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INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

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National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)
Sponsored National Virtual Seminar
(Online Mode)

on

**"INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES & PRACTICES IN TEACHING, LEARNING AND
EVALUATION PROCESS FOR ARTS & SCIENCE COLLEGES TOWARDS
NEW EDUCATION POLICY-2022"**

3rd & 4th November 2022

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IMPLEMENTATION OF ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDIT (ABC) AND ITS IMPACT ON HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

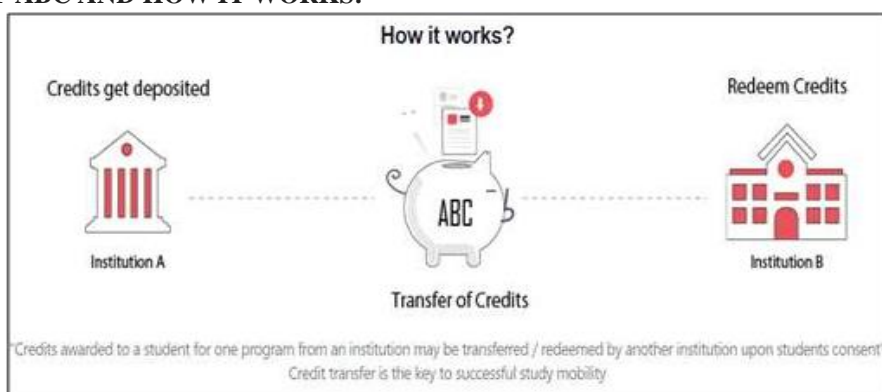
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INTRODUCTION:

The student-friendly National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has introduced contemporary concepts to improve the quality of education in India. It is focused on individual development by providing flexibility in the course structure. The academic bank of credit (ABC) proposed in NEP 2020 will offer flexibility to students and executives to promote liberal education, according to draft rules prepared by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

An individual account with the Academic Bank of Credit opened and operated by a student, to which all academic credits earned by the student from course(s) of study are deposited, recognised, maintained, accumulated, transferred, validated or redeemed for the purposes of the award of degree/diploma/certificate etc. by an awarding institution. Credits deposited in the ABC platform will be valid for a maximum of seven years or the duration specified for a given discipline.

CONCEPT OF ABC AND HOW IT WORKS:



The **National e-Governance Division (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has created the **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) platform**, which is based on the **DigiLocker framework** and provides the ability for students to open Academic Accounts and for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to sign up. **DigiLocker** is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under the Digital India programme that provides access to authentic digital documents in a citizen's digital document wallet.

KEY FEATURES OF ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDIT SCHEME

- Multiple entry multiple exit for students, Anytime anywhere learning for students
- Allows student to study at their own pace, Transparency in student credits
- Allows academic institutions to lodge and maintain the integrity of the credits
- Maintains the authenticity of student credits, Confidentiality of student credits
- Easy credit transfer through digital mode, Faster credit recognition

ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDITS – STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED

To enhance the reach of the ABC program, all higher educational institutions are requested to take action on the following on an urgent basis:

- The institutions need to register on the [official website of ABC](#).
- Then, they need to upload data of student credits obtained during or after the academic year 2021-22.
- The institutions need to make the students aware of the ABC facility and encourage and hand-hold them to open Academic Bank accounts on the ABC portal.
- The institution also needs to create a hyperlink of the ABC URL on its respective website's home page.
- They also need to depute nodal officers for implementing ABC and reflecting their details on their websites.
- Higher Educational institutions may insist their students fill up their ABC IDs on all examination forms.

ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDIT (ABC) SCHEME - BENEFITS

- 1) It aims to promote student centricity in higher education with learner-friendly approaches across the country and promote a more inter-disciplinary approach in higher education.
- 2) It will enable students to choose the best courses/combination of courses to suit their interest.
- 3) It will enable students to select the best departments or institutions or their combination to suit their interest
- 4) It will allow students to choose a pace for their studies along with the associated cost. It will allow students to make specific modifications/specialisations to their degree programmes rather than undergoing the regularly prescribed degree/courses.
- 6) It enables multiple entry-multiple exit scheme for students to complete their degrees as per their time preferences,
- 7) It provides mobility across various disciplines like Degree, Diploma, PG Diploma, Certificate programmes.
- 8) It facilitates lifelong learning amongst students in full time and part-time modes.
- 9) It will maintain academic records and issue an official transcript. This transcript will be recognised by all the member-universities of ABC.
- 10) If students are working towards a qualification, they will have to accumulate sufficient credits to gain the total credit value of the qualification. Students may be able to transfer their credits as part of one study programme to another, offered by the same institution.

ABC's IMPACT ON EDUCATION INSTITUTES

The participating HEIs in the ABC scheme will enable students to build their degrees as per their choices. The participating higher education institutes will have to amend their rules in terms of course registration, course requirements, acceptance for inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary courses, Credits to be offered to these courses, credit transfers, and credits acceptance from other approved institutions. As per UGC guidelines, the higher education institutes will have to allow students to acquire credits 50-70% of credits assigned to a degree from any institute. Students, depending upon their needs can take this opportunity. Students who opt to shift their institution will have to get the remaining 30-50% credits from the education institute they have registered with. This, says, UGC will ensure that students secured the minimum credits to be secured in the core subject area.

If any university or college registered with ABC does not fulfill the conditions or requirements for the implementation of the ABC scheme, the commission may recommend the removal of such an institution from ABC and any other appropriate penal punishment as decided by the Commission.

CONCLUSION:

Under the ABC, a student can earn a degree from any HEI, with multiple entry and exit options. Instead of spending three years in one college, a student can seamlessly switch over from one college to another one. In order to earn a degree, a student will now require to hold a certain number of credits under his or her account. ABC is a revolutionary step which will promote access, equity, quality, flexibility, mobility, collaboration, transparency, and integration to improve the competitiveness and efficiency of India's education system.