



## Attitude of the stakeholders of education towards semester system

Dr. Prem Sunder

Principal, Darsh College of Education, Gohana, Haryana, India

### Abstract

Evaluation of the students' progress/achievement is the foremost function of an education system which are taken in many ways; some are formative and some are summative; one of the method of evaluation is the semester system which appears vary attracting and appealing to our teachers, parents and administrators. Some are in favour of it and some are not. The present investigation is a significant endeavor to ascertain the attitude of stake-holders of education towards the semester system. A questionnaire was prepared to collect pertinent data with the help of the five levels Likert Psychometric Scale from the principals, teachers and students of govt. senior secondary schools and parents of the students. Statistical techniques applied for the analysis of the data (mean, standard deviation and t-value) and it was found that there is no significant difference in the attitude of the stake-holders towards semester system.

**Keywords:** attitude, stakeholders, semester system

### Introduction

India is a developing country. Today, Government is investing a huge sum of the money on Education and to improve the examination system. In the education system of India, ability of a student is decided by an annual system of examination. In this system there is no place for performance of a student in full academic session. Teaching has now largely become examination-oriented. Today passing an examination is considered more important than acquiring education. That is the reason why we read daily in newspapers about examinations being conducted under police protection. Our education system needs examination reforms. Bharanu (2010) [1] although the examinations cannot be entirely abolished yet the nature of the test might be suitably amended in order to obviate or minimize the defects. Therefore, the semester system appears vary attracting and appealing to our educators and the educationists. According to Ballantyne (2003) [2] Semester system is the latest and futuristic system, which is based on the division of curriculum on equal importance in each semester. It is based on semester which is usually timed from 16 to 18 weeks. It omits the annual studied course. It distributes one and two year's courses into two and four semester. According to Daka (2008) [3] in semester system performance of student is evaluated at the end of each semester, two semesters combine and forms one academic year.

Yimam (2012) [4] annual system everything is behind the curtain while semester system is open, and transparent. Though the courses are more or less inter – disciplinary and the student has to go from one department to another for instructional purposes since diversified combinations are given in the syllabi, the choice is after restricted to those disciplines or subjects in which facilities of staff and other amenities exist. The semester system also comes in the way of student's participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular

activities which are equally important for the development of the individual's personality. Ritu (2008) [5] the semester system is not only the examination system rather it is an education system which places more emphasis on learning rather than teaching. In simple words, it is a learner centered system of education which puts more emphasis on building learning potential of students rather than imparting knowledge through rigid system of instruction. The present investigation is an attempt to know the attitude of students, teachers, parents and administrators about the pros and cons of semester system which will make a big role in the improvement of examination system and will improve overall personality of a student.

### Statement of the problem

Attitude of the Stakeholders of Education towards Semester System

### Definitions of operational/key terms

**Attitude:** Is an organization of concept, belief s, habits & motives associated with a particular object.

**Stakeholders:** in terms of education stakeholders are some ones who have vested interest in the success and welfare of education system/institutions. This includes all parties that are directly affected by the success or failure of and educational system, as well as those indirectly affected.

**Semester System:** A 'semester' is literally a six-month period/half-yearly (from the Latin meaning "six-monthly") in an educational institutions but it has come to mean either of two academic terms, generally excluding the summer or January terms, if any, and so is about 16 to 18 weeks long.

### Objectives of the study

1. To ascertain the attitude of Teachers and Students towards Semester System.
2. To find out the attitude of Parents and Principals towards

Semester System.

### Hypotheses of the study

1. There is no significant difference between the attitude of Teachers and Students towards semester system.
2. There is no significant difference between the attitude of Parents and Principals towards semester system

### Limitations of the study

1. The study restricted to the attitude of the principals, teachers and students of Govt. Senior Secondary Schools of Gohana (Haryana).
2. The study confined to the attitude of the parents whose children are studying in Govt. Senior Secondary Schools of Gohana (Haryana).

### Methodology

**Sample:** The pertinent data had been collected to find out the relevant results from thirty teachers and thirty students from

three govt. senior secondary schools of Gohana city (Haryana) in case of ten principals the data had been collected from ten Senior secondary schools of Gohana three from city and others from rural areas and thirty parents of the students whose children are studying in three govt. senior secondary schools of Gohana city by using purposive sampling method.

### Research tool and statistical technique used

A questionnaire had been prepared by the investigator to collect the pertinent data. A five-level psychometric Likert scale (Strongly Agree - 05, Agree-04, Undecided- 03, Disagree-02 and Strongly Disagree-01) by Rensis Likert was used to distinguish between subjective or objective criteria generally to measure the agreement or disagreement about semester system. The five aspects of semester are (Introduction to Semester System, time management, Load of Syllabus, Extra-Curricular Activities, Quality of Education) and for analyzing the data Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value statistical techniques were applied.

**Table 1:** Differences between the attitudes of stake-holders towards semester system

Dimensions	Teachers (30)		Students (30)			Parents (30)		Principals (10)			Level of Significance
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	't' Value	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	't' Value	
Introduction to Semester System	12.85	2.7	13.5	1.90	0.95	15.00	1.57	13.9	1.91	.17	N.S
Time Management	11.97	3.11	12.55	2.65	0.7	14.5	2.41	14.01	2.11	.41	N.S
Load of Syllabus	13.55	1.98	13.46	2.1	0.16	15.00	2.23	14.1	2.59	.51	N.S
Extra-Curricular Activities	14.66	1.55	13.66	1.98	1.71	14.1	1.57	13.41	1.50	.62	N.S
Quality of Education	13.35	2.2	12.79	2.64	0.614	13.21	2.15	13.01	2.00	.16	N.S

### Findings, conclusion and implications of the study

Out of various combinations of mean differences in terms of teachers and students, no difference was found to be significant.i.e. all the mean differences are not significant. There is no significant difference between the attitude of Teachers and Students towards Semester system so null hypothesis is not retained and the difference is not real but it is merely due to chance of factor. But students found more stressful due to Load of Syllabus and continuous examination which supports the findings of Jadoon (2008) <sup>[6]</sup> that the students studied in courses with semester system found more stressed from course workload, lack of outside interpersonal influences, very busy all the times. Students and Teachers feel that students get less time in indulging with Extra Curricular activities which supports the findings of Rachna (2012) <sup>[8]</sup> that students have anxiety about possibility of less time for extra-curricular activities and to get socially as it keeps busy all time.

Out of various combinations of mean differences in terms of parents and principals, no difference was found to be significant.i.e. all the mean differences are not significant; there is no significant difference between the attitude of Parents and Principals towards Semester system. So null hypothesis is not retained and the difference is not real but it is merely due to chance of factor. But parents concerned that their children do not understand the subject but they cram it for examination due to insufficient time and after examination they forgot all the learning of previous semester which supports the findings of Fullerton (1998) <sup>[7]</sup> that due to lack of time, students do not absorb the subject properly and as the

semester goes, they forgot everything they have learned during the semester system and students lose interest with the subjects as they are always overloaded. The principals love the semester system having their own reasons and logics. They are more concerned with the examinations and completions of the syllabus and feel relax and never bother how the teachers are teaching which supports the findings of Rachna (2009) that in semester system the authorities of the universities never bother how the teacher is teaching; they are more concerned with the research activity and to improve ranking in terms of research papers and examination and feel relax environment.

### Implications of the study

The key advantage is that it will provide an opportunity to students for continuous learning and assessment/feedback. The semester system provides for more in-depth teaching, learning assignments, and classroom and fieldwork assignments. Rachna (2012) <sup>[8]</sup> the semester system provides more time to engage in academic activities.

The semester system can provide for more time to learn concepts deeply and absorb the material due to more time for repetition, it has been described by students as less hectic and stressful, which can have a positive impact on their learning. Aggarwal (1997) <sup>[10]</sup> argues that only that system of education is good which ensures effective learning. The criterion for success is effective learning. So, some precautions or some details about the semester system must be informed to the students before switching from annual to semester or from semester to quarter system.

The semester system provides for more opportunity for

authentic and qualitative assessment and evaluation methods. It would also provide the opportunity to benchmark the evaluation of student learning outcomes over a longer period of time. It provides more opportunity for faculty to use student evaluation outcome data. Making modifications to courses based on previous students' feedback can have a positive effect on the new students' learning.

Nasira Jabeen, (2008) <sup>[9]</sup> the students how passed through semester system of examination does secure comparatively good marks percentage than annual system of examination. The semester system provides more time for students to integrate knowledge and skills within and across disciplines, which can result in better learning outcomes. Aggrwal (1997) it is, therefore, strongly recommended that proposed learning objectives and learning strategies regarding semester system ought to be communicated to students and even to their teachers, via some seminar etc., who are new to the system. It needs to be some improvement but a good system of examination. The anxiety regarding sufficient time for extracurricular activities for students will have to be addressed by allocating time for them within the academic calendar and the authorities have to revamp and modify the semester system to make it effective tool of evaluation.

This study will be beneficial to evaluation the Grading system in order to make our evaluation system at par with the best practices. This study was also serving as a future reference for researchers on the subject of Attitude of Students and Teachers towards semester system in various disciplines. And importantly, this research will educate/guide the authorities of education on whether semester system is really fulfilling its responsibility to the students and teachers or is just showing off a new Education system.

However, a Semester does not merely mean dividing an academic year into two half yearly sessions. It is an innovative approach to teaching-learning process, an educational culture, a student-friendly system, which require a new mind set in the part of the learners as well as the facilitators of learning.

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