



Delhi Greens NGO

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21 May 2019

To

The Principals of Colleges
University of Delhi, Delhi

Subject: Proper implementation of Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order and UGC Guidelines on imparting Environment Education – reg

Dear Ma'am/Sir,

This is to kindly remind you of the directions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 06.12.1999 (in WP No. 860/1991) to all colleges and universities affiliated to University Grants Commission (UGC) to introduce Environmental Studies as a compulsory subject in the curriculum. The UGC had communicated this to all universities on 24.07.2003 for strict compliance. The University of Delhi (DU), through a letter sent on 24.07.2014 to all the Principals of DU colleges (attached) had communicated the decision that Environmental Studies has to be taught to all undergraduate students of the University of Delhi in the first or second semester.

Some colleges adopted this decision arbitrarily and made teachers of other disciplines (e.g. Botany, Zoology, Hindi, English, etc.) teach Environmental Studies. The UGC took note of this and issued a letter on 07.08.2014 (attached) stating that Environmental Studies needs to be taught by **“teachers who fulfill the qualifications laid down by the UGC.”** That is, selected teachers must possess a Master's degree in Environmental Studies/Science and should be NET qualified in Environmental Science (unless exempted). We therefore request you to remain mindful of these details and ensure that the faculty selected by your College to teach AECC-Environmental Science paper have a Master's and/or PhD degree from a **Department of Environmental Studies/Science/Management** of a UGC-recognized university.

Delhi today is facing alarming environment and sustainability challenges. Air quality has worsened to an extent that schools have to be shut down to save children. Water pollution, biodiversity loss are some other challenges and the youth needs to be made aware and educated to prevent further loss. Hence, the urgent necessity to implement environment education, and more importantly to appoint the right faculty trained in the subject. The Environmental Studies *ad hoc* panel, as notified by the University of Delhi, is attached for your reference.

Looking at the urgency of the matter, the UGC has issued a **fresh letter to all colleges and universities on 14.05.2019** (attached) to implement the one Semester paper on Environmental Studies and ensure that it is taught by qualified teachers as per the UGC. We hope you will help the present and future generation by imparting proper environment education by recruiting only the eligible candidate, if not already recruited, henceforth. Please note that as per UGC letter dated 19.06.2017 (attached), “non-implementation of this order of Hon'ble Supreme Court – *in its letter and spirit* – amounts to **Contempt of Court.**”

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Amulya

Campaign Coordinator