

President Mr. Arunkumar R. Associate Professor Dept. of Physical Education KSMDB College, Sasthamcotta Ph: 9605003190, 9447591718 Email: aruncoach@yahoo.com

General Secretary Dr. Premachandran Keezhoth Assistant Professor Dept. of English Payyanur College Edat P.O.- 670327 Ph: 9447954592 Email: pckeezhoth@gmail.com

Treasurer Mr. Rony George Assistant Professor Dept. of English K.E. College, Mannanam Kottavam-686561 Ph: 9496635025, 8714976935 Email: ronygeorge72@gmail.com

Vice President

Dr. Joe Prasad Mathew Associate Professor Dept. of Zoology St. Berchmans College (Autonomous) Changanasserry-686101 Ph • 9447595916 Email: jopmat@gmail.com

Vice President Dr. Biju John M.

Professor Dept. of Commerce St. Thomas College (Autonomous) Thrissur Ph: 9447448568 Email: drbijujohnm@gmail.com

Secretary Dr. Abraham A.

Associate Professor Department of Physics Christian College, Chengannur Ph: 9447977385 Email: isureshabraham@gmail.com

Secretary

Dr. Umer Farooque T. K. Associate Professor Dept. of Education Farook Training College, Kozhikode Ph: 9447346817 Email: farooquetk@gmail.com

KERALA PRIVATE COLLEGE TEACHERS'ASSOCIATION

KPCTA MANDIRAM, TC-25/2814, MBRRA 36, MATHRUBHUMI ROAD, VANCHIYOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 035

Govt. Regn. No. G.O.(MS) No. 2/06 H.Edn. Dt. 04/04/06 kpctaofficial@gmail.com www.kpcta.in

STATE COMMITTEE 2024-'25

May 14, 2024 Thiruvananthapuram

The Hon. Minister for Higher Education **Government of Kerala**

Madam,

То

Sub: - Regulations and Implementation of FYUGP -reg.

Ref: - Kerala State Higher Education Curriculum Framework for Undergraduate Programmes (Pub. May 2023) formed vide GO (Rt.) No. 35/2023 H.Edn. dated 06.01.2023

It has come to the notice of the Kerala Private College Teachers' Association (KPCTA) that there are glaring gaps and discrepancies in the framing and implementation of the Four Year UG Programmes (FYUGP) in Kerala. These critical failings are listed below.

(i) The FYUGP does not ensure the workload of teachers in various faculties. Consequently, there will be a decline in the employment of teachers in the field of higher education in Kerala, and will amount to the complete withdrawal of the government from the field of higher education.

(ii) If the basket of courses as envisaged in the framework in reference is to be provided to the students, the teachers will be forced to work much more than what is physically, mentally, and intellectually possible considering the demanding nature of the teaching profession. In this context we request you to ensure regular assessment of the workload and sanction posts wherever necessary. It will

(iii) The level of infrastructure in most institutions in Kerala is far from sufficient to meet the requirements of rigorous FYUGP.

(iv) The syllabi of courses belonging to the various programmes are still not complete at the University level. The implementation of FYUGP will be in peril, given the current state of academic preparedness of the universities.

(v) The implementation of FYUGP as currently envisaged will blur the distinctions between Aided and Self-financing institutions. This will lead to unhealthy superposition of the domains in which these categories of institutions function, leading to harmful rivalry between them.

(vi) There is no clarity regarding the conversion of the credit requirements of the 7th and 8th semesters of FYUGP into the workload of teachers. We demand that suitable modifications be made and orders be issued so that all credit acquisition of the learner wherein the effort of the teacher is required, be included in the workload assessment of the faculty and their departments.



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(vii) The credit requirement for the UG degree (120 credits) and the Hons. UG degree (160) in the national pattern is lower than the requirement of 133 and 177 credits respectively for these degrees in Kerala. This will potentially deter students from pursuing university education in Kerala.

(viii) There is no indication regarding the future of the very versatile BVOC programmes after the implementation of FYUGP.

(ix) The absence of a cap on the number of credits that can be acquired through online courses will adversely affect colleges in the Aided and Government sectors.

(x) The current framework requires the study of 3 (of the 5) courses in the 7th semester from the minor subject of the learner. This is an irrational requirement as an indepth study of the major subject is desirable during the last two semesters. This unreasonable requirement will discourage learners from attempting the Hons. degree.

(xi) The role of research guides is critical in the UG (Hons. with Research) Programmes. The University of Kerala and Kannur University are restricting Research Guideship to faculty from post-graduate departments. KPCTA demands that all eligible teachers be allowed to be Research Guides, without which the very structure of FYUGP shall be compromised.

(xii) The UGC regulations specify that Associate Professors and Professors be Assigned a workload of 14 hours. The current orders of the Government of Kerala, in contradiction, force them to engage 16 hours, there by putting strain on the teaching department and crippling the implementation of FYUGP. KPCTA demands urgent correction of the workload of Associate Professors and Professors to 14 hours.

(xiii) The transfers in corporate managements has been stalled since 2021 owing to the issuance of ambiguous Government orders. We demand that corrected orders be issued so that unnecessary constraints on transfers be dispensed with.

(iv) The current implementation of FYUGP does not suit the double-major pathway due to the mandatory inclusion of MDC in the 3rd semester.

In light of these glaring deficiencies, we demand urgent corrective measures in the implementation of FYUGP so that the reliability and trustworthiness of university education in the state are preserved.

Yours sincerely,

Arunkumar R. *President* **Dr. Premachandran Keezhoth** *General Secretary* **Dr. Abraham A.** Secretary