

Impacts, Policy & Funding for CUE & CBR



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UNESCO Chair in community based research and social responsibility in higher education

www.pria.org ; www.unescochair-cbrsr.org

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‘Impact’ made by PRIA

- Played a critical role in promoting engagement between the academia and local communities
- PRIA has been instrumental in lobbying with the policy actors to have community engagement integrated into the academia
- Dr Rajesh Tandon, served as a member of key committees
- PRIA has been expanding its partnership with increasing number of Indian universities
- Played an important role in orienting academia towards community engagement & social responsibility

Impact: Timeline

2010-11

- Emphasis on Social Responsibility in the 12th Five Year Plan
- Explicit mention of the need for community engagement and conducting socially relevant research

2011

- Planning commission set up a sub-committee in response to the 12th 5YP document
- It brainstormed on the opportunities for strengthening community engagement in HEIs

2012

- Launch of the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research & Social Responsibility in Higher Education
- Dr Rajesh Tandon, President, PRIA & Dr Budd Hall, Professor, University of Victoria, appointed Co-chairs



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Impact: Timeline

2012

- Follow up meeting on the recommendations of the sub-committee
- Chaired by Dr Narendra Jadhav, member, Planning Commission

2013

- MHRD takes up the recommendations of the sub-committee with the UGC
- UGC constitutes an expert group to finalize the recommendations on fostering social responsibility, meetings held in 2013-14

2014

- GUNI's 5th World Report on HE launched by Sh. Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Higher Education, MHRD
- Dr Rajesh Tandon invited by UGC expert group for providing inputs on social responsibility



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Impact: Timeline

2014

- UGC launches the new scheme on fostering community engagement

2014-15

- UGC invites applications from interested universities to submit proposals under the scheme

2015

- Process underway for examining and assessing the submitted proposals



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UGC Scheme

Highlights

- Establishment of Centre for Fostering Social Responsibility & Community Engagement (CFSRCE)
- Funding to the tune of half of a million dollars

Broad objectives

- Providing roadmap for CUE plans of the university
- Promoting practical learning among students
- Creation of platform for sharing innovative practices

Salient features

- Applicable to all NAAC accredited central universities
- Focus on certain 'key' essentials of engagement; ranges from joint research to devising new courses etc.



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CUE/CURP focus

Integration of Service/experiential learning into curricular programmes

Provision for capacity building of faculty/students on CBPR

Modalities to provide credit to students for engagement in such work.

Designing pedagogy, relevant to the learning needs of the community

Working in alliance with CBOs for joint execution of projects

Operationalization



Funding for three years, includes infrastructure, procuring equipment

Committees to oversee proposals & implementation of programmes

Detailed annual progress reports to be submitted to UGC every year

Outcome and impact study reports to be submitted for continuation

Centre's activities to feature in annual reports of the university, website



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Role of the UNESCO Chair

- Consultation on the UGC Scheme held in January'2015, for brainstorming, providing universities with ways forward
- Continuous mentoring provided to Universities for building project proposals under UGC Scheme
- Efforts underway to scale up the initiatives and open the scheme to more universities (private/unaided)
- Renewed focus on community engagement by policy actors such as NAAC, AIU, including the Government of India

Conclusion

“The approach of the engaged university regards community engagement and service as a central overriding goal of higher education, arguing that it should be embedded within all teaching, learning and research functions. The vision of community engagement requires complete saturation across all structures, policies, priorities, and so on” UGC Scheme on Establishing of Centre for Fostering Social Responsibility and Community Engagement, 2014

Thank You

