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## A MINI REVIEW: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SEMESTER SYSTEM AND ANNUAL SYSTEM.

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### Abstract

A modular system is a system that is made up of different independent modules or components that can be combined or interchanged to create a variety of configurations. Every element is created to carry out a certain task, and as necessary, these may be extended, withdrawn, or altered to adapt the platform to a specific input. Modular systems are commonly used in fields such as manufacturing, electronics, and construction. An annual system, on the other hand, is a system that is based on a yearly cycle or period. This system is commonly used for financial purposes, where transactions or calculations are recorded on an annual basis. Universities use different educational systems to teach students, including the Semester System & the Annual System. In the Annual System, students take tests consecutively throughout the academic year, while in the Semester System, examinations are held five or six months after the start of the academic year. There are several differences between the two systems, and this paper aims to explore their advantages and disadvantages. This study aims to differentiate between the Annual and Semester Systems, focusing on their objectives and intrinsic values. It aims to compare the benefits of both systems, taking into account the perspectives of both students and teachers. The purpose of this study is to help individuals identify which system is more effective and efficient for their educational needs.

**Key words:** Modular System Annual System, Universities, Semester System Examinations

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## INTRODUCTION

Modular construction is a prefabrication technology that is gaining popularity globally. This article discusses the use of modular construction, including its sustainability implications. The article provides an overview of modular construction, its history, materials used, and potential applications. Universities are a vital component of society as they produce professionals who lead nations, generate ideas and innovations, and promote awareness among the populace. The development of universities is crucial for the growth and development of a country's education system. However, the Sindh government abolished the semester system two to three years ago, and the universities in Sindh have been running on the annual system. This paper focuses on the advantages and disadvantages of the semester system and whether it is more beneficial than the annual system in current times.<sup>1</sup>

### Semester System

Latin: *smestris*, meaning "six monthly" in Early nineteenth American use changed the word from its original German meaning of a 6 academic semester to a summer break that lasts generally between fifteen and eighteen weeks. Used it to describe the two main timeframes by which the academic year is separated at several universities in the United States and other nations..<sup>[2][3]</sup>

An educational system known as the semester system divides every educational year between 2 roughly six-month-long sessions. The word "Semester" means

literally "six-month time." Almost everything Indian universities now use the semester system for undergraduate and graduate-level education rather than the yearly model as a positive move.<sup>4</sup>

What are the challenges of this semester? A phrase used in teaching is indeed the semester system. It splits the educational year through two semesters, which are each six months long. Schools as well as universities can both use the semester system. Each academic year is divided into about six equal sections under the semester system. Every month of the first and second semesters. Thus, a semester is six months long and is used for educating. The tests follow the completion of the six-month instructional period. Under this method, exams were administered biannually rather than yearly..<sup>5</sup>

The primary distinction seen between semester & yearly systems seems to be the timing of an upcoming exams. Under the annual system, they are taken after one academic year, but under the semester system, they are taken after just a duration of 5-6 months..<sup>6</sup>

### 3. Objectives of the semester system<sup>7</sup>

1. Engaging in evolving nature
2. Saving time and energy for the learners
3. Making pupils' routine learning styles better

### 4. Advantages of the semester system<sup>8</sup>

1. This should provide learners with the opportunity for ongoing learning, evaluation, and feedback.
2. It makes it easier to assess pupils' progress twice a year.

3. Because the curriculum is broken up into two halves, students won't be overloaded with material.
4. The one-semester system gives instructors more freedom and flexibility to create and deliver a variety of courses from which students can select, enhancing the learning experience.
5. Because of the coding, pupils who use this method consistently attend university. Attendance of 80% is required.
6. Students have the opportunity to study a variety of disciplines thanks to the semester system.
7. The curriculum is flexible, and students can choose to read certain courses at their own pace.
8. As students advance in education, they take more time off for interactions.

#### **5. Disadvantages of the semester system<sup>9</sup>**

1. Students are restricted to the material of their courses.
2. They do not have enough time for in-depth research. As a result, pupils acquire restricted information that is focused on a very specific viewpoint.
3. The semester structure is rather pricey.
4. There are time restrictions on the semester system. Teachers frequently don't finish the curriculum.
5. Latecomers will have a lot of difficulty catching up and finishing the course.
6. Due to a shortage of time, the semester structure does not provide for the possibility of taking extra classes.
7. Because instructors are often busy, the semester system places restrictions on extracurricular activities. Completion of the curriculum and student involvement in curriculum revision.
8. Pupils must complete their coursework quickly.
9. Occasionally, professors run short on time and cannot impart all of the subject's expertise.

10. Because they don't have time for extra study, students only have a rudimentary understanding of the subject.
11. As there is no chance for students to modify their papers throughout the semester system, they manage and keep their grades.
12. Because of how rapidly time flies, pupils are unable to have a thorough understanding of the subject.

A yearly curriculum refers to the way individual will develop one's education continuously for a whole calendar calendar. The yearly model is more conventional & encompasses a larger curriculum than the semester system. Within yearly model, assessments are given following an entire academic year after instruction..<sup>10</sup>

#### **6. Advantages of the annual system**

So this whole academic year, without the need for a gap, is referred to as part of the annual system. Compared to the semester system, it's a conventional arrangement that provides additional coursework. The test is given at the year's conclusion. This technique gives the institution plenty of time to write the exam papers while yet allowing the student to attend the college feeling free to ponder regarding their courses at all times. Reducing examinees & standardized tests also makes it much more cost-effective for institution..<sup>11</sup>

The annual examination is a very widely known system too. Many universities adopt the annual system in place of semester exams.

A reason for this can be the lower cost of conducting the examination. Since the annual system makes the students appear for exams just once in twelve months, it costs almost half the expenditure that goes in the semesters..<sup>12</sup>

Asfandiar and Hashim (2012) compared annual with semester system, absenteeism, presentation and assignments value learning process..<sup>13</sup>

Allah Nawaz et al (2009) mentioned main drawback of Annual system, absenteeism, Leakage of papers, Impersonation of students, high absenteeism External assistance during examination, Smuggling of unauthorized material especially in annual exam, Copying from a nearby candidate setting in close rows, Intimidation, and Irregularities of supervisory staff by allocating more time to some students.<sup>14</sup>

### 7. Objectives of the Annual System<sup>15</sup>

- Reducing expenditure on examination
- Getting more time for students to revise the curriculum.
- Product Quality Base Education for Students

### 8. Advantages of an Annual System<sup>8,16,17,18</sup>

1. Learners are given the chance to consult literature on various themes.
2. Students can use the library's facilities to make own reports.
3. All co-curricular & extracurricular events are accessible to pupils.
4. Instructors will be given the chance to provide pupils quite so much information as they can on the topic.
5. Instructors may expose pupils to a variety of experiences by taking them on field excursions.
6. There is an improvement in teacher-student contact and instructor knowledge of the pupils.
7. The course topic is chosen by the instructors, who may also consider the preferences of the pupils.
8. Notwithstanding this approach, learners can improve their ability and specific topic innovative research.

### 9. Disadvantages of an Annual system<sup>8,16,17,18</sup>

The majority of pupils exhibit academic laziness while using the yearly model. That happens once per year.

It is a hardship on the pupils to go through the entire curriculum in preparation for the yearly examinations.

As there are no severe requirements for punctuality, the vast majority of learners don't really attend university frequently.

Just at conclusion of the calendar year, the test is given. The pupil's current academic period will be ruined if he failed the examination.

Several days prior to the yearly examination, the pupil is engaged.

### 10. Conclusion

This semester model seems to be more goal-focused with a heavy workload.

Pupils under the semester system lack the appropriate time to transition into anything different. They are unable to focus on anything outside the syllabus, which is different from the yearly schedule for kids.

At the conclusion of the year, notice that they will have adequate time to try a final test. Therefore, they sit in sessions for months at a time without doing anything while preparing for tests in two or three. The evaluation procedure for the yearly and semester systems differs significantly in terms of educational and instructional methods.

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