REPORT

Event name: Awareness Programme on Academic Bank of Credit (ABC)
Date: 16th May 2023
Mode: Blended
No. of Participants: 35 (Faculties, officers, students)
Speakers: Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA)
Dr. Someswar Bhowmik, Officer-in-Charge, Centre for Online Education (CoEdn)
Shri Hillol Ghosh, Information Technology Officer (ITO)

As per the requirements of NEP 2020, UGC has taken various initiatives to reform the higher education sector of the country. A good number of seminars/ workshops are being conducted at the institutional level to sensitize the stake holders, especially the higher educational institutions. Netaji Subhas Open University is also taking various initiatives to sensitize the stakeholders at different levels.

Professor Anirban Ghosh initiated the discussion with a brief introduction to the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC). Prof. Ghosh in his deliberations highlighted the importance and utility of the ABC, which is basically a storage of academic credit. Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) is a digital storehouse that contains information of the credits earned by individual students throughout their learning journey. ABC has been introduced to enable the students' mobility across all higher education institutions with an objective to help in the seamless integration of skills and experiences into a Credit Based system. National Academic Depository (NAD) is the backbone of ABC, where the students' academic data are held and academic awards are stored. The final outcome of credit redemption and issuance of certificates, as well as the compilation of award records, are administered by academic institutions via the NAD Platform. Hence being the owner of academic awards, HEIs mandatorily register themselves under ABC via NAD. In this context, the concept of Digilocker was also described. Digilocker is a cloud-based platform for the storage, sharing and verification of documents and certifications. The important objectives of digilocker are a) paperless governance, b) any time any where the documents, c) real-time verification etc.

Dr. Bhowmik in his deliberation described the academic aspects of the ABC and its importance in higher education as envisioned in the NEP 2020. The highlighted that the advantage of ABC are a) provision for multiple exits for students, b) Storing student credit for a maximum period of 7 years, c) transfer credit etc. Academic Bank deposits credit awarded by the HEIs. It facilitates the academic mobility of students with the freedom to study access in other HEI with an appropriate credit transfer from one programme to other leading to attain the degree or diploma. He also described 3As involved in the ABC system viz. i) Allocation, ii) Accumulation iii) Awards. Specific 'credit' earned from HEIs through learning activities may be awarded a degree by the parent university. The particular student has to get at least 50% of the total credit from the parent university and the remaining may be earned from one or more HEIs. ABC is meant for credit accumulation, transfer and redemption. The degree will be awarded by the parent university. Learning mobility requires academic recognition and transfer of credit. Recognition of credit is the process through which the institution certifies that the learning outcome has been achieved and assessed by another institution to satisfy the requirements of the programme they offer.

Shri Hillol Ghosh in his presentation described the technical part, log-in process and mechanism of credit accumulation, transfer and redemption process through a live demo in the ABC module of the Digilocker portal. He told that the Digilocker stores the academic data, credit earned etc. and the ABC portal facilitates credit accumulation, transfer and redemption of credit earned during the learning path. The accumulated credit can be redeemed only once.

After all the deliberations, the participants cleared their doubts with the speakers in during Q/A session. Dr. Ghosh in his concluding remarks told that the university has already taken an initiative to upload the results in a prescribed format in the Digilocker and created the ABC ID for most of the students (UG/PG) of 2022-23 academic session.

--Report prepared by Director, CIQA