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## SEMESTER SYSTEM – ITS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES



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**Abstract:-** The three year graduate course students have to undergo a university level examination at the end of each year to evaluate their comprehensive grasp of the subject. A similar pattern of examination is followed for two years post-graduate studies. But this situation changed according to need, time, aspiration and demand only for the sake of goodness, growth and better governance. Indian policy makers have started introducing semester style which is typically an American system of education and it has many reasons to be for attaining supremacy after many years. Semester system is a blessing for the trinity of higher education i.e. teaching, learning and examination.

This paper throws light on the strengths of semester system and weaknesses of semester system examination pattern & suggests some remedies to tackle the problems created due to semester system.

**Keywords:** strengths, weaknesses, Etymologically, strengths.

### INTRODUCTION

Meaning of Semester – Etymologically 'Semester' is a word derived from Latin word "Semestrus" It is made up of two words namely "sex" means Six and 'Mensis' means months.

According to Oxford Dictionary – either of the two divisions of the academic year, the summer or winter semester especially of American colleges and University.

Dictionary – definition – "A six month period, half year, either of two terms, of about 18 weeks each, which usually make up a school or college year."

It is an academic term or period featuring two divisions of an academic year i.e. half a year, a period of six months having 15 to 18 weeks each of an academic year. Similarly division may be called "quarters" or "trimesters". If an academic year is divided into four and three equal parts respectively. Typically college and university that run on a semester system have semester starting from the month of either May or July and Nov. or January.

### STRENGTHS :-

Students understand the value of time and avoid the fruitless activities.

It generates easy learning for student community

It enhances students' punctuality on one side and reduces absenteeism rate.

It increases the clench on knowledge of students

It helps the student to raise dignity, image and respect of teachers.

It is a quick responsive system because students constantly detect their own shortcomings and modify themselves.

It leaves a positive impact on teaching as it increases punctuality like guide, teach and evaluate students.

It reduces students' suicide because good results will leave

all flabbergasted.

It makes regular use of college /University library, hostel and laboratory.

It increases revenue generation of college/ University.

### WEAKNESS

It runs about 15 weeks, students complain because their summer has been cut short.

Lesser chance of recovery that students can make due to limited time.

Forgetting lessons/topics that have been taught in previous semester.

It has internal assessment of student and marking therefore it can be subjective.

It creates distress among students, teachers, clerks and administrators as its introduction means only study and evaluation or all works or busy reducing a substantial amount of time which they could have spare for their family, friends and society.

It squeezes social, political and economic life of all associated with it.

Round the year students are only studying for exams, losing out the real charm of college/ University.

Paucity of time has been most severe quandary associated with it.

Students don't have real time sporting, gaming and other recreation which may cause both physical and psychological problems in forms of increased rate of heart attack, obesity, high pressures, hypertension case, physical weakness, eye related problems, distress, confusion and depression etc.

Students have to pay admission fees and other fees twice and they have to pay more 'P' i.e. Pen, Pencil, paper.

Most of the students get first class or grade

It is a mother of students' frustration.

*Semester System - Its Strengths And Weaknesses*

It exhibits wide disparity between theory and practice. Teachers become simply the 'teaching evaluation machine' so permitting least amount of time for carrying out research activities.

It is mechanistic in nature giving least importance to human beings' psychological, physical and social ever increasing thirst.

**CONCLUSION:-**

There may be a new system called "Ann ester", the ultimate merger of annual and semester system keeping only positive aspects of these two systems. It may be proposed to run for 10 months period with 6 to 8 papers. Teachers should be provided more infrastructural and financial incentives supports so that they can continue research work along with their runtime class job.

This proposed system will bridge up the gap between annual and semester systems. enhancing the quality of teaching- learning and evaluation and research at colleges and Universities and elevate status of higher education around the globe.

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