



Centre for comparative Politics & Political Theory
School of International Studies
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New Delhi - 110 067

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E-Office No. 124369/2018/CCP&PT/SIS

To,
Dr. Sajjan Singh,
Assistant Registrar (Eval.)

Through Dean, SIS

Dear Sir,

I write this with reference to your circular no. IV/Eval.II,28/AS/2018 dated January 12, 2018 (with reminders on Jan.17 and 18, 2018) concerning the rules and regulations for compulsory attendance.

I have already sent a letter to Registrar, JNU (e. office no.122902/2018/CCP&PT/SIS, dated January 09, 2018) regarding the resolutions that our Centre, in its meeting of January 08, 2018, passed in respect to the principle of compulsory attendance. We are opposed to the institution of compulsory attendance. We have had no problems with attendance in our classes and it was felt that it would vitiate the academic atmosphere of a free flow of ideas and curiosity.

As Chairperson and member of the faculty I remain unconvinced about the need for compulsory attendance. Research conditions in India in the Humanities and Social Sciences are far from satisfactory. Speaking from my own experience as a research scholar who did his PhD in the university system of India, there were many, long periods of time when I did not feel the burden of visiting my Supervisor or registering my presence in the University. I could do this because both my supervisor and I knew that it would interrupt the flow of research and thinking, the material for which could not be found in Delhi University or in institutions even close to it. I have no hesitation in saying that compulsory attendance would have been calamitous for my research work. There has been no visible improvement in research infrastructure since I have got my PhD and I am convinced this move will result in the lowering of research standards of our students.

Regarding M.A. programmes, one of the reasons of the attractiveness of post-graduate studies is that the student learns to take responsibility for undertaking thinking on her


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own. Post graduate studies is founded on this principle, for it is not about learning fundamentals where some degree of institutional discipline by way of compulsory attendance may be useful as in undergraduate programmes, but to go beyond it to understand and explore ideas for oneself. This step upwards to **undertaking more** mature responsibility for one's involvement with the discipline would be vitiated by compulsory attendance.

I must also observe that the Academic Council meeting which I had attended did not pass a resolution to this effect. The only thing that it resolved to do was to set up a Committee that would look into this matter. Following this, our Dean called an Emergency Meeting in which it was decided to set up our own Committee to explore the needs and modalities of attendance. This was also the understanding that made our Centre meet and discuss this issue seriously. Hence, the discussion on this issue has remained radically incomplete.

In the light of these reasons, I find it going against my academic conscience as Chairperson to oversee and implement Compulsory Attendance on students.

With best wishes,



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Cc: To,

Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar
Vice Chancellor,

Forwarded

Ajaya Kumar Patnaik

प्रो. अजय कुमार पटनायक
PROF. AJAY KUMAR PATNAIK



डॉन. Dean
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