DSM and IDC is not allowed. DSC from one cluster and DSM from another cluster is not allowed. Students should take two subjects from DSM, known as one first minor and the other as second minor related to his/her discipline. Each DSM should be 13 credits for Three Year UG Programmer and for the FYUG programme the credit is 17. Regarding TYUG Programme DSM-101(3), DSM-201(4), DSM-251(3), and DSM 301(3) - with 13 credits are the first minor subjects. Similarly second minor subjects are DSM-151(3), DSM-252 (3), DSM-302(3) and DSM-351(4)- with 13 credits. In the case of the FYUG programme, each DSM is of 17 credits with subjects DSM-401(4) and DSM-451(4) first minor subject and second minor subject respectively.

All DSM courses should be stand-alone and students are allowed to choose 1st minor and 2nd minor subjects of 17 credits for each minor but they can't change the code of minor papers. In the VIII semester, the students can opt for either project/ dissertation or they have to take three additional paper courses as Discipline Specific Core Courses equivalent to 12 credits in total. DSC-451 paper will be on Research Methodology for Research with Honours students but the content of the paper will be the same across the subjects and across the disciplines. For Honours students, DSC-451 will be a usual 500 level paper.

IDC is to be continued up to 3rd semester only and semester-wise change of IDC is not allowed. Natural Science in IDC doesn't have any practical component. Skill Enhancement Course (SEC) shall have to be opted from either DSC or DSM. Common Value Added Course (CVAC) will be up to 2nd semester only. In CVAC, National Service Scheme (NSS) / Sports/ Yoga/ Understanding India will be for Semester I and EVS will be for Semester II

Change of Core Course: Students securing the highest CGPA (above 6.0) with no back paper can change the core course once only after completion of the second semester. If a candidate desires to make one of his/her minors to the core then automatic change in the minor should be done. Only within allied subjects core can be changed.

Bunching of subjects for Interdisciplinary Course (IDC): The subjects for Interdisciplinary Course are divided into four baskets, 1. Natural Science (NS), 2. Social Science (SS), 3. Humanities (HN) and 4. Commerce and Management (CM). The students may opt for any one of the four baskets as IDC. IDC courses opted shall remain the same in all three semesters. Changing IDC will not be allowed in any semester. Students opting for Natural Science as IDC do not have any practical component.

Table 5 depicts the baskets from which any one subject can be selected as IDC.

Table 5: Baskets of Subjects for IDC

Sl. No.	Name of Basket	Subjects Included
1	Natural Science(NS)	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Geology, Anthropology, Statistics, Biotechnology, Ecology& Environmental Science, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Microbiology, Statistics, Geography, Computer Application(only Science Component), Industrial Fish and Fisheries, Information Technology
2	Social Science(SS)	Political Science, History, Economics, Philosophy, Geography, Sociology, Library Science, Education, Anthropology
3	Humanities(HN)	English, Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Manipuri, Bodo, Assamese, Persian, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Mass Communication, French, Hmar, Nepali, Mizo
4	Commerce and Management	Commerce, Business Administration

Source: Annexure-11, bunching of subjects for Interdisciplinary Course(IDC) under FYUG programme AU, Silchar

Evaluation Process:

Evaluation of DSC, DSM and IDC: DSC, DSM and IDC courses will be evaluated based on total marks 100. 70 marks will be for End Semester examination and 30 marks will be for Internal Examination. 30 marks of internal examination again will be divided into 20 for written test and 10 for attendance.

1. Regarding subjects with practicals DSC-152, DSC-253, DSC-303, DSC-354 and DSC-404 shall be practical with 100 marks. The external examiner will present in practical examination.
2. For subjects with practical DSM-251 shall be practical for the first minor and DSM-351 shall be practical for the second minor. Each practical examination will be of 100 marks and External Examiner will present in the practical examination.

Evaluation of AEC: There is no internal examination for AEC courses. The total marks for the AEC examination is 50 and the duration of the examination is of two hours.

Evaluation of SEC: The total marks for SEC is 100 marks for Science, Arts, and Commerce stream. For science, the End Semester theory examination is 50 marks; the End Semester practical/project/field work is 30 marks and the 20 marks are of internal test out of which 14 are for the test and 6 for attendance. For Arts and Commerce, End Semester Theory Examination is of 50 marks, the End Semester practical/project/field work is 20 marks and the 30 marks is of internal test with 20 for test and 10 for attendance.

Evaluation of VAC: VAC (101 with practical) will be of 100 marks with the End Semester Theory examination of 50 marks and 30 marks for End Semester practical/project/field work and 20 marks for internal test out of which 14 for test and 6 for attendance. VAC-101(without practical) will be of 100 marks with 70 marks for the End Semester examination and 30 marks for Internal/Assignment, out of which 20 for test and 10 for attendance. Evaluation method for EVS (VAC-151) will be same as VAC-101(without practical).

Evaluation of project/Dissertation: In VIII semester it is not mandatory to publish/present paper out of Research Project/Dissertation carried out. However, the project shall have to be presented before Departmental Research Committee and in presence of an external examiner during end semester examination. The project is of total 300 marks and 90 shall be for internal and 210 will be for end semester examination. 90 marks of internal incase of Project/Dissertation consists of three progress reviews carrying 30 marks for each progress review. Concerned supervisor will do progress reviews in presence of Departmental Research Committee. Marks obtained by a student in each of the review shall be notified immediately.

Findings: The study finds out following things:

1. There are options for lateral Exit and Entry at various levels in the FYUG programme.
2. Students will be awarded a UG Certificate after successful completion of 1 year of study.
3. After completing two years, students will be provided a UG Diploma.
4. After 3 years, Bachelor's Degree will be awarded.
5. After successful completion of 4 years of degree, Bachelor's Degree with Honours or Bachelor's Degree with Honours and Research will be awarded.
6. The courses of the FYUG programme comprise Discipline Specific Core (DSC), Discipline Specific Minor (DSM), Interdisciplinary Course (IDC), Ability Enhancement Course(AEC), Skill Enhancement Course(SEC) and Value Added Course (VAC).
7. There are three clusters of subjects for opting for DSC and DSM under affiliated colleges of Assam University for the FYUG programme.
8. The subjects for Interdisciplinary Course are divided into four baskets, 1. Natural Science (NS), 2.Social Science (SS), 3. Humanities (HN) and 4. Commerce and Management (CM).
9. DSC, DSM, and IDC courses will be evaluated based on total marks 100. 70 marks will be for End Semester examination and 30 marks will be for Internal Examination.
10. There is no internal examination for AEC and the total mark for the AEC examination is 50.
11. The total marks for SEC is 100 marks for Science, Arts, and Commerce stream.
12. VAC (101 with practical) will be of 100 marks with the End Semester Theory examination of 50 marks and 30 marks for End Semester practical/project/field work and 20 marks for the internal test.
13. VAC-101(without practical) will be of 100 marks with 70 marks for the End Semester examination and 30 marks for Internal/Assignment.
14. Evaluation method for EVS (VAC-151) will be same as VAC-101(without practical).
15. The evaluation of project is of total 300 marks and 90 shall be for internal and 210 will be for end semester examination.

Conclusion: It is expected that the new FYUG programme will enhance the knowledge of Science, Arts, and Commerce among the students, create the harmony of knowledge among the learners, and pave the way for practical knowledge. It will make students more comfortable for competitive examinations, and will create a favorable environment for research-oriented work.

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