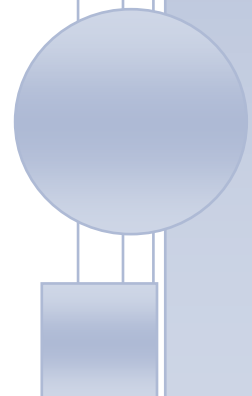




**Centre for Educational and Social Studies**

A REPORT OF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON  
***Draft UGC (Institutions Deemed To  
Be Universities) Regulations, 2022***

**This Report is an outcome of the Round Table Discussion with the Vice Chancellors, Registrars and other representatives of Deemed to be Universities from across India conducted by CESS**



## **About CESS**

Centre for Educational and Social Studies (CESS), based in Bengaluru, is a not-for-profit society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960. We are driven by our vision to bring about “Social Transformation through and with Education.” In pursuance of the vision, CESS engages in Research, Capacity Building and Policy Advocacy in the domain of Education.

CESS continuously engages with the stakeholders across the realm of Education- policy makers, domain experts, regulators, higher education institutions, academicians, researchers, teachers, and students to solicit their feedback on Central and State policy initiatives. With respect to Research and Policy Advocacy, CESS has conducted several research studies, both in-house and in collaboration with premier institutions.

In its endeavor to facilitate the implementation of NEP 2020, CESS is now deeply engaged in the capacity building of stakeholders, especially Faculty and Institutions of Higher Education across India. It is our pride to mention that some of our CESS members are on the Central Regulatory Bodies and on Government of Karnataka Task Force constituted to develop a roadmap for implementation of NEP 2020.

## Context

The advent of National of National Education Policy 2020 has paved the way for major transformation in the Higher Education System. University Grants Commission (UGC) has reframed/modified the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019 with the help of an expert committee and has released the draft UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2022 with the help of an expert committee. The draft was put on a public domain seeking the suggestions/feedback from the stakeholders.

In pursuance of its policy advocacy activities, CESS conducted a Round Table Discussion in Bengaluru on November 23, 2022, with key stakeholders-Chancellors, Registrars, Senior Academic Administrators and representatives of the Deemed-to-be-Universities from across the Country on the proposed draft regulations. Dr. Gopukumar, Joint Secretary, UGC set the context, with a brief overview of the Draft, through online presence.

Stakeholders/Representatives present at the Round Table Discussion

1. Prof. M K Sridhar, President, CESS
2. Dr. Gopukumar, Joint Secretary, UGC
3. Dr. Gowrishha, Professor & Director, CESS
4. Dr. G Pradeep Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SDUAHER, Kolar, Karnataka
5. Cdr. S R Sridhar, Registrar, IIIT, Bengaluru, Karnataka
6. Cdr. M S Raghunathan, Registrar, Vignan's University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
7. Dr. S Kiran, Deputy Director, Academics & Planning, Jain (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru, Karnataka
8. Dr. Dhakshaini M R, Deputy Director, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research University, Mysore, Karnataka
9. Dr. Sekhar Viswanathan, Vice President, VIT, Vellore, Tamil Nadu

10. Sri. Bharat Mathukumilli, President, GITAM (Deemed to be University), Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
11. Sri. Vishal Hegde, Trustee, NITTE University Trust, Mangalore, Karnataka
12. Sri. Raja Harish Koneru, Vice-President, Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, Hyderabad, Telangana
13. Dr. S Ponnuswamy, Registrar, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Kattankulathur, Tamil Nadu
14. Dr. Vanitha Somasekhar, Professor & HoD, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research, Belagavi, Karnataka
15. Dr. Shasi Anand Sridharan, Vice President, Kalasalingam Deemed to be University, Srivilliputhur, Tamil Nadu
16. Dr. Rajamma A J, Principal, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research, Belagavi, Karnataka
17. Dr. Padmakumar Nair, Director, Thapar University, Patiala, Punjab
18. Prof. Amaresh Kumar, Registrar, Starex University, Gurugram, Delhi
19. Dr. Ankson K J, Office of Registrar, Christ (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru
20. Dr. S Muralidhar, Professor, GFGC, Kolar, Karnataka
21. Dr. Padmavathi B S, Professor & Head, Education Unit, CESS
22. Ms. Dharani, Research Associate, CESS

## Suggestions Received from the Stakeholders

The stakeholders in the Round Table Discussion appreciated the UGC Committee for the thoughtful draft regulations for Deemed to be Universities 2022 and proposed the following suggestions:

1. The NEP 2020, in defining a 'University', in clause 10.14., states that the present complex nomenclature of HEIs in the country such as 'deemed to be university', 'affiliating university', 'affiliating technical university' & 'unitary university' shall be replaced simply by 'university' on fulfilling the criteria as per norms. Taking cognizance of this, there is a need to revisit the word 'deemed-to-be-university';
2. In the Definitions, "Distinct Institution" is added in place of "De-novo Institution" – need clarity under which category the 'Deemed to be University' will remain;
3. The clause 12.01 states that the Deemed to be Universities will be open to either of the sex. In line with the NEP's vision of inclusivity, the word "Transgender" should also be included;
4. The Clause 4.0 states that one of the eligibilities for an institution to be declared as a deemed to be university is to have a NIRF ranking either topped among the 50 ranking in any specific criteria or among the 100 rankings. Ranking should not be considered as a criterion, since it is a zero-sum game;
5. The draft is very prescriptive. Contrary to the NEPs recommendation of 'light but tight' regulations. Granting of greater autonomy with transparency clause is much needed for the deemed-to-be universities to function optimally;
6. The central regulations should focus at the macro-level functions and not get into the micro-level operations. Besides, the central regulations,

there are state regulations to which the deemed-to-be-universities must adhere to;

7. On Corpus Fund – clause 4.03-stakeholders discussed on this clause at length. The following points emerged from the discussions:

- i. The corpus fund to be retained to INR 10 Cr. instead of the proposed INR 25 Cr. as the remaining can be used for investments, student scholarships and development of university;
- ii. The corpus fund can be increased in proportion to the number of faculties in the universities;
- iii. Expand the scope of investment instruments permitted under section 11 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to include equities, bonds, derivatives, alternative investments of private sector entities etc.;
- iv. To permit the deemed to be universities to invest in the start-ups promoted by the university- promoted/sponsored incubator or start-ups supported by the university;
- v. Relaxations in the investment patterns will go a long way in giving a fillip to the corpus fund building measures of the deemed universities and also the country's startup programmes;

8. On Governance

- i. The clause 10.03 says that there will be a new body called 'Executive Council (EC)' as the highest governing body for a deemed-to-be university replacing the 'Board of Management' (BoM). The BoM can be retained as a policy making body which provides strategies and the EC can be created to execute the policy which will pave way for a two-tier structure;

- ii. The BoM can be headed by Chancellor and the EC can be headed by the Vice-Chancellor;
  - iii. NEP promotes setting up for Board of Governors and is one of the most important mechanisms for governing a higher education institution. The current regulation makes no reference to this;
  - iv. The post of Pro-chancellor to be continued as per the 2019 regulation;
  - v. As per the clause 10.12.1, the Chancellor is 'not eligible' for reappointment. This should be reconsidered as he/she is the Head of the University, a signatory for many official documents such as the loan documents and has a vision for the institution. The same implies to the reappointment of Vice-Chancellor as well according to the clause 10.12.2.
  - vi. The age-limit of the Officers of the University to be increased to 70 from 62;
  - vii. The appointment of Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor should be prerogative of the sponsoring body;
9. The clause 11.02 states that the fee structure shall be decided by the government and relevant statutory body which should be reconsidered. There is a suit running in the Supreme Court in this regard. Till the SC comes up with its verdict, the said clause should be withheld;

The above suggestions/comments/feedback are given by the invited stakeholders/representatives of the Deemed-to-be-Universities from across the country. The report is consolidated by CESS and is being submitted herein on behalf of all the stakeholders present with a request to consider reviewing the draft UGC Deemed-to-be-University guidelines.

---