



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION NET BUREAU

University of Delhi, South Campus
Benito Juarez Marg, New Delhi – 110 021

Subject: Review of National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by UGC and UGC-CSIR

A Brief Note

In early eighties, there was a general perception among the public and the leading educationists that well qualified persons were not being attracted towards teaching profession. Concerns were also expressed about the criteria that were employed for the selection of teachers. It was increasingly realized that quite a large number of people who neither had the competence nor the aptitude for teaching made an easy entry into this profession.

The Committee formed by UGC in 1983 on revision of pay scales of teachers in the universities and colleges under the Chairmanship of Prof. R C Mehrotra recommended the following for the post of Lecturer:

- “i) Qualifying at the National test conducted for the purpose by UGC or any other agency approved by UGC.
- ii) Master’s degree with at least 55 % marks or its equivalent grade.

The qualifications should not be relaxed even for candidates possessing M.Phil/Ph.D. at the time of recruitment.” The Mehrotra Committee also found that the stipulation of M.Phil/Ph.D. as an essential qualification for Lecturers had neither been followed faithfully nor did it necessarily contribute to the raising of teaching and research standards. In fact, it was of the view that, if at all, it had led to the dilution of research standards on account of the rush to get a research degree in the shortest possible time. In view of the diversity of standards among universities, the Mehrotra Committee recommended that passing a national qualifying examination before recruitment be made an essential pre-condition.

The National Commission of Teachers on Higher Education headed by Prof. Rais Ahmed observed that:

“it is extremely important to make a rigorous merit based selection for the entry level of teaching profession”.

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The National Policy on Education, 1986, which was debated in the Parliament also, states that:

“the method of recruitment of teachers will be reorganized to ensure merit, objectivity and conformity with spatial and functional requirements”.

In pursuance of this policy, it was suggested in the Program of Action of National Policy of Education, 1986 that:

“the teachers will be recruited on the basis of a common qualifying test, the details of which will be formulated by UGC. Efforts will be made to move towards the objective of making recruitment of teachers on all India basis in consultation with the State Governments”.

With a view to working out the modalities for the conduct of such a test, the Commission had constituted a Committee, which evolved strategies for the conduct of a national level eligibility test for the recruitment of teachers in universities and colleges. Consequently, the Government of India, through a notification in 1988 entrusted the task of conducting the eligibility test for lectureship to UGC. Thereby, UGC has been conducting the National Eligibility Test for Junior Research Fellowship and eligibility for Lectureship since 1989. It had already been conducting the examination for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) since 1984.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has constituted a NET Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India, to consider its utility, effectiveness and continuity. The Committee has decided to elicit the views of a cross-section of the society regarding utility, effectiveness and continuity of UGC-NET.

It is requested to get the required information by sending the questionnaire to all concerned.

The duly completed [questionnaire](#) enclosed alongwith, may be sent to the Joint Secretary, NET Bureau, at the above-mentioned address within thirty days from the date of issue of the covering letter.