

A Student-run Independent Research Initiative
(E-mail: coeusresearchgroup@gmail.com)

OPEN BOOK EXAMINATION (OBE) SURVEY

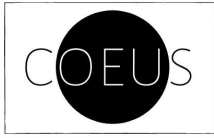
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY, PLEASE FILL UP THE FORM BELOW

<https://forms.gle/onCtq2nr9kNrec5J6>

In August 2020, the University of Delhi had shifted to the online Open Book Examination system in order to conduct examinations for the graduating batch during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the final-year students who had appeared for the first phase of OBE in August- had raised several complaints with respect to issues like receiving wrong question papers, answer scripts not getting uploaded, the examination portal crashing, internet connectivity issues and so on and so forth.

The University conducted its second phase of OBE for the second and third-year undergraduate students, along with the final-year postgraduate students which commenced on December 12, 2020. Unlike earlier, the students only had the option of uploading answer scripts on the OBE portal this time, with only a little time window to mail the papers only if the portal had failed. More than 1.30Lakh students had appeared for the second phase OBE out of which only 5700 students had opted for physical mode.

The University had no prerequisite data in order to ascertain how many students could or could not access resources to be able to appear for the exams in terms of reading material, internet connectivity, technological availability and online feasibility. Lack of online study material, inequality of internet access among the student community, apathy vis-a-vis the grievances of students with disabilities has highlighted the many shortcomings that the online examination



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system poses. Although facing stiff opposition from student organisations and the teachers' union, the University administration decided to conduct the online examinations, receiving mixed responses from the students' community. While universities across the world have tried their best to study the grievances of their primary stakeholders, i.e the students and teachers- the University of Delhi alongside other Central Universities have only paid little heed to this crucial principle.

Even during the time of the pandemic, the University system has pushed for meritocratic achievement while turning a blind eye to the objectives of intellectual development, genuine grievances of the student fraternity and pushed students only to secure numerically defined academic success. While the Online OBE was applauded by many as the best decision and alternative, it too received a fair amount of criticism after its shortcomings had surfaced. The University neither had any framework in place to receive feedback on the efficacy of their newly applied system nor did it effectively communicate with the students to address their issues and concerns.

This is an independent research initiative conducted by Coeus, a student-run research organisation. The following survey aims to gather information on the Online Open-Book Examinations (OBE) conducted by Delhi University as an alternative to physical examinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey and the following research aims to study the leakages in the online examination system with respect to student's internet accessibility, technological sustainability of the portal system, availability of resources and feasibility of the online system alongside its efficacy in lieu of other alternatives.

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