



AWARENESS OF ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDIT AMONG DEGREE STUDENTS AND STUDENT TEACHERS

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Abstract:

The NEP 2020 is focused on creating a holistic, application-based education system with a special emphasis on skill development which will make the students future-ready. It has brought a paradigm shift in Indian education system, making education and learning more accessible and inclusive to all. The transformational reforms will not only enhance the quality of education but also make India emerge as a knowledge superpower in the world. Academic Bank of Credit envisages an open higher Education system that ensures learner accountability and continuous growth. Moreover, in this system, the students have the privilege to avail the possibility of multiple entries – multiple exits as well as anytime, anywhere, and any level of learning.

Education instils knowledge into the young minds and transforms those minds into learned citizens. Appropriate education in the developed countries led them towards prosperity. New India is also thinking on the same line. This National Education Policy 2020 aims to transform India's education system by 2040. In this new National Education Policy 2020, the 10+2 structure will be replaced with the 5+3+3+4 model. It proposes a multi-disciplinary bachelor's degree in an undergraduate programme with multiple exit options. National Education Policy 2020 introduces the system of Academic Bank of Credits (ABC). It is a virtual store that maintains data about the credits earned by students throughout their educational life. It will be accountable for opening, closing, and validating the academic accounts of students. It increases students' freedom in choosing their courses and academics. would act as a reference point for faculty to check the credit records of students. Online & offline – both types of courses are included in this ABC scheme. The credits earned by students will be valid for seven years. The UGC expects a positive impact that will be brought via the practice of the ABC in the upcoming years.

Keywords: Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS), Multiple entry, Academic Bank of Credit, Higher educational institution

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Introduction:

According to Paulo Freire an educationist of Brazil, the traditional system of education is a Banking system of education as it mechanically deposits lifeless knowledge in students without any creativity, innovation and does not provide required skill to face challenges and find the solutions. To overcome this problem the University Grants Commission proposed the concept of Academic Bank of Credit system which provides autonomy to the student's democratic participation in higher education system. The concept of Academic Bank of Credit gives



learners a way to leadership in the higher education system, and the learners are no longer in the grip of rigidity, forcing them for hectic learning. The idea of Academic Bank of Credit system as proposed in New Education Policy NEP 2020 will catalyse the transformation of society into a skillful creative learning society.

Research Reviews on Academic Bank of Credits:

A few researches were conducted in the area of ABC. The review of the 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.

Aim of study:

The prime objectives of the study are-

1. To understand the concept and vision of Academic Bank of Credit
2. How does the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) Operate?
3. To understand how a learner can earn scores by completing a course and these will be credited to the ABC account
4. To understand the mobility of a learner in higher educational institutes through the academic bank of credit.



5. To understand the multiple entry-multiple exit facility for students in Higher Education Institutes through Academic Flexibility.

ABC -Academic Bank of Credits

A. Meaning

ABC is one of the provisions of the NEP-20. It is concern with undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses. ABC will allow UG and or PG Student to exit the course and enter within a definite stipulated period. ABC-Academy Bank of credits shall deposit credits awarded by registered higher education institutions, for courses learned studied therein. ABC of the student will allow students of UG and PG. ABC is a virtual or Digital bank which stores, deposits credits earn by individual student throughout his/her academic journey. in ABC ,students can open his/ her account and get multiple options for entering and leaving college/s or university/s it means through ABC, student can avail ‘multiple exits’ and ‘multiple entries’ points during the higher education tenure. The academic credits earned and Banked by student will be transferred through the ABC.

B. Steps to follow for ABC

1. ABC account opening
2. Courses with credit information.
3. Evolution of credits
4. Verification of credits
5. Online –offline courses for ABC.
6. Credits Validity

1. ABC Account Opening

It Requires the

- Name of student.
- Address of student.
- Certificates of student.
- Course details of the student.

1. The generation of a unique ID and generation of a specific individual password will be credited to the individual student. He/she can log in from any place of the country. He /she can check their earned credits from ABC- Academy Bank of Credit
2. Courses and Credit Information By the government that is the University Grant Commission (UGC), as per the courses, a Credit structure will be created. UGC- University Grant Commission is one of the statutory organizations of the Central Government of India. UGC is the key player in maintaining the quality of education across Indian institution
3. Evaluation of Credits – Verification of Credits ABC – Academic Bank of Credits will carry out the evaluation and verification of credits at regular intervals. Students have to approach to the ABC for transfer of credits as and when he/she desires. Thus, the ABC will help in regulating the process of depositing the credits as well as transferring the credits of individual studentsat the India-national level.



4. Online – Offline Courses in ABC It covers online as well as offline courses. It means the ABC applies to almost all types of courses. Students can opt for online or offline courses. His/her credits earned in online courses can be transferred to offline course and vice-versa.
5. Credits Validity ABC looks upon the validity of credits. It is subject to change depending on the type of courses or disciplines. The credit validity for students is upto seven years. Within the span of credit validity that is within seven years, the student may take a break or multiple entries to continue his/her education, and the credits validity continues

Advantages:

The biggest advantage of the Academic Bank of Credits is its ability to make transferring of credits easier for students. This makes it possible for students to complete their studies in a more efficient manner. Students can save time, money, and energy by being able to transfer course credits from one university to another. In addition, the Academic Bank of Credits also helps institutes to keep track of the credits that students have earned. This makes it easier for admissions officers to review a student’s academic record and make sure they meet the university’s requirements for admission. A. “Increases the student’s freedom in choosing their courses and academics. B. Enables the student to drop out in any year and then exchange the credits earned so far with a certificate/diploma if they are eligible. C. They can redeem the credits and rejoin the same or any other institute in the future and continue their education. D. The institutes cannot keep the students in the courses against their will to earn money” MasterSoft. (2023)

Disadvantages:

Despite the advantages mentioned above, the Academic Bank of Credits does have a few drawbacks. For instance, the system may not be compatible with all institutions, meaning that credits earned from one university may not be transferable to another. Also, the system does not always recognize credits that have been earned through non-traditional methods such as independent study or online courses. This means that students may not be able to transfer credits from non-traditional sources. Moreover, the system may require additional paperwork from students in order to transfer credits. This can be a time-consuming process that can slow down the student’s progress. In conclusion, the Academic Bank of Credits can be a great way for students to transfer their course credits from one university to another. However, it is important to remember that there are some limitations that may make it difficult for some students to use the system. Therefore, students should be sure to research the system thoroughly before trying to transfer their credits.

Functions of Academic Bank of Credit:

- A. “The Academic Bank will be accountable for opening, closing, and validating the academic accounts of students.
- B. It will carry out tasks such as credit accumulation, credit verification, credit transfer/redemption of students.
- C. The courses include online and distance mode courses offered by the government and institutes.
- D. The validity of these academic credits earned by students will be up to seven years and students can redeem these credits.

E. The credits can be redeemed and students can seek admission directly in the second year at any university. F. The validity will be up to seven years, hence, students will have to rejoin within seven years.” MasterSoft. (2023).

Awareness of the Academic Bank of Credit at Institutional level for successful Implementation:

At an institutional level, the awareness of ABC is important in order to ensure its successful implementation. Institutions need to be aware of the benefits that ABC has to offer, the requirements they must meet in order to participate, and the types of records that can be stored in the database. With ABC, institutions can easily access and verify student credit records, allowing them to quickly evaluate the qualifications of applicants. This will provide an added layer of security for institutions, as they can easily ensure that students have completed the necessary courses and subjects to gain admission to their programs. Additionally, students who have taken courses at different institutions can easily transfer course credits to another. This saves them time and money, and encourages them to pursue higher education. Institutions should also be aware of the prerequisite for students who will be using the ABC database. In order to use ABC, students must first have their transcripts, course descriptions, and contact information validated. This is an important step in the verification process, so institutions should ensure that their students are meeting the necessary requirements. Finally, institutions should be familiar with the types of records that can be stored in the ABC database. ABC stores individual student records, including course descriptions, course credit values, and contact information for the student and the institution. This allows for efficient storage and retrieval of student records, making it easy for institutions to access and verify the information quickly.

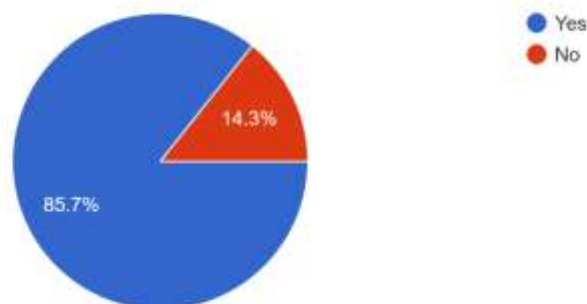
Methodology:

Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) is a student-centric approach in HEIs that focuses on student liberty and flexibility in obtaining graduation. Data was gathered from degree college of students and student teacher for awareness of the ABC ID in HEIs during the survey.

Analysis/interpretation:

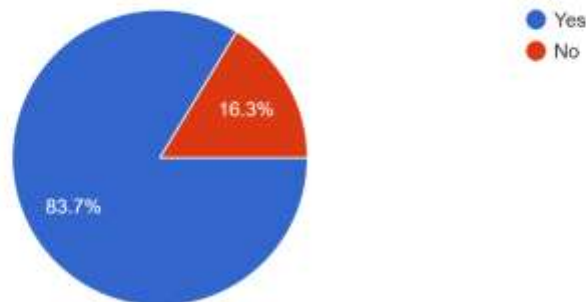
1. Have you heard about Academic Bank Credit (ABC) before?

42 responses



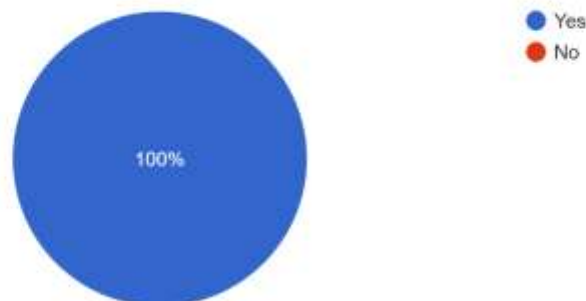
2. Can You define Academic Bank Credit

43 responses



3. Do you think Academic Bank Credit is beneficial for students?

43 responses



4. Do you consider utilizing Academic Bank Credit for your academic pursuit?

42 responses



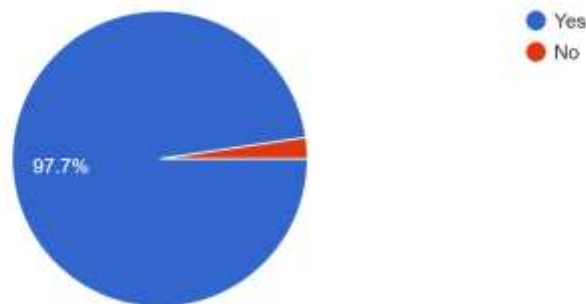
5. Do you believe your university adequately promotes and supports Academic Bank Credit?

42 responses



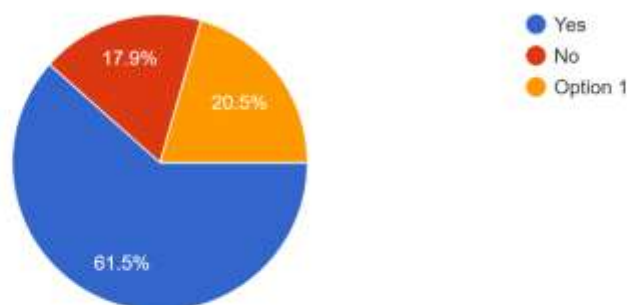
6. Do you think Academic Bank Credit can facilitate lifelong learning?

43 responses



7. Are you aware of the specific procedures involved in utilizing Academic Bank Credit at your university?

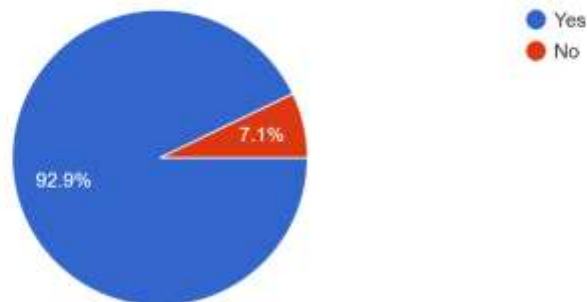
39 responses





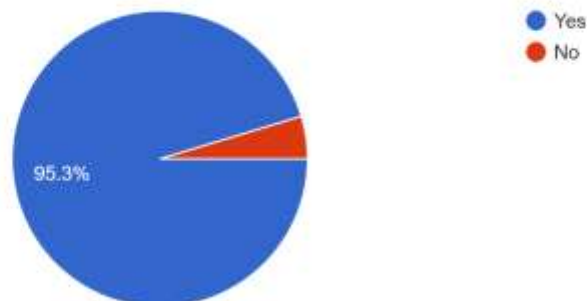
8. Would you like to see more initiatives from your university to promote Academic Bank Credit?

42 responses



9. Do you think Academic Bank Credit can enhance your academic experience?

43 responses



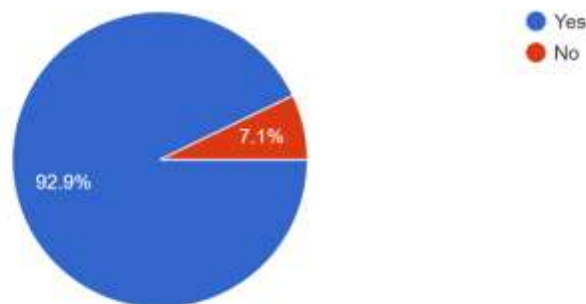
10. Will you recommend academic Bank Credit to your peers?

42 responses



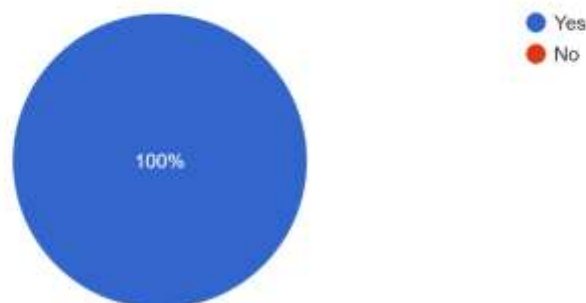
11. Do you prefer receiving information about Academic Bank Credit through university emails/newsletters?

42 responses



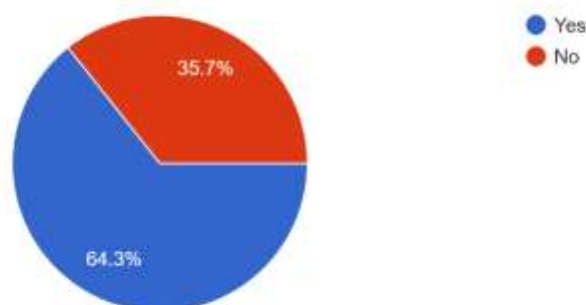
12. Do you think your professors/teachers are generally aware of Academic Bank Credit?

41 responses



13. Do you foresee any potential challenges in the implementation of Academic Bank Credit?

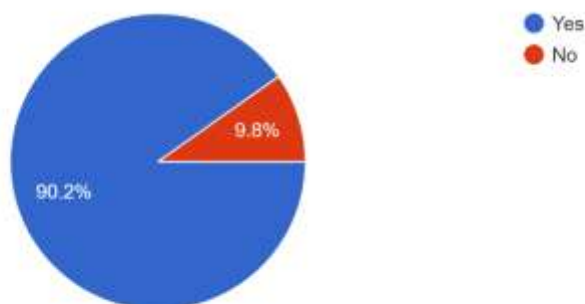
42 responses





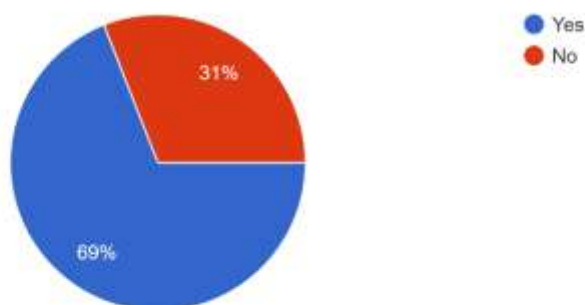
14. Do you perceive Academic Bank Credit as a system that encourages flexible credit accumulation?

41 responses



15. Have you ever encountered information about Academic Bank Credit through university announcements or official communication?

42 responses



Conclusion:

The present research paper brings to notice the actual status of National Education Policy-2020 along with the place of Academic Bank Credit in it. It proposes a multi-disciplinary bachelor's degree in an undergraduate programme with multiple exit options which help India to transform its education system by 2040. The professional and vocational areas covered in this innovative policy create skills amongst the learners. As a result of this, job opportunities are increased. There is a shift from, „Getting education for the sake of education to Getting education for the sake of creating job opportunities.“ The student is made a free bird on the horizon of a multidisciplinary bachelor's degree with multiple exit options. This could happen only because of the provision of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC). The New Education Policy underlines the need for online and offline courses already included in the National Schemes. After all, instilling „skills“ amongst students would be the aim of Higher Education. The skilled graduates are becoming a real asset to our nation.

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