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A STUDY OF ATTITUDE OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TOWARDS  
SEMESTER SYSTEM



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**Short Profile**

Jagbir Singh is a Research Scholar at Department of Education in University of Jammu, Jammu.



**ABSTRACT:**

Semester System at university stage is not only an examination system rather an education system whose primary concern is learning instead of centred instead teaching centre. This study is aimed to examine the attitude of university students towards Semester System and study the problems faced by students in new semester system along with the analysis of the curriculum of University stage. The investigator randomly selected a total number of 11 Departments for the study that included Arts, Science and Commerce students. It is found that the students have

mildly positive and mildly negative attitude. The investigator has also concluded from the data collected through self constructed interview schedule that new curriculum has brought a lot of changes without considering the time duration of the course.

**KEYWORDS**

*Semester System , education system , International Commission of Education .*

## INTRODUCTION :

In the scientific age of today, the explicit progress and prosperity of man both in terms of material and intellect has put forward a challenge to the educational institutions. Education is both acquisition of knowledge and experience as well as the development of skills, habits and attitudes which help a person to lead a full and worthwhile life in this world. The International Commission of Education for the Twenty First Century has envisaged education as one of the principal means available to foster a deeper and more harmonious form of human development and thereby reduce poverty, exclusion, ignorance, oppression and war. The concept of education has been rapidly changing these days.

Semester system is not only an examination system rather an education system whose primary concern is learning instead of teaching and whose approach is learner centered instead teacher centered. The main motto of semester system is to put emphasis on continuous, comprehensive and in-depth learning aiming at capacity building of the students by developing required knowledge, skills and attitude to become an efficient and effective citizen in diversified society. Though seldom disagreement found among educationists regarding the benefits of semester system over the annual system, materializing the scheme effectively in an environment of poor physical and information resources is a challenging job.

Zafar and Jabeen (2008) has studied the two types of learning systems i.e. annual system and semester system, that are prevalent and monitored by higher education commission of Pakistan, the annual system which is continued throughout the year and the semester system which is only for a period of six months. Both these systems in education have their own unique characteristics.

Malik & Khanam (2010) in their study of both the education systems, i.e., semester and annual have their weak and strong presentation skills. However, the annual system gives an opportunity to develop through concepts and in depth study of texts. In this system students get ample time to mastery over the subject matter. Smooth running of the semester system means being careful about timelines and constraints of concepts that can be comprehended in a concise manner. It trains the students through a process of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. For cognitive learning, semester system moves to the higher level of learning and student is evaluated on both intellectual and behavioural grounds. Check and balance system can facilitate the learners with the full benefit of the system. Teacher training can help both the semester and annual systems to assure quality.

Aslam, Sheik, Maher & Abbasi (2012) in their study revealed that semester system is perceived to be most effective way of effectual learning. They revealed that many factors can efficiently enhance student's satisfaction but teachers' efforts and behaviour are the main factors which are directly related to the students' satisfaction.

## CONCEPT OF ATTITUDE

Attitude are inner feelings or belief of an individual towards a particular phenomenon. Attitude may also be defined as "mental neutral state of readiness or well organized feeling of every thing and influence upon the individual responses to all objects with which it is related. Attitude comprises of intellectual, biological and emotional components which are desirable from experience and influence upon behaviour.

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Attitude comprises of the dimensions intensity and direction. These aspects are very important in understanding attitudes and their influence or impact upon covert behaviour which provides evidence of each of these dimensions intensity is evidenced by the extent to which it motivates an individual's behaviour. Obstacles that seem to have very little actual resistance can waste behaviour motivated by weak attitude but an intense attitude is likely to find expression in behaviour despite almost over obstacles. Positive and favorable attitude decides the course of life but a person highly infused with negative or unfavorable attitude will show dubiety for every thing. His uncertainty based on principles always enables him to look behind his path. There are times when it is useful for investigator to have information concerning individual's attitude towards general situation of life.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem under taken for the present study is stated as under :-

“A STUDY OF ATTITUDE OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TOWARDS SEMESTER SYSTEM”.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1.To prepare an attitude scale for measuring attitude of students towards semester system.
- 2.To find out the differences in the attitude of university students gender towards semester system.
- 3.To find out the difference in the attitude of university students of different streams i.e. (Arts, Commerce and Science) towards semester system.
- 4.To find out the interactional effect of sex (boys and girls ) and stream (Arts, Science and Commerce) towards semester when the attitude scale scores are taken as dependent variable.
- 5.To find out the difference in the attitude of university students belonging to urban and rural locality towards semester system.

### HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- 1.There will be no gender difference in the attitude of university students i.e. (Boys and Girls) towards semester system.
- 2.There will be no difference in the attitude of university students of different streams (Arts, Science and Commerce) towards semester system.
- 3.There will be no difference in the interactional effect of sex (i.e. boys and girls) and different streams (i.e. Arts, Science and Commerce) towards semester system.
- 4.There will be no difference in the attitude of university students belonging to urban and rural locality towards semester system.

### SAMPLE & RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the present study descriptive survey method was employed. The sample of study consists of university students of different streams and gender. A total of 225 students who are studying in various departments were randomly selected in a simple random technique. The selection of the sample is

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about 15% of the population, because according to Gay and Airasian (2003), sampling for descriptive studies should form 10% to 20%. Independent c-ratio, two-way ANOVA test and Pearson Correlation was applied to measure the research hypotheses.

### VARIABLES TO BE STUDIED

The following variables were studied in the present research.

- a)Independent variable :
  - i)Sex : Male and Female
  - ii)Stream : Arts, Science & Commerce
  - iii) Locality : Rural and Urban
- b)Dependent Variable : Attitude Scale

### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Table A : Showing the summary of ANOVA for 2x3 Factorial Design

Source of variance	SS	Df	MS	F-ratio	Level of Significance
A (Sex)	112.07	1	112.07	0.333	Not significant
B (Stream)	1373.44	2	686.72	2.04	Not significant
AxB	10.03	2	5.015	0.014	Not significant
Within	18152.8	54	336.16		
Total	19648.34	59			

### Interpretation

The f-ratio for main effect 'A' i.e. Sex (i.e. Boys and Girls) came out to be not significant at .01 level of significance. It can be interpreted that the university students belonging to different sex (i.e. boys and girls) do not differ in their attitude towards semester system. Hence hypothesis that there will be no difference in the attitude of university students i.e. (Boys and Girls) towards semester system, is accepted.

F-ratio against another main effect 'B' streams (i.e. Arts, Commerce and Science) is 2.04 which is not significant. Hence it can be interpreted that students studying in different streams (i.e. Arts, Commerce and Science) do not differ in their attitude towards semester system. Hence hypothesis that there will be no difference in the attitude of university students of different streams (Arts, Science and Commerce) towards semester system, is accepted.

F-ratio against interactional effect of Sex (i.e. boys and girls) and stream (i.e. Arts, Commerce and Science) has come to be 0.014 which is not significant. Hence hypothesis that there will be no difference in the interactional effect of sex (i.e. boys and girls) and different streams (i.e. Arts, Science

and Commerce) towards semester system, is accepted.

**Table B : Showing the Critical Ratio of University students belonging to different locality towards Semester System (Urban & Rural)**

Category	N	Mean	S.D	SE <sub>M</sub>	DM	SE <sub>DM</sub>	C.R.	Level of Significance
Rural students	113	97.24	14.52	1.36	2.01	2.02	0.99	Not significant
Urban students	112	95.23	15.87	1.5				

### Interpretation

It has been found that 't' value between urban and rural students came out to be 0.99 which is not significant which shows that there exists no significant difference in the attitude of rural and urban students towards semester system. The mean value of students belonging to rural area is slightly higher than students of urban area indicating that students of rural area are more in favour of semester system.

### CONCLUSION

- 1.No difference in the attitude of university students (i.e. boys and girls) towards semester system is seen.
- 2.The university students studying in different streams (i.e. Arts, Commerce & Science) do not differ in their attitude towards semester system.
- 3.No difference in the attitude of university students is seen in the interactional effect of sex and stream towards semester system.
- 4.The attitude of university students belonging to different locality i.e. urban and rural do not differ towards semester system.

### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 1.Every new invention in the educational field should be tried out and these must be based on feedback received. Time allotted for the completion of the semester system is very low. It is not possible to complete the new curriculum within the short span of semester. So duration of the courses should be increased.
- 2.Many of the colleges lack the facilities for the proper functioning of the semester system. So facilities like Computers, Library books, furniture and labs for conducting teaching, learning & practicum process have to be improved.
3. Though there are difficulties in the semester system in the beginning, authorities and teachers, educators should have a positive attitude towards the system in the college & university.

4. Training programs for teacher should be conducted by the government or authorities.
5. Follow up programmes should be arranged by the authorities for the smooth functioning of semester system & ease the burden of teacher & students.
6. Syllabus should be properly formulated. Feedback from teacher will be helpful for solving the problems in the syllabus.
7. Higher authorities must see that weightage in terms of marks to be given for practical works, so that both the educators and students would take it up seriously in future.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The following suggestions may be incorporated for further research: -

1. The present study is not final, more work can be done on comparative basis of different universities in different states.
2. A sample of 225 students was taken in the study under investigator same study can be done on large sample.
3. The research work can be conducted on the problems of teachers & students under this scheme of education.

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