



A Study on Attitude towards Semester System of Students at the Undergraduate Level of General Degree Course

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Abstract: The word ‘Semester System’ means ‘Half a year’ or ‘one of the two divisions (of 15 to 18 weeks each) of an academic year’. The objectives of the study were- 1) To study Difference of attitude towards semester system among the students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream. 2) To study Difference of attitude towards semester system between the students of Arts and Science stream. 3) To study Difference of attitude towards semester system between the students of Science and Commerce stream. 4) To study Difference of attitude towards semester system between the students of Commerce and Arts stream. Dibrugarh University had been selected for population and 1082 students at undergraduate level were selected in sample by purposive sampling. Self –constructed attitude scale (Likert-type) was used for the study and ‘t-test’ and ‘Analysis of Variance’ were used to test the hypotheses. The findings were- 1) The students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system. 2) The study revealed no significant difference between the students of Arts and Science stream. 3) The study revealed a significant difference between the students of Science and Commerce stream. 4) The study revealed a significant difference between the students of Commerce and Arts stream. All the students had favourable attitude towards semester system at the undergraduate level of General Degree Course

Key words: Attitude, Semester System, Undergraduate

1. INTRODUCTION:

Semester system is a mechanism which provides continuous and comprehensive evaluation. From the academic point of view, the semester system is very active and proficient. But, there are a lot of problems in implementing this system. Because, the large number of students are studying at the undergraduate colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University. The numbers of teachers are proportionately very less. The inadequate infrastructure facilities, along with inadequate administration system create another problem. An up-to-date library with internet facility is not available for each and every student. The numbers of students are increasing year by year. The higher secondary stage is also included in the colleges. So, there is an urgent need to study the attitude of students towards semester system at undergraduate level of Dibrugarh University. **Mishra** (2006) described that semesterisation had certainly reduced the cumulative work load of students carry towards an annual or biennial public examination. It would provide some evaluative

reforms. Therefore, the study of attitude towards semester system may be helpful for its proper implementation. **Akhter** (1980) found the favourable attitude of students towards semester system. **Pallai and Mohan** (1986) found that 90% of students felt that the semester system is a good system. **Singh** (2016) found that the students having positive perception towards semester system can success well. **Jain** (2017) found students, college teachers, college administrators believe that semester system is not beneficial for general courses. On the other hand **Lee and Jessica** (2014) found most students favoured the semester system.

2.STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The statement of the problem was-

A study on attitude towards semester system of students at the undergraduate level of General Degree Course

3.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study was-

- a) To study Difference of attitude towards semester system among the students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream.
- b) To study Difference of attitude towards semester system between the students of Arts and Science stream.
- c) To study Difference of attitude towards semester system between the students of Science and Commerce stream.
- d) To study Difference of attitude towards semester system between the students of Commerce and Arts stream.

4.HYPOTHESES OF STUDY

H₀₁: There is no significant difference among the students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between the students of Arts and Science stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system.

H₀₃: There is no significant difference between the students of Science and Commerce stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system.

H₀₄: There is no significant difference between the students of Commerce and Arts stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system.'

5. DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study was delimited to the students at undergraduate level under the Dibrugarh University of Assam.

6. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

a) Semester System:

In the study, the word 'Semester System' is used to mean half yearly programme or term of studies which is introduced by Dibrugarh University in the academic year 2011-12 for the undergraduate level of B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com. programme.

b) Attitude:

In the study, attitude means the favourableness and orientation of students towards semester system at the undergraduate level of B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com.

programme of Dibrugarh University as evidence by the score on attitude scales constructed by the investigator.

7.POPULATION AND SAMPLE:

Dibrugarh University has been selected for population and 1082 students at under graduate level were selected in sample by purposive sampling.

8.TOOL FOR DATA COLLECTION

The investigator decided to construct an attitude scale to measure the attitude of students towards semester system. The scale was a Likert type instrument consisting of 40 items where 20 items show favourable attitude and other 20 items show unfavourable attitude towards semester system. Six dimensions of semester system were included in the attitude scale viz; Classroom teaching, In-semester evaluation, End-semester evaluation, Course structure, Transaction of curriculum, and Academic achievement. Against each item, there were five responses- Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (U), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The response with which the subject agreed was to be ticked by the subjects. The investigator undertook Split-Half method to find out the reliability of the attitude scale. Odd-Even method was used to split the test items. The reliability value of the scale was found to be 0.61. Then, the coefficient of reliability of the whole test was calculated by using the Spearman Brown Prophecy Formula and the reliability value of the test was found to be 0.76.

9.STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES APPLIED FOR DATA ANALYSIS

For the purpose of analysis of collected data, the following statistical techniques had been used.

a. Mean, Standard Deviation, ‘t’ test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

10. ANALYSIS AND INTRPRTATION

10.1 Difference of attitude towards semester system among the students of Arts,

Science and Commerce stream

In order to study the difference among the students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system the following null hypothesis was formulated as *“There is no significant difference among the students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system.”* To test the hypothesis, ANOVA was used. Table-1 and Table-1.1 showed the detail Analysis of Variance of the students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream.

Table-1 Significance of difference among the students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream

Sl.no	Stream	N	Mean	S. D.
1.	Arts	702	135.22	12.82
2.	Science	220	135.70	14.03
3.	Commerce	160	130.11	12.25

Table-1.1 Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

Source of variation	df	Sums of square(SS)	Mean square (Variance)	F.	Significance
Between means	2	3763.28	1881.64	11.11	Significant at .05 level
Within groups	79	182690.37	169.31		

It was evident from the Table-1 and Table-1.1 that the students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system. Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected and concluded that the students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream at undergraduate level differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system.

10.2 Difference between the students of Arts and Science stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system

In order to study the difference between the students of Arts and Science stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system the following null hypothesis was formulated as “*There is no significant difference between the students of Arts and Science stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system.*” To test the hypothesis, ‘t’ test was used. Table-2 showed the detail analysis of the students of Arts and Science stream.

Table-2 Significance of Difference between the students of Arts and Science stream

Sample	N	Mean	S. D.	Mean ence	‘t’	Significance
Arts	702	135.22	12.82	0.48	.45	Not significant at rel
Science	220	135.70	14.03			

It was evident from the Table-2 that the students of Arts and Science stream at undergraduate level do not differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system. Therefore, the hypothesis was accepted and concluded that the students of Arts and Science stream do not differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system.

10.3 Difference between the students of Science and Commerce stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system.

In order to study the difference between the students of Science and Commerce stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system the following null hypothesis was formulated as “*There is no significant difference between the students of Science and Commerce stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system.*” To test the hypothesis, ‘t’ test was used. Table-3 showed the detail analysis of the students of Science and Commerce stream.

Table-3 Significance of Difference between the students of Science and Commerce stream

Sample	N	Mean	S. D.	Mean ence	't'	Significance
Science	220	135.70	14.03	5.59	4.14	Significant at rel
Commerce	160	130.11	12.25			

It was evident from the Table-3 that the students of Science and Commerce stream differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system. Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected and concluded that the students of Science and Commerce stream differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system.

10.4 Difference between the students of Commerce and Arts stream at undergraduate level of Dibrugarh University with reference to their attitude towards semester system.

In order to study the difference between the students of Commerce and Arts stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system the following null hypothesis was formulated as “*There is no significant difference between the students of Commerce and Arts stream with reference to their attitude towards semester system.*” To test the hypothesis, ‘t’ test was used. Table-4 showed the detail analysis of the students of Commerce and Arts stream.

Table -4 Significance of Difference between the student of Commerce and Arts stream

Sample	N	Mean	S. D.	Mean ifference	't'	Significance
Commerce	160	130.11	12.25	5.11	4.73	significant at rel
Arts	702	135.22	12.82			

It was evident from the Table-4 that the students of Commerce and Arts stream differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system. Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected and concluded that the students of Commerce and Arts stream differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system.

11.FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

From the study it was found the students had favourable attitude towards semester system. The main findings of the study were-

1. The students of Arts, Science and Commerce stream at undergraduate level of Dibrugarh University differ significantly in their attitude towards semester system. As the difference was in favour of the students of Science stream, it may be concluded that the students of Science stream had more favourable attitude towards semester system than the students of Arts and Commerce stream at undergraduate level of Dibrugarh University.

2. The study revealed no significant difference between the students of Arts and Science stream at undergraduate level of Dibrugarh University with reference to their attitude towards semester system.

3. The study revealed a significant difference between the students of Science and Commerce stream at undergraduate level of Dibrugarh University with reference to their attitude towards semester system. As the difference was in favour of the students of Science stream, it may be concluded that the students of Science stream had more favourable attitude than the students of Commerce stream.

4. The study revealed a significant difference between the students of Commerce and Arts stream at undergraduate level of Dibrugarh University with reference to their attitude towards semester system. As the difference was in favour of the students of Arts stream, it may be concluded that the students of Arts stream had more favourable attitude than the students of Commerce stream.

12.CONCLUSION

Favourable attitude towards semester system is a millstone for the development of positive mind of the students. It helps the students to cultivate innovative ideas and skills. Therefore, favourable attitude of students towards semester system provide a fruitful result in the implementation of semester system at undergraduate level of Dibrugarh University.

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