

## **The Semester Conundrum**

Education is one of those things that any Indian worth his (or her) salt has something to say about. But of course, our well wishers at Delhi University or even old friends back at the CBSE are no exception to the tendency. This year, grownups at the Delhi University decided to make their presence felt in a striking (all puns intended) manner, over the semesterisation of the curriculum. We were told that the upheavals in the university were all for the better of the students. One year down the line and months of utter chaos later, plenty beg to differ.

As per the National Knowledge Commission and the University Grants Commission; semesterisation is a highly recommended move for the undergraduate level. Not only would it allow students to easily migrate to other colleges after the end of the first semester, it would also be a good practice for the semester system that would greet the fortunate ones who make to the Jawaharlal Nehru University or branches of the Indian Institute Of Technology. A difference of opinion among faculties and administration however, turned the implementation of the scheme into a proverbial spoilt broth.

Consequently, the students have had to bear the brunt of their betterment. Good cause or not, one way or the other, the results of the entire affair so far have been- cancelled classes, cancelled exams, cancelled holidays, cancelled fests and so on. Schedules of all sorts, plans and programmes of any manner, and sanity to a great extent have all been put on hold for at least the term of this academic year. The last minute change in the final exam date sheet has been the cherry on the cake. Clearly, the teachers have no concern whatsoever for any plans that students may have had

this summer; including going home for a month or so for numerous outstation students.

Students involved in societies too, have been badly hit by the Battle of the Wits. Constant strikes and rescheduling of internal examinations (and therefore the fests) resulted in an extraordinary season of college festivals this year. Usually spread over a span of two to three months, this year saw various festivals struggling for time within a span of mere thirty days. With finals looming large and classes on full throttle, this not only meant a very hectic schedule for the students, but also a difficult choice between the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

The tenacity with which our teachers are fighting over a cause that would ultimately (hopefully), result in the betterment of students is admirable. However, why some students shall suffer for the betterment of their juniors and who shall sympathise with the plight of the current batch are questions lurking at the back of anxious students preparing for their annual exams. Perhaps, addressing problems already being faced by students, such as faults in the mark sheets, or a hardly ever updated D.U site, or attendance issues, or uncooperative administrative staff, (the list is endless), would be a better way to help the students to a stress-free future.