

Title: B.Sc. Dissertation I and I I

Objectives of the Practice:

- To ensure **continuous mentorship** to the students across the year instead of just for one semester
- The split enables the student **to undertake the various stages of research in a more systematic and well understood manner** - from - a) identification of the topic, b) to the review of literature and c) Understanding the research methodology in the semester wherein Dissertation 1 has been strategically placed. Once this stage has been well understood by the students - in the subsequent semester Dissertation 2 follows. It encompasses - primary survey, field work and thereby writing the chapters on Discussion and Analysis and finally the Conclusions and Recommendations.
- **To enhance the research output of the students and quality of the dissertation .**

The Context:

- It was a practice and easy leeway for the students to finish the work in five days just before submission at the end of the final semester
- Detailed guidelines and instructions have been clearly defined for Dissertation I and 2 - to ensure better understanding of the subject matter of research
- Students are made more accountable at each stage and are systematically evaluated wrt proposals, review of literature and the stages that follow.
- They are given adequate time to be fully absorbed about the area of research
- The split has helped to address the challenge of completing the dissertation in just one semester, given the fact that students have differing learning abilities, absorbing capacities and skills sets and therefore a two semester timelines helps us to address this challenge better

The Practices:

This practice ensures timely completion of the research components of the under-graduate dissertation. Such a six monthly assessment is not followed at the under-graduate level elsewhere in India. It is rigorous and involves greater participation of the faculty members, and strengthens research training and critical skills of the students

The Evidence of Success:

Uniqueness and achievements via the practice:

- There is a rise in quality of the dissertation submitted over the two semesters
- Students are now increasingly using softwares like SPSS, MATLAB, R. Stata and others. They even took the initiative to learn some soft wares on their own
- Students have represented SSE at international platforms like NASA to present some papers

As evidence, sample dissertations are enclosed.

Problem Encountered and Resource Required:

- Rules and instructions had to be clearly defined at each level for the successful completion of the dissertation;
- More financial and human resources are required for evaluation of Dissertation I and Dissertation II;
- It is a time-consuming process as it spreads into two semesters.