

Trimester Syllabi in High School: A Review

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Abstract

Languages are made up of organized sounds. The raw materials of all languages are the sounds that the human voice is capable of producing. From all the possible sounds that the human voice can produce, each language makes a very limited selection. To the native speakers of the language, these are the sounds that are natural and easy to the foreigner, they may be strange, complicated and difficult. The grammar and written form also differ from language to language.

Learning a language means learning a system or code of the type. English being a universal language is the mostly sought-after one. Even the Chinese and the French, have of late, started learning English. It is the window to the world of knowledge, since all new books and research articles are first published in English for wider consumption. With the technological advancement, all books, journals and articles are available just at a click of the mouse.

The use of English has been a felt need in all the countries, especially in India. India being a multi-lingual country, English is the declared official language. It is taught as Part-II language in Schools and Colleges in Tamil Nadu and a pass in it is a must for passing to the next higher class or getting a degree.

Trimester pattern is followed in all schools of Tamilnadu. It is of recent origin a major break, from the traditional annual syllabus followed for centuries and is vogue. Two sets of books are issued to the students. 1) Tamil and English 2) Mathematics, Science and Social Science. These are issued afresh for all the three terms, which end with terminal examinations. This paper examines, based on the pilot survey conducted by the researcher, the suitability and viability of trimester syllabi at High School level.

Introduction

Both semester and the annual system have their own merits and demerits. When asked about their choice, some of the students say that annual system is far better than semester system and vice-versa. The semester system has been introduced by the government to improve the standard in education. The semester system was introduced during the 1970s. However, most of the students opposed this move. A small comparison about the advantages and disadvantages of Examination pattern will help us do much:

Advantages of Semester System

- It will provide an opportunity to the students for continuous learning, assessment and feedback.
- It facilitates a better understanding of the subject.
- More emphasis is laid on class interaction because of constant engagement between teachers and students.
- This system improves regular study habits of the students.
- It gives scope for evaluating the performance of students twice a year.
- The students will have less burden of the syllabus as it is divided into two halves.
- A semester system bestows greater freedom and scope for designing and delivering a variety of courses that the students can pick to enhance the quality of learning.
- Through this system, students attend the college regularly without failing as there is a stringent regulation of 75% attendance compulsory.
- Students can develop skills and subject related knowledge in a better way through this system.

Disadvantages of Semester System

- Semester system faces insufficiency of time.
Most of time the educators fail to complete the course of study on time.
 - Semester system increases workload because of the twice conducted evaluation process.
 - Semester system fails to give any scope for extra classes due to lack of time.
 - Co-curricular activities re restricted by semester system as most of the time teachers are engaged in completion of syllabus and students are involved in the revision syllabus.
- However, many teachers and students feel in general that the annual system is better than a semester system.

Advantages of Annual System

- The students will have enough and sufficient time to revise the syllabus.
- Students will have a chance to refer various books.
- They can prepare their notes by using library and online resources.
- Students can participate in all the co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

- Teachers will ensure a chance to give as much as knowledge to the students related to the subject.

- Teachers can take the students to various field trips and give them much exposure.

Disadvantages of Annual System

- In the annual system, most of the students show negligence towards studies as the examinations is conducted once a year.

- Students have to study the entire syllabus for annual exams which is a burden.

- Most of the students do not attend the college regularly as there is no strict regulation on attendance.

Trimester Syllabi

Advantages

1. A learner has minimum credits to complete.

2. In turn, the learner will get extra time to write assignments or studies to face the exam.

3. In practical examinations or project work, one will see the difference straight away.

4. It gives the autonomy to choose internship which won't last too long but will give one enough to gain valuable experience.

5. It did not have the chance to get bored with the subjects.

6. Some of the trimesters will fall during the not so busy times of the year which you can take and have more quality time with your supervisors who will be free as well and work with you.

Disadvantages

1. Sometimes you get the feeling the trimester is done dusted in no time and you have learned nothing.

2. Regarding major credits, it may be difficult to handle all at once.

3. If you have project and some other credits, it will be tough handling those other credits.

4. All the credits you want may not be available at the time you want.

5. The supervisor you want to work with for the project may not be available at the time you want.

The following were the findings of the pilot study conducted in Pudukkottai District, Tamil Nadu, India.

1. This pilot study reveals that the level of Co-Ed rural school is higher than other schools.

2. The study found that almost 40.81% of Co-ed urban school students have moderate level of simulation-based learning followed by low level girls urban school (13.5%) and high level girls urban school (57.89%). The percentage of trimester syllabi is high level students is lower than the moderate and low level.

3. The co-ed urban School students are higher than both the girls urban and co-ed urban school students.

4. Most of the teachers find this to be a new method and felt that they need a sophisticated methodology for teaching.

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5. Many of the students feel the heaviness of the syllabus and examination that follows.

Conclusion

Every pattern of examination, be it semester, Non-Semester or Trimester syllabi, aims at imparting quality education to the learners. These patterns may give the desired effect at college level where the matured learners cope up with varying patterns of teaching or make themselves adopt with the new methodology that is followed. At high school level it has certain hiccups when trimester syllabi are practiced or followed. So, the heaviness of the syllabus or new teaching strategies are to be devised for trimester syllabi at High School Level.

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