



# Dr. B. R. AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY

Prof. G. Ramreddy Marg, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad - 500 033.  
Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA)



*Best Practice*

## FLEXIBLE LEARNING

# B R A O U

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The University, initially known as Andhra Pradesh Open University, was set up on 26th August 1982 through an Act of the A.P. State Legislature (APOU Act 1982). Subsequently, the University was renamed as Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Open University on 26 October, 1991 by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The establishment of this University, the first of its kind in India, heralded an era of affirmative action on the part of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to provide opportunities of higher education to all sections of society to meet the changing individual and social needs. The University offers services to defense personnel, prison inmates and learners from remote and tribal areas who are not having access to education. All the programmes offered by the University are recognised by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi. The motto of the University is "EDUCATION FOR ALL". The university is adapting all the latest ICTs regarding teaching, learning and evaluation to reach the unreached.



- ◆ Enrichment of on-going academic programmes.
- ◆ Competency building through education and training programmes. Interactive individual-based teaching learning processes.
- ◆ Reliable and credible student evaluation systems.
- ◆ Result-oriented, accountable and transparent administrative and logistic support systems. and
- ◆ Research, innovation, training and networking for system development and staff development.



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's social philosophy of education as a means of creating an egalitarian society is the vision of this University. Access to relevant, quality education and training programmes for diverse sections of society with a focus on hitherto deprived sections at lower costs by using the modern technologies in teaching-learning processes as well as in administrative and support services is the goal of this University. The University programmes aim at making education and training instruments for living and for making a living.

# FLEXIBLE LEARNING

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University uses integrated flexible learning in the teaching and learning process. This includes choosing courses, the duration of courses (subject to UGC guidelines), electives, entry and exit options, the mode of instruction to use, choice of examination dates for optional subjects, etc.

Instead of being bound by demands and expectations from outside sources, flexibility enables students to plan and schedule their studies and allot specific time. Flexibility aids students in balancing learning with their work and family responsibilities. This makes learning more comfortable and helps students prioritize it. They also find that pursuing higher education is satisfying and in line with their expectations.

## The Objectives of the Practice

1. To aid in the manifestation of individuals' inner development by overcoming limits imposed by circumstances or educational contexts.
2. To assess students based on their knowledge or skills gained through open distance learning, using the principle of inbuilt progress and adaptability.
3. Learning flexibility is a crucial component around which the university's teaching-learning activities, instruction, evaluation, and instructional technology will be centered.





## ■ The Context

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University has always been clear about its goals, which include giving students access to free and flexible learning. Dr. B.R.A.O.U.'s philosophy is to make education affordable for underserved groups so they can have the chance to pursue their goals. Since the university's founders and academicians were sympathetic to the demands of the university's clientele from the moment the university was founded, this led to the acceptance of the notion of flexibility. Dr. BRAOU has ingrained flexibility in every area of its curricular transactions as opposed to the new normal that is currently being observed in various higher educational institutions. This flexibility encompasses adaptability in a variety of areas, including education, learning methodologies, teaching styles, media, technological engagement modes, etc.

## ■ The Practice

### 1. Flexibility regarding entry qualifications

Admission to programs calls for a +2 level qualification from any recognized board. Only students with academic credentials in science are eligible for admission to the B.Sc. degree program. Learners with a +2 certificate in disciplines other than science or diploma holders with one year of experience in science labs or R&D institutions are also eligible to register for the B.Sc. degree program. Similarly, many P.G. programs need a pass in any degree from any recognized university, such as Political Science, Economics, Public Administration, Sociology, History, Journalism and Mass Communication, and Psychology. Keeping in mind the course prerequisites, P.G. in Arts and M.Sc. in Science areas require simply a degree in the relevant subject.

The university has been providing lateral entry options to learners from other colleges or universities for the last four decades so that dropouts from regular universities can enroll and complete their education in distance mode.



## 2. Flexibility regarding the selection of study centers

Nearly 180 learner support centers are available for learners and the learners can enroll in any center of their choice. They can attend counseling classes in centers other than in which they are enrolled at their convenience.

## 3. Flexibility in the selection of courses

Since its foundation, the university has provided students with an extensive range of course options. Any three optional subjects from the four Faculties (Arts, Social Sciences, Commerce, and Sciences) are available to UG-level students. Students have the option of selecting all three optional courses from one Faculty or at least two courses from one Faculty and the third course from a different Faculty. The degree that students are eligible for is determined by the Faculty, of which the majority of two subjects are a part. This strategy, which has been used for the past 40 years, demonstrates Dr. BRAOU's flexibility and insight in anticipating the demands of distance learners. This policy somewhat anticipates UGC's most recent goals for adopting flexibility in teaching-learning and its instructions for making higher education institutions multidisciplinary.



To give students flexible learning options, Dr. BRAOU introduced Core Courses, Ability Enhancement Courses, and Language Specific Courses with the implementation of CBCS in the ODL system in 2017. A mix of courses from (A) Discipline Specific Core Courses or electives are now available to students, (B) Discipline-Specific Elective Courses, (C) Modern Indian Language (MIL) elective courses (English, Telugu, Hindi, Urdu), and (D) Skill-Enhancement Courses (SEC). The University



offers 42 subject-specific Skill Enhancement Courses, of which four (04) must be taken by all students. This gives students the freedom to select the courses that interest them. There is freedom in choosing Discipline Specific Electives (DSE) in the fifth and sixth semesters.

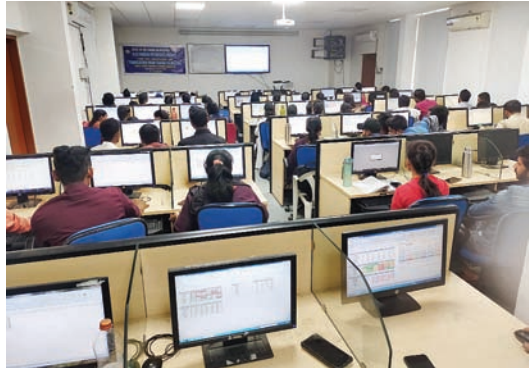
P.G. Programmes also provide a great deal of flexibility. After studying the basics in the first year, a math student might choose the Applied Mathematics subjects in P.G.'s second year rather than P.G.'s first year. Similar options are available for electives in the M.B.A. program, including finance, marketing, human resources, and operations research. Aspirants in the B.Ed. (Special Education) Course may choose from a select group of specializations, including Visual Impairment (VI), Hearing Impairment (HI), and Intellectual Disability (ID), based on their aptitude. However, this option is dependent on the applicant's entrance test score. Both students with a background in social sciences and those with a background in science are taught the "Electronic Resources" course in the B.Li.Sc. program as a separate elective. Similar to this, M.Li.Sc. students have the option to select an elective related to the type of library they plan to work in (public, academic, special, school, or private). Both, P.G. Diploma in Environment Sciences (P.G.D.E.S.) and P.G. Diploma in Marketing Management (P.G.D.M.M.) provide optional courses from which students can select the ones that best suit their interests and professional aspirations. On account of the curriculum's built-in flexibility, students can select the courses and career paths that best suit them and in which they believe they can succeed. This demonstrates the scholarly discussions that have taken place since the program's start regarding the offer of flexibility across the curriculum.

#### **4. Flexibility in Teaching – Learning**

The University has relied on the delivery of self-study materials and the holding of physical counseling classes on Sundays and Second Saturdays – a schedule is given to the study centers, since its inception. Beginning in 2020, online counseling sessions for all U.G. and P.G. programs were introduced due to the COVID-19 epidemic. Blended



counseling classes have become the standard, and more than 10,500 lessons have been uploaded online while also being simultaneously posted on a YouTube channel for learners to view at a later time. To encourage face-to-face interaction between students and counselors, 50% of the counseling sessions for UG and PG courses are offered online, and 50% are delivered offline at study centers.



## 5. Flexibility in the use of additional content

The learners can make use of audio and video recordings that are broadcast/telecast at regular timings. Audio broadcasts are from 6:25 p.m. to 6:40 p.m. on all weekdays. The video recordings are telecast from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Nipuna Channel and 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on Vidya Channel (T SAT Channels) from Monday to Saturday. The video recordings are also available on the University website and YouTube channel for viewing by learners and the general public (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw6f911/giOBXbLACQHDWW.JA/featured>) The learners can make use of these video recordings for understanding the subject matter at their

convenience or in their free time. Teleconferences are also made available to learners in video format on the website. On-demand, CDs of educational videos are written and supplied to learners.





## **6. Flexibility regarding learning material**

In addition to the Self Learning Material (SLM), students who submit their email addresses can receive a free copy of the SLM in PDF format for convenient viewing on their laptop or mobile device. Due to this, students can now easily access academic resources from their homes at their convenience.

## **7. Flexibility regarding exam schedules**

To help students finish their degrees, the university holds exams for undergraduate and graduate programs twice a year, in May/June and October/November. The University gives flexibility in selecting exam dates for optional subjects by offering three sets of question papers (A, B, and C) that are delivered on various days. The dates of the optional exams can be chosen by the students, on days that work best for them. Students as well as educators were pleased with BRAOU for its adaptable approach. This enables the University to conduct exams for around 23 optional subjects in only three days, saving both time and money.

## **8. Flexibility regarding the time-line for completion of programs**

Learners who have not completed their course of study in the minimum required time are allowed to complete the same in the maximum period prescribed by U.G.C. The University also gives adequate flexibility to its learners to seek re-admission, subject to the rules and norms of the university, so that the learners do not get demotivated, but try to complete their program of study.





## || Evidence of Success

Flexible learning offers learners options that would not be possible with a single learning style, which has an impact on student motivation, achievement, and learning outcomes. In the last four decades, approximately 6 lakh students have graduated from various programs at the university, demonstrating the university's commitment to flexible learning. The University's instructional curricula are distinguished by their adaptability. Flexibility is the hallmark of the educational programs offered by the University.





## ■ Problems encountered and Resources required

To achieve the desired learning outcomes, student support is required. More flexibility can cause students to put off learning. The institution offers a lot of flexibility to enable distance learners to get the support and structure they need, but achieving learning outcomes requires self-directed, motivated learning on the part of the students. The learning modes offered by the institution should be explored by the students to determine which one best fits their learning preferences. Some of the aspects of flexibility that the University is addressing with adequate planning include having an interactive website, assisting students from rural and low-income backgrounds in using technological resources, and broadly educating learners about the University's flexible learning approach.

At present, the university is investing a significant amount of its resources in reaching out to its students, but further support from funding organizations is needed for the successful implementation of technology initiatives. Dr. B. R. A. O. U. now faces a significant challenge in investing in technology as an equalizer and delivering high-quality instruction to all students through the adoption of new technologies. However, this can affect the degree of flexibility the University provides.





# Dr. B. R. AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY

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Website: [www.braou.ac.in](http://www.braou.ac.in), [www.braouonline.in](http://www.braouonline.in)



Recognised by University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

## PROGRAMMES ON OFFER - 2023-24

(A) Bachelor's Degree Programmes		Course Duration	Tuition Fee Rs.	(D) Diploma Programmes		Course Duration	Tuition Fee Rs.
<b>B.A.</b> - Bachelor of Arts (English, Telugu & Urdu Medium)		3 years	2,700/- Ist Yr	Diploma in Marketing Management (English Medium)	1 year	8,000/-	
<b>B.Com</b> - Bachelor of Commerce (Telugu & English Medium)		3 years	2,500/- I-Ist Yr	Diploma in Financial Management (English Medium)	1 year	8,000/-	
<b>B.Sc.</b> - Bachelor of Science (English, Telugu & Urdu Medium) (Lab. Fee Rs. 1000/- for each Science & Psychology Subjects)		3 years	2,500/- I-Ist Yr	Diploma in Human Resource Management (English Medium)	1 year	8,000/-	
(B) Master's Programmes		Course Duration	Tuition Fee Rs.	Diploma in Operations Management (English Medium) <td>1 year</td> <td>8,000/-</td>	1 year	8,000/-	
<b>M.A.</b> English, <b>M.A.</b> Hindi, <b>M.A.</b> Telugu, <b>M.A.</b> Urdu, <b>M.A.</b> Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology - (Telugu Medium)		2 years	5,300/-1 year 5,000/-2 year	Diploma in Business Finance (English Medium)	1 year	5,200/-	
<b>M.A.</b> Journalism and Mass Communication (English Medium)		2 years	5,300/-1 year 5,000/-2 year	Diploma in Writing for Mass Media in Telugu	1 year	5,200/-	
<b>M.Sc.</b> - Mathematics & Applied Mathematics (English Medium)		2 years	7,800/-1 year 7,500/-2 year	Diploma in Environmental Studies (Telugu Medium)	1 year	4,000/-	
<b>M.Sc.</b> Botany, <b>M.Sc.</b> Environmental Science (English Medium)		2 years	7,500/-2 year	Diploma in Human Rights (English Medium)	1 year	4,000/-	
<b>M.Sc.</b> Physics, <b>M.Sc.</b> Zoology, <b>M.Sc.</b> Psychology (English Medium)		2 years	15,300/-1 year 15,000/-2 year	Diploma in Women's Studies (English Medium)	1 year	4,000/-	
<b>M.Sc.</b> Chemistry (English Medium)		2 years	15,000/-2 year	Diploma in Culture & Heritage Tourism (English Medium)	1 year	5,200/-	
<b>M.Com.</b> (English Medium)		2 years	7,800/-1 year 7,500/-2 year	(E) Certificate Programmes		Course Duration	Tuition Fee Rs.
(C) Professional Programmes (Post Bachelor's Level)		Course Duration	Tuition Fee Rs.	Certificate Programme in Food and Nutrition (Telugu Medium)	6 months	1600/-	
<b>M.B.A.</b> - Master's Degree in Business Administration (English Medium)		2 years	15,300/-1 year 15,000/-2 year	Certificate Programme in Literacy & Community Development (Telugu Medium)	6 months	2100/-	
<b>M.B.A.</b> - (Hospital and Health Care Management) with AHERF, KIMS & DET (English Medium)		2 years	1,20,000/-	Certificate Programme in NGO's Management (Telugu Medium)	6 months	2100/-	
Master's Degree in Library & Information Science (MLISc) (English Medium)		2 years	10,300/-	(F) Research Programmes (Ph.D in)		Course Duration	Tuition Fee Rs.
Bachelor's Degree in Library & Information Science (BLISc) (English & Telugu Medium)		1 year	5,300/-	English, Hindi, Education, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Commerce, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Environmental Science (English Medium)	3 years	15,000/-year 15,000/-year 15,000/-year	
Bachelor's of Education (B.Ed - ODL) (Telugu Medium)		2 years	40,000/-				
Bachelor's of Education (B.Ed. Special Education - ODL) (English & Telugu Medium)		2 ½ years	40,000/-				

**BRAOU CALL CENTRE NO : 18005990101**

डा. भ. अ. अंबेडकर सार्वजनिक विश्वविद्यालय

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