

ಡಾ. ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಸುಧಾಕರ್, ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಎಸ್.
Dr. M.C. SUDHAKAR, M.D.S.



ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
Minister for Higher Education &
District-incharge Minister, Chikkaballapur
Govt. of Karnataka

No.HEM/ 09 /2025

Date: 13-01-2025

Respected Sir, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Ji,

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently published the draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025 for public consultation.

While detailed comments will be submitted in due course after consultation with experts, the Government of Karnataka would like to strongly oppose certain provisions related to the appointment of Vice Chancellors which strike at the root of the higher education system and powers of the State Government. These provisions are a blow to the federal structure as well as undermine the legitimate role that State Governments play in improving higher education in the State.

The draft guidelines provide no role for the State Government in selecting the Vice Chancellor of a University. The guidelines provide for a search-cum-selection committee appointed by the Chancellor/Visitor with no nominee of the State Government. The powers to appoint the Vice Chancellor out of the panel recommended by the search-cum-selection committee is given solely to the Visitor/Chancellor. In addition, the qualifications required for appointment of Vice Chancellors which include non-academicians requires serious deliberation. If the Vice-Chancellor is not appointed as per these guidelines, the appointment shall be null and void. This would contradict the provisions of the legislations governing Universities in the State including in relation to the tenure and reappointment of Vice-Chancellors.

The State Government plays a critical role in advancement of higher education in the State. Karnataka is at the forefront of higher education with a gross enrolment ratio higher than the national average. Substantial funds are provided by the State Government to administer and run Public Universities in the State. Apart from developmental grants to Universities, salaries and pensions of the permanent teaching and non-teaching staff are provided by the state exchequer. Further, the issues of day to day administration and grievances related to Public Universities are constantly addressed to and resolved by the State government. The various activities of the Universities are questioned and debated in the state legislatures for which the State Government is answerable. The elected government in the State is responsible and held

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accountable on the issues related to the administration of Universities. Therefore, excluding the State Government in the administration of State Universities is unacceptable and it undermines the authority of the State Government.

The Government of Karnataka strongly opposes the provisions related to the appointment of Vice Chancellors which strike at the core of the federal structure and the role of the State Government. It aims to extinguish the right of the States in Universities and higher education governance which is not acceptable. The State government has a responsibility to its people to provide quality and accessible higher education. The draft UGC guidelines strike at the root of this responsibility and authority.

I would appreciate if UGC engages in a dialogue with State Governments to assess the present status and issues faced by the Universities pertaining to various student related issues in the present system before proposing any radical changes to the existing guidelines.

In the light of the above, I urge you to direct the UGC to withdraw the draft guidelines immediately and engage in a wider consultation with State governments in terms of strengthening higher education across the country.

Warm regards,

Yours Sincerely,


(Dr. M.C. SUDHAKAR)

To,

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Ji,
Hon'ble Minister for Education,
Government of India,
302-C, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110001.