

The University Education Commission (1948-49)

or

Radhakrishnan Commission

About the Commission

- First education commission of independent India.
- Government of India appointed this commission in 1948.
- Chairman- Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.
- Inaugurated by Abdul Kalam Azad, the then minister of Education.
- This Commission consists of 10 members

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

1. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Splading Professor of Eastern Religious and ethics at the University of Oxford. (Chairman).
2. Dr. Tara Chand, Secretary and Educational adviser to the Government of India.
3. Dr. James F. Duff, Vice Chancellor, University of Durham.
4. Dr. Zakir Hussain, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, now vice chancellor of Muslim University Delhi.
5. Dr. Arthur E Morgan, Former president of Antioch college, First Chairman of Tennessee Valley Authority, President of Community service Inc.
6. Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice Chancellor of University of Madras.
7. Dr. Meghnad Saha, Palit professor of Physics Dean, Faculty of science, and President of Post-graduate Council of Science, University of Calcutta.
8. Dr. Karm. Narayan Bahl, Professor of Zoology, University of Lucknow.
9. Dr. John J. Tigert, formerly Commission of education of the United States, President Emeritus of the University of Florida.
10. Shri Nirmal Kumar Sidhanta, Professor of English and Dean , Faculty of arts, University of Lucknow. (Secretary)

DR S RADHAKRISHNAN

- A distinguished scholar • Former vice chancellor of Banaras Hindu University. • Second President of India
- AIM- To study the problems of university education in India and to suggest improvements for the development of university education. Reconstruction of universities are essential for the socio economic development after independence.
- METHOD OF STUDY- Prepared the questionnaire and sent to the people, about 600 questionnaires is returned with suggestions. Visited various Universities and interviewed a number of teachers, students and staffs and studied their problem.
- Submitted report in 1948 Recommendations of Radhakrishnan Commission

1. AIMS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION: According to the commission, the Universities should take into account the changes in the Socio-Political Scenario of India and formulate the aims of education. Training for Leadership, Social efficiency, development of knowledge and wisdom, love for higher values of life, cultural progress etc should be the most important aims of university education in the independent India.

2. TEACHING STAFF: Quality of university education depends upon quality of teachers, attempts should be made to improve their quality and qualification. Their pay-scales and service condition should be descent band dignified, Teachers must be given leaves for higher studies both in India and abroad.

3. DURATION OF THE COURSE AND WORKING DAYS: Admission to the universities should be after 12 years of school course. The first degree should be after 3 years of collegiate education. The working days in college should be 180 days excluding examination days. Maximum number of students for a teaching university and affiliated college should be fixed at 3000 and 500 respectively.

4. RESEARCH FACILITIES: The commission stressed the importance of research at the higher levels of university education. "The Universities shall attract brilliant promising young man by offering them decent salaries so that their creative faculties are not blunted in the most productive period of their life by privation". The commission said "Every university should have certain number of research fellowships to encourage research".

5. REFORM OF EXAMINATION SYSTEM: There should be reform in the organization and method of examination essay type questions should be supplemented by objective type of questions and oral tests.

6. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION: Professional education in the fields of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Engineering and Technology, Law, Medicine, Business administration, Public administration and industrial relations should be started and developed.

7. UGC: University Grants commission should be appointed to supervise and allocate funds for the universities all over the India.

8. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION: The commission suggested that in addition to the mother tongue and Hindi, English should be taught at the secondary and university levels. English should be the medium of instruction for higher Education

9. RELIGIOUS AND MORAL INSTRUCTIONS: The commission stressed the importance of religious and moral instructions. Students must be able to understand the basic principles of all religions in order to develop a spirit of religious tolerance and secularism. Moral instruction should also aim at the development of secularism

10. SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarships and stipends should be given to meritorious and financially handicapped students. NCC social service and such other schemes should be introduced as co curricular activities in colleges.

11. RURAL UNIVERSITIES: The commission emphasized the vital need for establishing rural universities surrounded by rural colleges to meet the needs of rural reconstruction in Agriculture and Industry.

12. EDUCATION TO WOMEN: The commission also pointed out the need for establishing colleges for women with adequate facilities and conducive atmosphere.

MERITS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended that new universities should be established in rural areas for meeting the requirements of the village people. Commission has recognized the necessity of introduction of some kind of religious and moral education in universities in order to control the violent waves of materials of present day civilization. Commission rightly perceived the various inadequacies of the existing university education and drew the attention of the people towards them and has given important suggestions for meeting them. Commission has emphasized the importance of study of humanities and development of the spirit of universal brotherhood. The commission has defined the aims and objectives of university education for the first time. Commission recommended for the enhancement of pay scales of teachers in order that better persons may come to teach in universities and may prevent the falling of education standards. Commission tried to raise the standard of Indian university education on a par with the international standard of higher education. It harmonized the oriental and occidental cultures:- Many systems prevalent in the west were freely adopted in the sphere of education without spoiling the spirit of Indian culture.

DEMERITS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Its views on religious and moral education were vague and ambiguous. Though the commission frankly criticized the defects of the then existing system of education its suggestions for reform of the system were not all satisfactory. The suggestions on establishment of rural universities were not much effective. Commission has not chosen to study deeply the problems of medium of instruction. The commission has not given much attention to women education. Importance of education in fine arts has also been ignored by the commission. Some of the recommendations were mere repetitions of the recommendations of previous commissions.