

Curbs on the teacher

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has plans of placing teachers under the Conduct of Central Services Rules. This move might restrict them from making public statements against the administration. Will this affect the democratic nature of universities in India?

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Any explicit statements or an action against the majority is met by lynching or violence. The only respite we get from this is that we have academic freedom of speech and expression. Ironically, JNU was granted category 1 highest autonomy, recently. Autonomy means flexible functional status. It aims at academic development and excellence. By restricting teachers from making public statements against the management, there is no scope for constructive criticism.



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This will affect the democratic nature of universities in India since the essence of democracy lies in the freedom of expression and opinion. It will also restrict the transparency that lies between the administration of universities and the faculty.

On the other hand, it should also be kept in mind while commenting about the issue that JNU does not solely represent the majority of universities in the nation. So, a change in code of conduct won't affect the masses.



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Imposing the rules of Central Civil Services on teachers will curb freedom and is against the spirit of any university. Any academic work which includes research and publishing papers will now violate the service conditions.

The Board must think through the fact that universities are autonomous bodies and their structure and function is different from that of government officials. Far from being called democratic, this move will result in universities being called autocratic.



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The target of making students voiceless was not enough to curb expression that restrictions on teachers are also being placed now.

This was the one important method left to bring forth issues which were otherwise hidden under the veil of politics, fear of dissent.

This is an indication of how the autonomy of universities is taken away and the entire democratic culture of our education system is under the threat of failing.



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