

MPhil students are worried about the degree's relevance

New Edu Policy Has Discontinued The Programme

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Jaipur: In the New Education Policy, 2020, M.Phil has been discontinued. Although the exact timeframe for implementation of the policy is not known, but there will be a decline in admissions for MPhil from next year.

Students already pursuing MPhil are worried about its importance in the near future.

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Harivinshu, a student of MPhil in sociology, said his degree would be valid, but he is worried about its importance later on. "At present, seven marks of MPhil are added for every government exam we appear for. Although our degrees would be valid and the New Education Policy is yet to be implemented, there are chances that a university can decide not to consider our degrees during recruitment. This will ruin the

KEY POINTS FROM NEP 2020



- Higher education institutions will have flexibility to offer different designs of PG programmes
- There may be a two-year programme with the second year entirely devoted to research for those who have completed the three-year UG programme
- For students completing a four-year UG programme with research, there could be a one-year PG programme
- There may be an integrated five-year UG/PG programme
- Undertaking a PhD shall require either a master's degree or a 4-year bachelor's degree with research
- MPhil programme shall be discontinued

importance of my degree," said Harivinshu.

Another student Bharat Meena, who is pursuing PhD in economics and an MPhil degree holder, explained that MPhil is a bridge between PG and PhD for students who can take some time to get accustomed to research. If this is removed, student

will now have to fight directly for a PhD seat and research work. Commenting on the importance of MPhil, professor Gyan Singh Shekhawat from Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, said, "Abolition of MPhil will not have much impact because it is not a pre-requisite for PhD. Foreign varsities do

not even consider these degrees. Due to the weightage of seven marks, there were times when MPhil students used to get a seat in recruitment, leaving behind a PhD candidate, which seems to be unfair looking at its importance." Similar views were expressed by professor Sudhir Raniwal from Rajasthan University, who said M.Phil is more prevalent in humanities, than science subjects. "It will not have any major impact on research. Students who are pursuing M.Phil will get valid degrees, although its importance will reduce," said Raniwal.

Many students and academics are of the view that some research work must be introduced at PG level so that students can get accustomed to it before going for PhD. Another problem that students are facing right now is less number of professors in Rajasthan University. For many years now, faculty members of the university are waiting to be promoted and the university is left with just 15 professors. One professor can take up to eight Ph.D. students.