

NURTURING SOCIAL EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
New Delhi

PREAMBLE

The true potential of India's youth can be harnessed only through access to higher education. However, our national effort in increasing such access could be futile without nurturing social equity. The immense potential of our youth belonging to the vulnerable sections of the Indian society is as yet untapped.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has all along given emphasis in enhancing participation of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Minorities, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Persons with Disabilities (as defined in the PWD Act, 1995) and Women in higher education.

Some of the notable schemes of the UGC for nurturing social equity for various beneficiary categories in vogue are Indira Gandhi Post Graduate Scholarships for Single Girl Child, Residential Coaching Academies for Minorities, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SCs & STs, and Maulana Azad National Fellowships for Minorities, Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SCs, STs, and Women etc.

This brochure outlines a number of initiatives launched by the UGC towards enhancing access with equity through provision of various fellowships, post-graduate scholarships, coaching schemes, residential coaching academies for minorities, support to institutions with relatively higher proportion of SCs, STs, Minorities, capacity expansion for OBCs, support to persons with disabilities, empowerment of women, etc. On the conceptual plank, centre for studies of social exclusion and inclusion have been established in a number of Central, State and Deemed to be universities.

The UGC is committed not only to strengthen the ongoing programs but also to continue to innovate meaningful programs with great vigour to achieve increased participation of SCs, STs, Minorities, OBCs, PWDs and Women in higher education.

We in the UGC believe that nothing can prevent India from occupying its rightful place among the leading knowledge societies of the world when every young eligible Indian from the weaker section, also, partakes in the exciting enterprise of Indian higher education.

It is hoped that the policy makers and the academia will find this brochure useful.

New Delhi
June, 2013

Ved Prakash
Chairman, UGC

NURTURING SOCIAL EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Promotion of Higher Education among SC/ST/Minorities/OBCs/PWD/Women

A Snapshot:

Access to higher educational opportunities continues to bear the stamp of multiple dimension of inequalities that characterize our society: gender, caste, religion, class, locality and disability. Social group-wise Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) not only varies from region to region and from state to state but also from district to district within a particular state. Sometimes these gaps are pretty large. There are pockets in the country wherein the GER is as high as in some of the developed parts of the world while in others it is abysmally low.

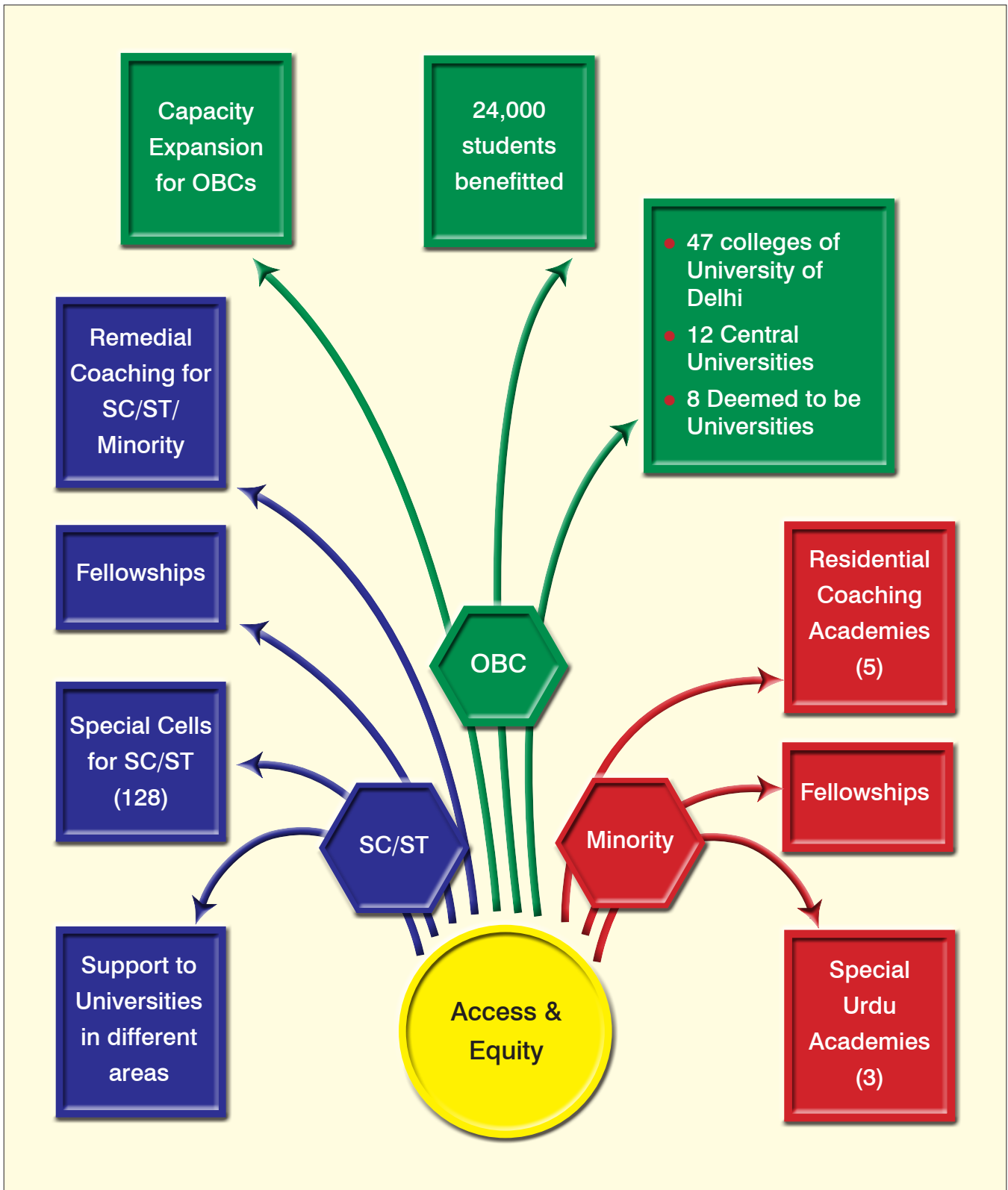
The UGC has addressed these identifiable inequalities by initiating various measures to enhance participation of such groups in higher education. The brochure highlights some of these initiatives which the University Grants Commission has undertaken in the recent past.

In its sustained efforts to nurture social equity in higher education, the UGC has supported nearly 18,94,001 Students from as many as 6,562 Institutions, involving an Expenditure of ₹ 4,683.75 crores in the recent past.

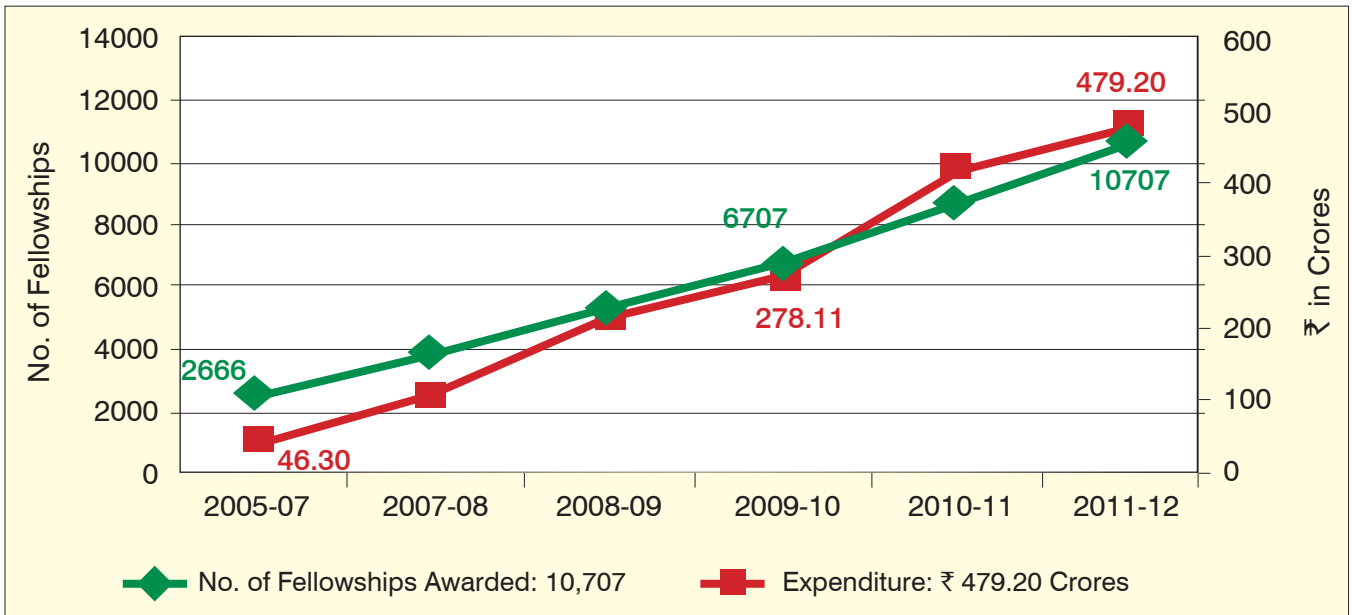
Schemes for Nurturing Social Equity – Categorywise

Category	Schemes
SCs	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC Candidates.
STs	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST Candidates.
Minorities	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Candidates.
OBCs	Capacity Expansion for OBCs.
PWDs	Teacher Preparation in Special Education (TEPSE). Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (HEPSN) Visually Handicapped Teachers.
SCs/STs	Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST Candidates. Equal Opportunity Cells in Universities. Establishment of Centres in Universities for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusion Policy. Post-Graduate Scholarship for Professional Courses for SC/ST Candidates.
SC/ST/OBC/Minorities	Coaching Scheme for SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer)/Minorities.
Participation of Women	Women's Hostels with special focus in Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs). Indira Gandhi Post-Graduate Scholarship for Single Girl Child. Training programs for Women Managers. Development of Women Studies Centers. Infrastructure facilities for Women Staff
Regional Imbalances	Model Degree Colleges in 374 identified Educationally Backward Districts (EBD), Central University in each State.

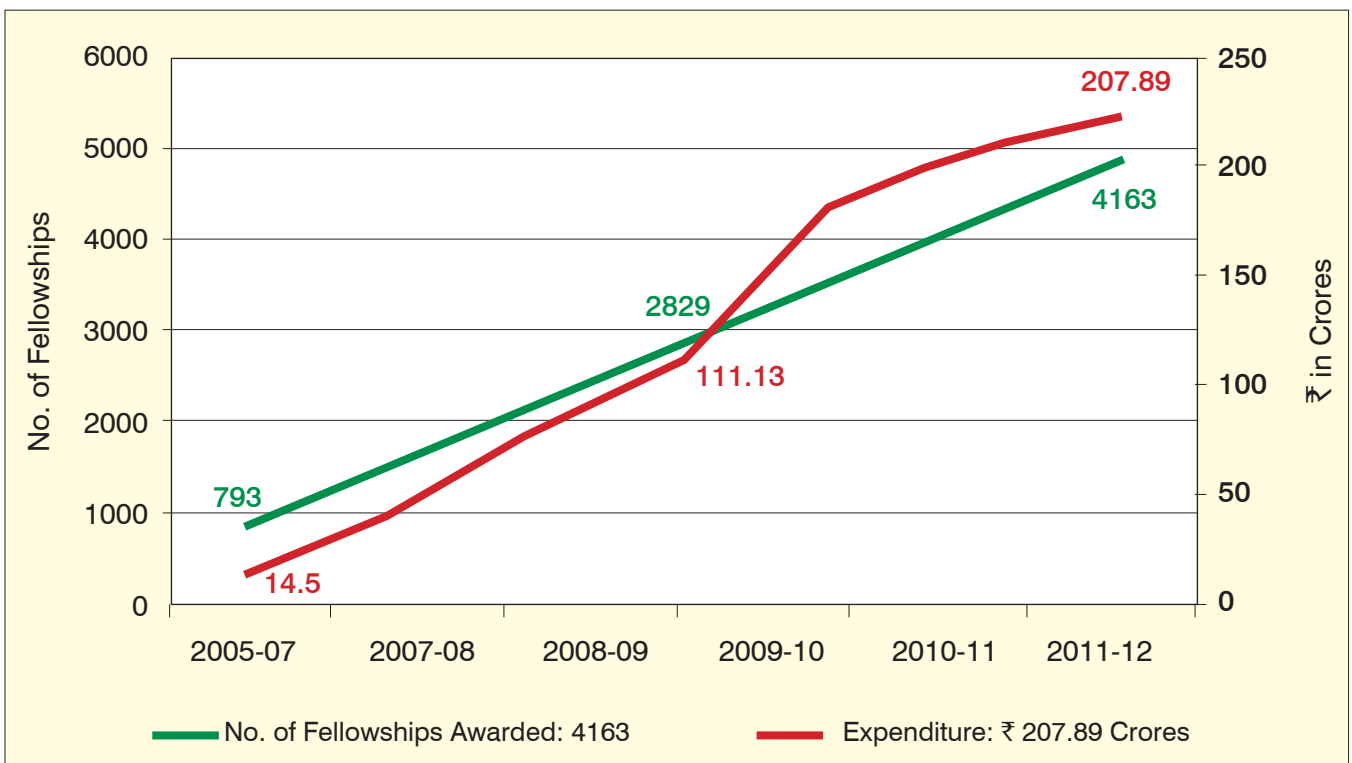
Initiatives Towards Enhancing Access with Equity



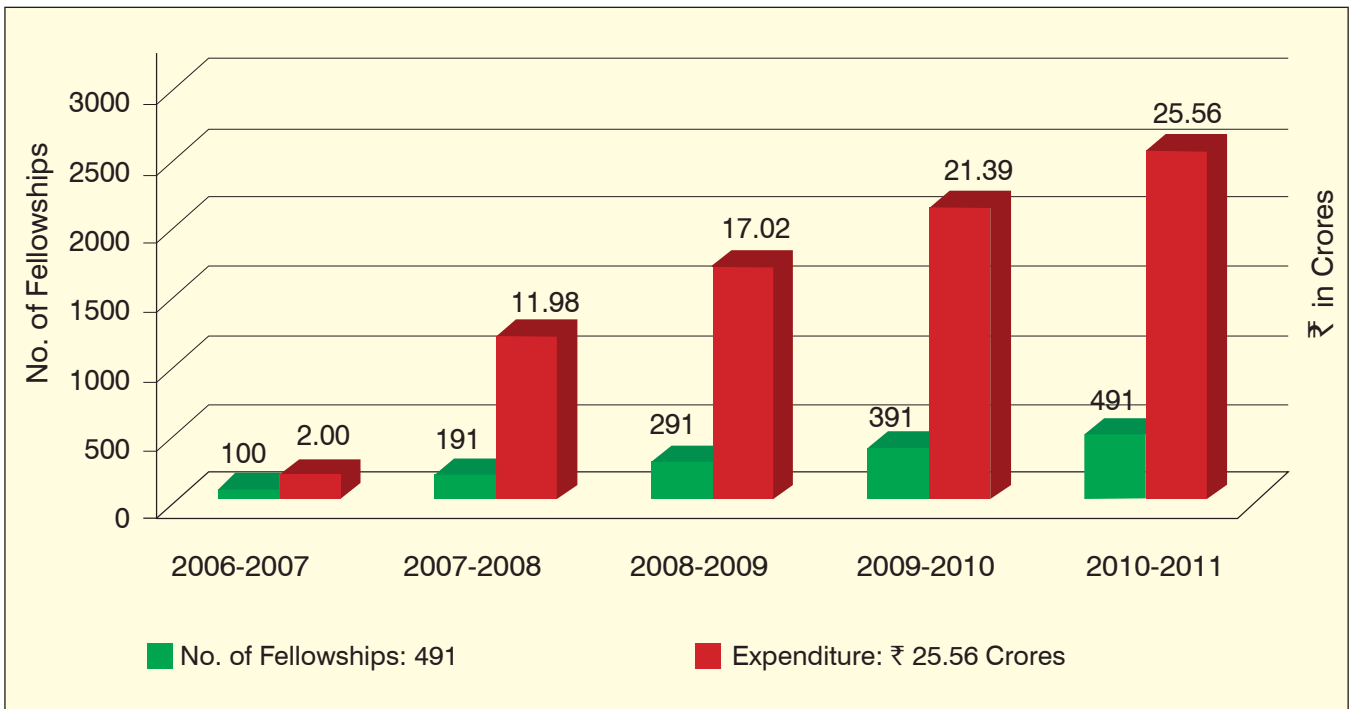
Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC Candidates



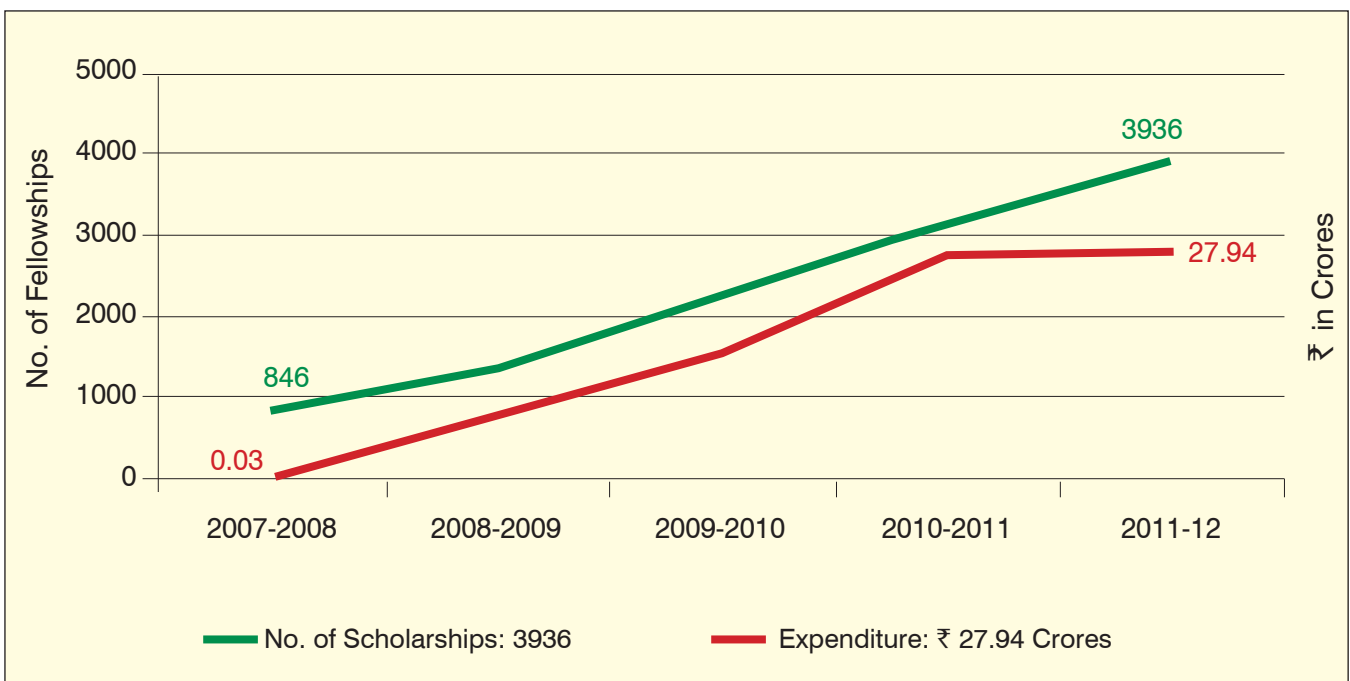
Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST Candidates



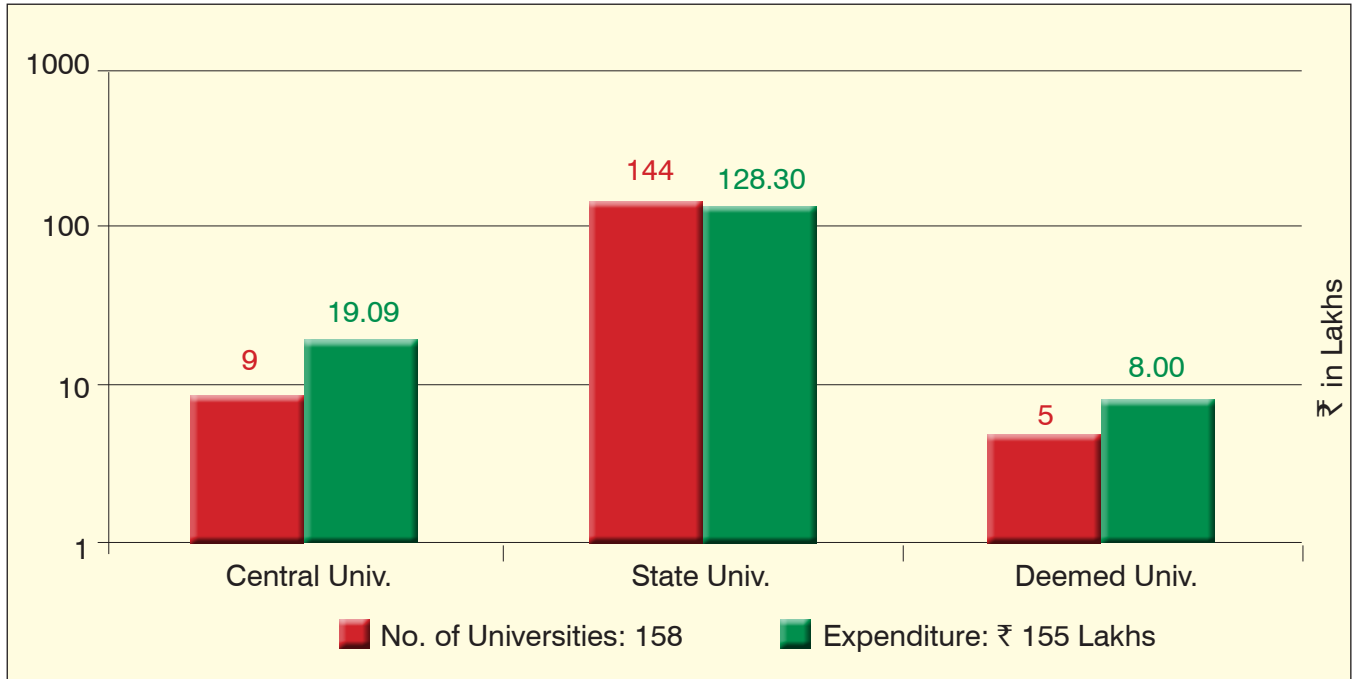
Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST Candidates



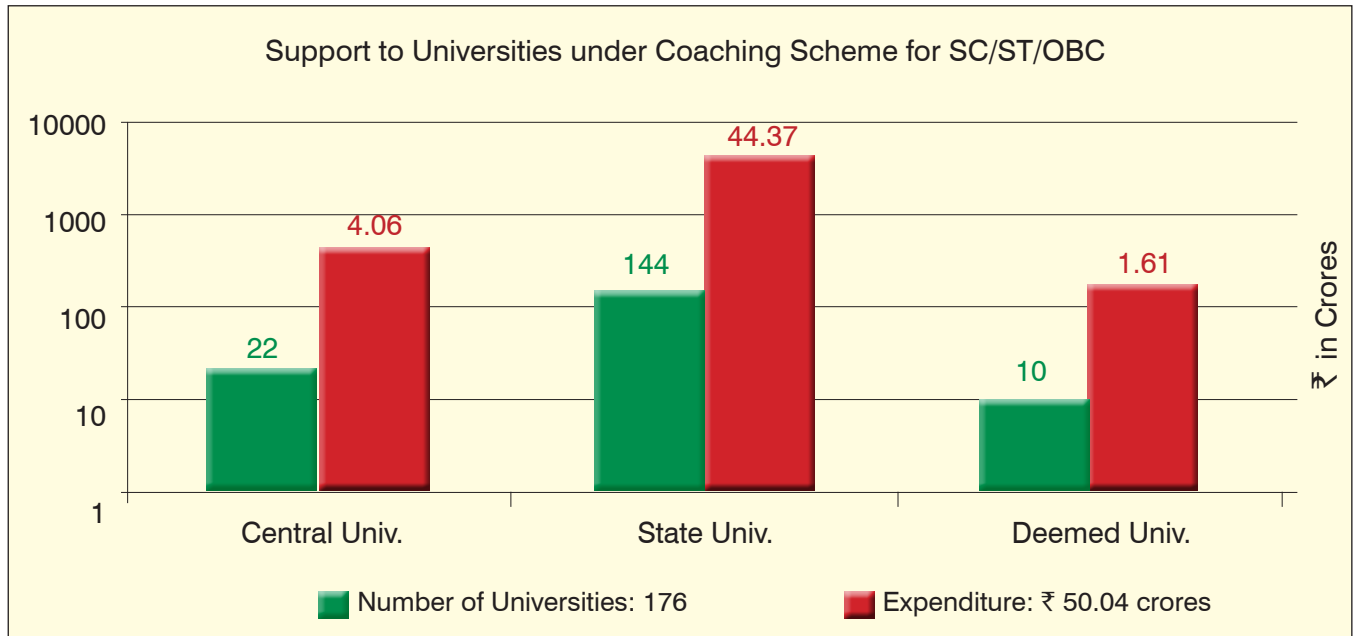
Post Graduate Scholarship for SC/ST Candidates in Professional Courses



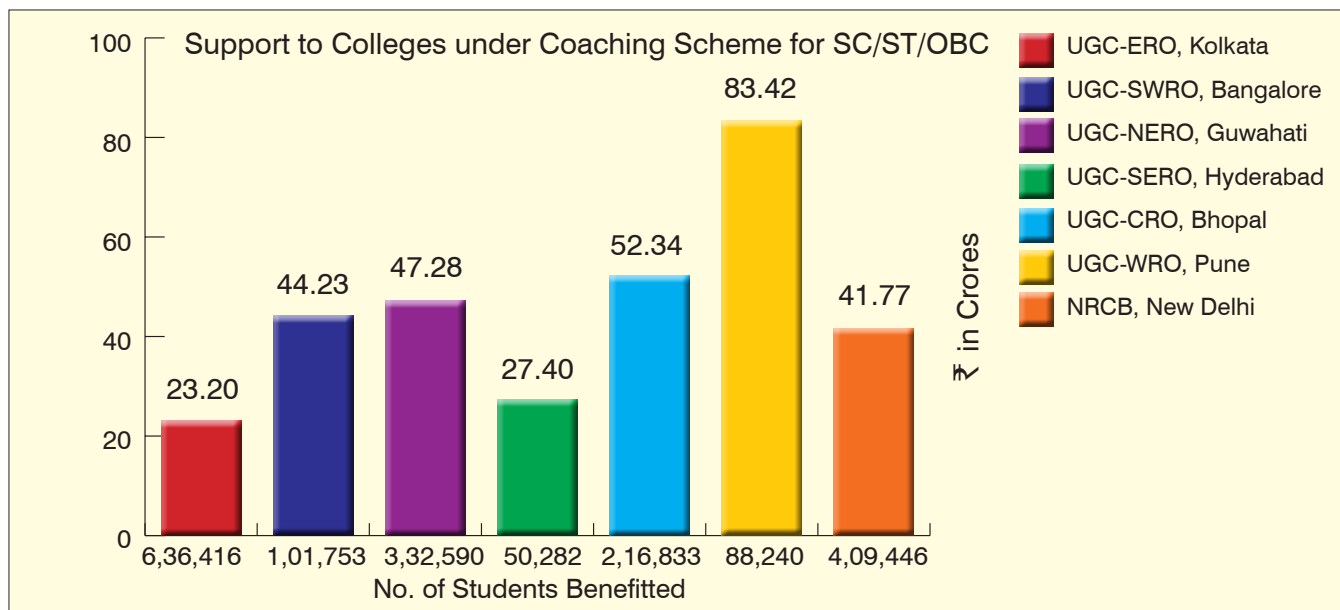
Equal Opportunity Cells for SC/ST/Minorities/OBC



Coaching Scheme for SC/ST/Minorities /OBC

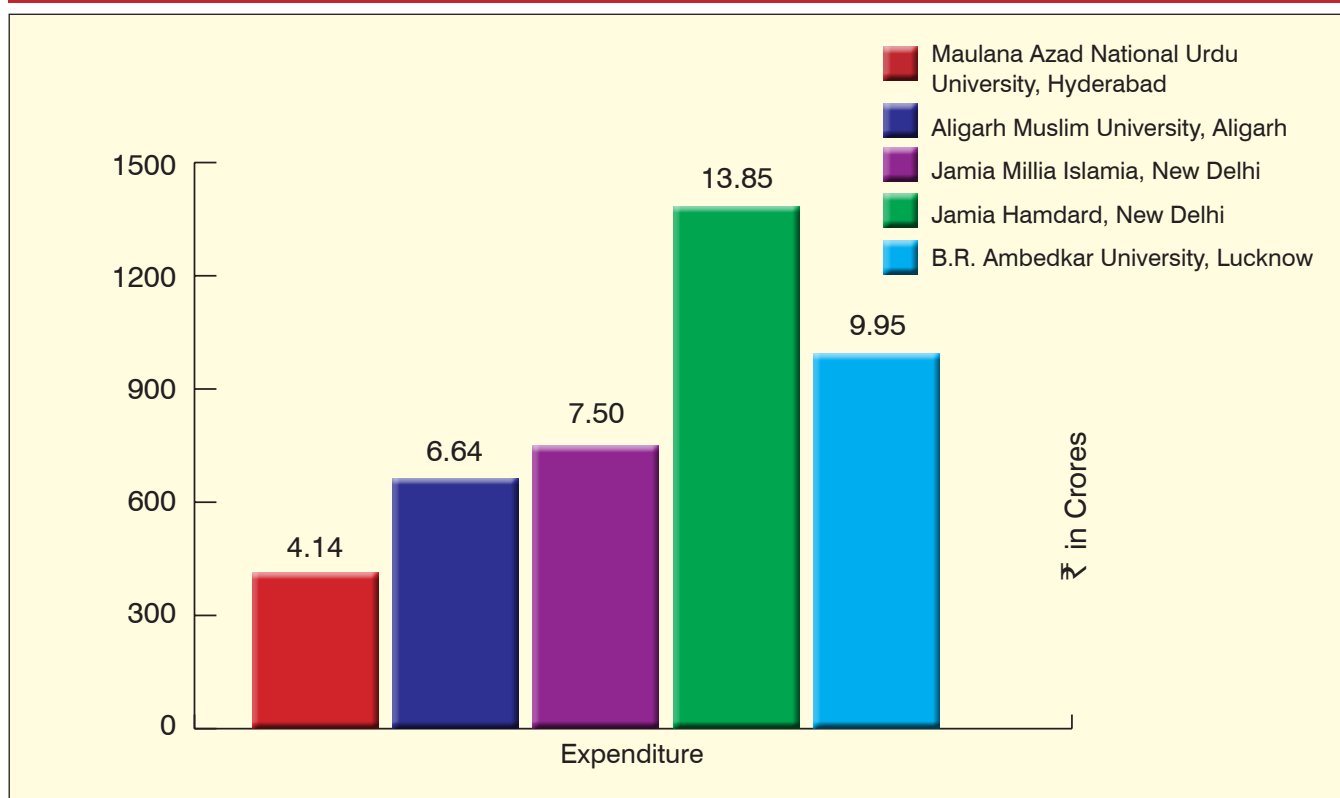


Coaching Classes for SC/ST/OBC & Minorities



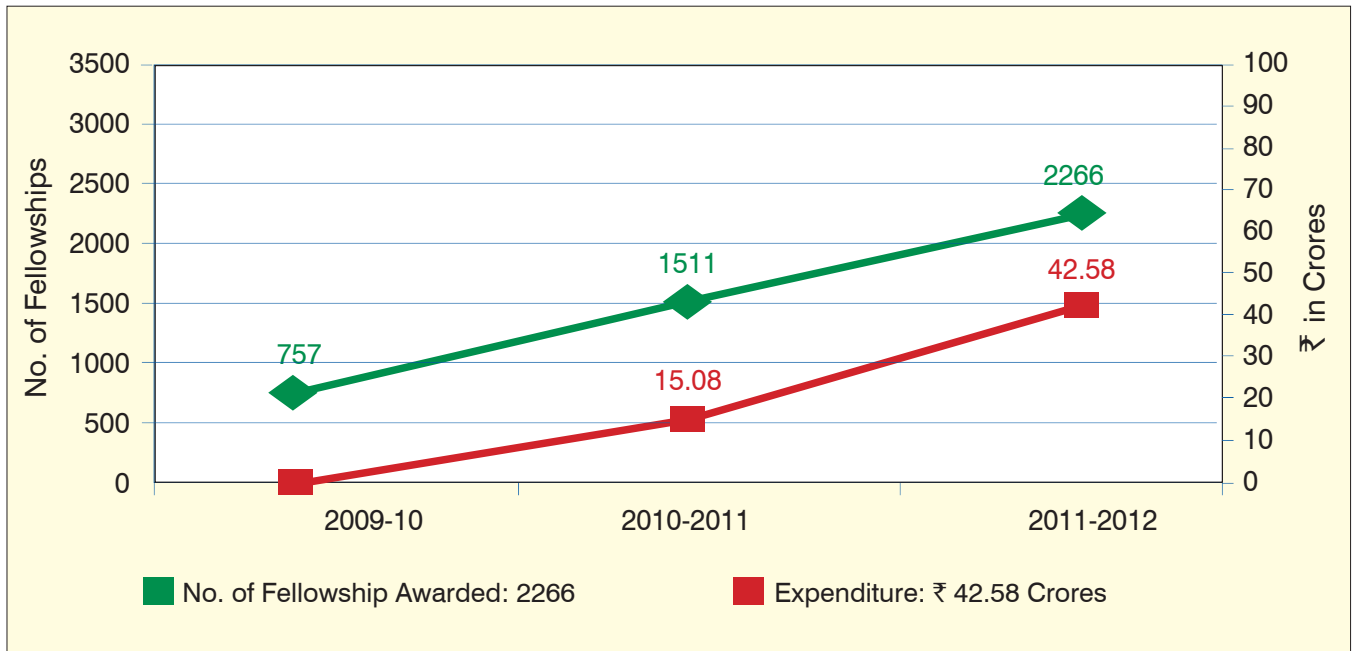
Total Expenditure: ₹ 319.64 Crores Total No. of Students Benefitted: 18,35,560

Residential Coaching Academies for Minorities/SC/ST

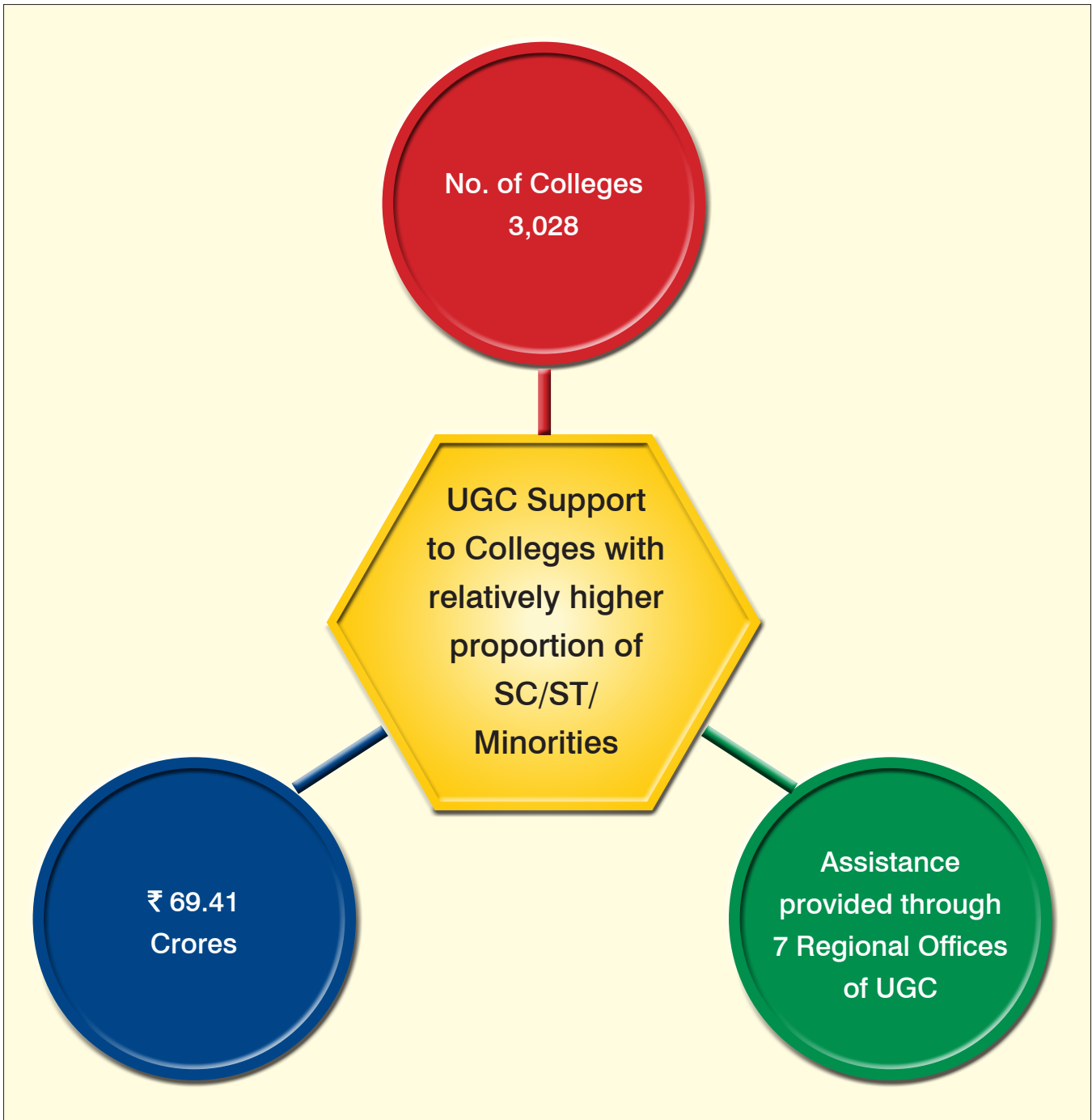


Total Universities: 5 Total Expenditure: ₹ 42.08 Crores

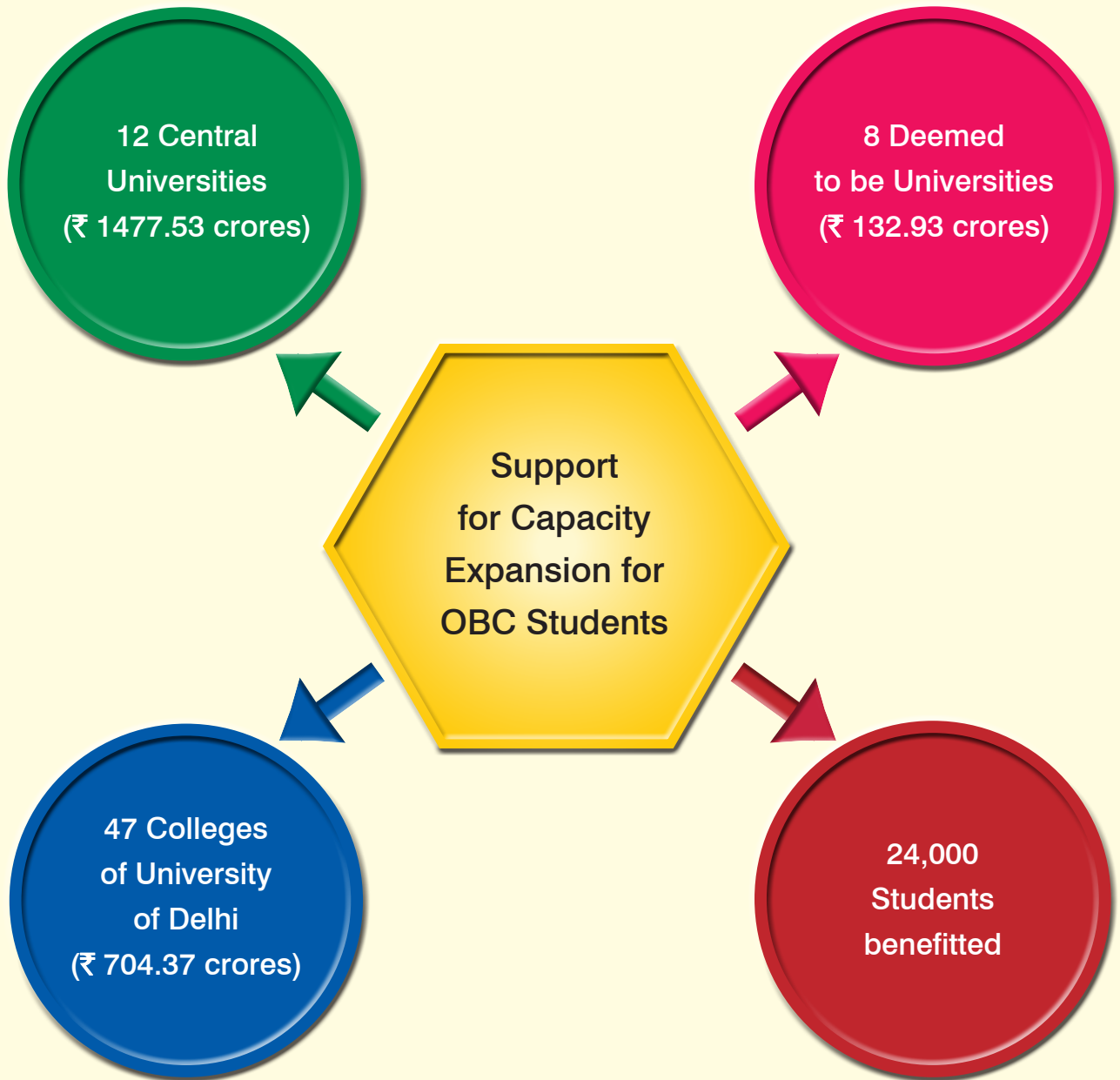
Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minorities



Support to Colleges with relatively higher proportion of SC/ST/ Minorities



Capacity Expansion for OBC Students



Institutions Benefitted: 67

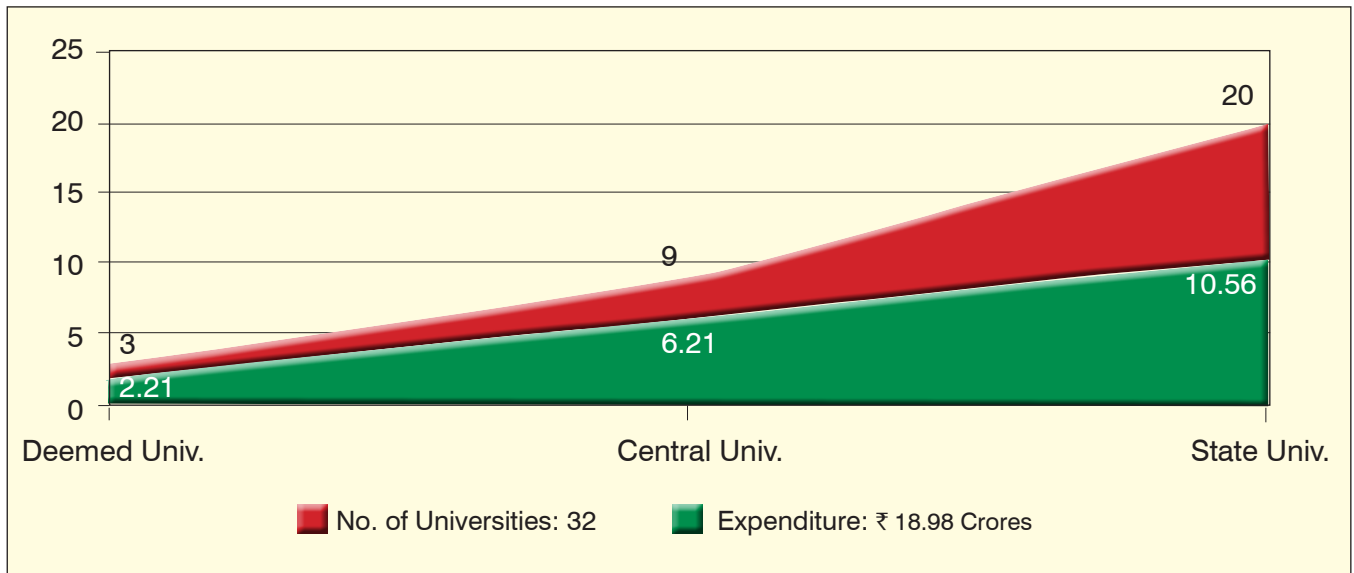
Students Benefitted: 24,000 approx.

Expenditure – ₹ 2314.83 Crores

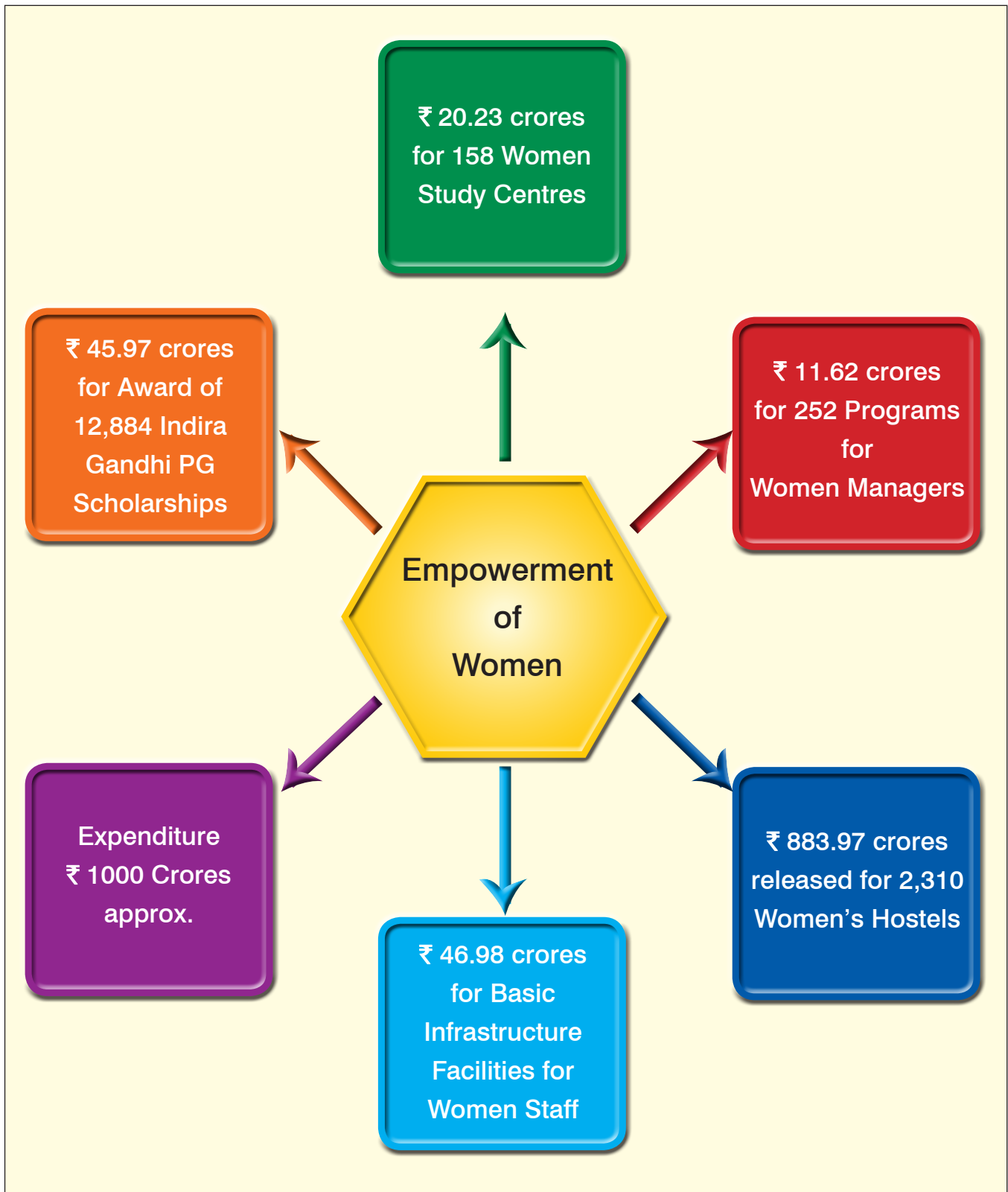
Support to Persons With Disability (PWD)



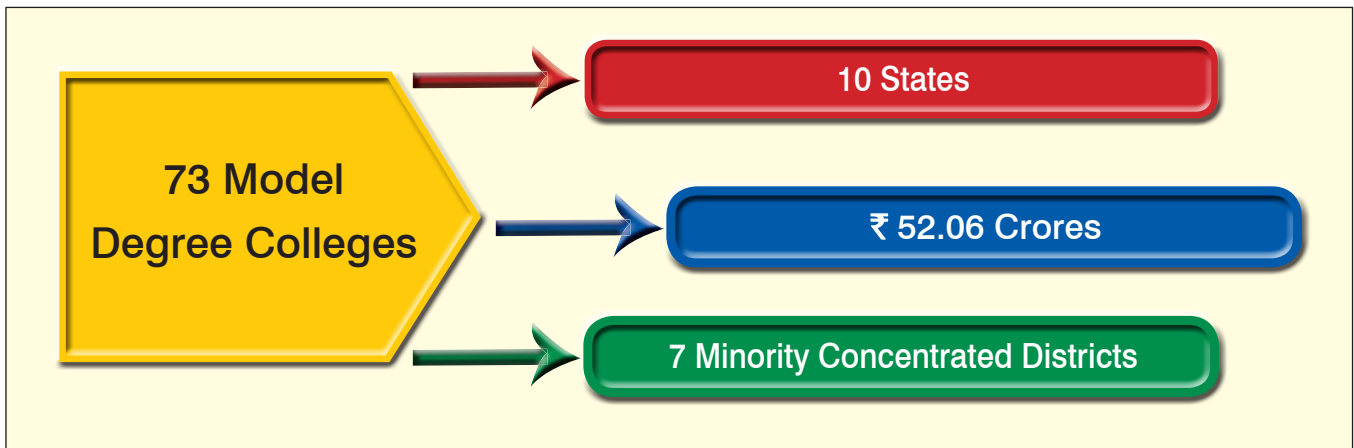
Centres for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusion



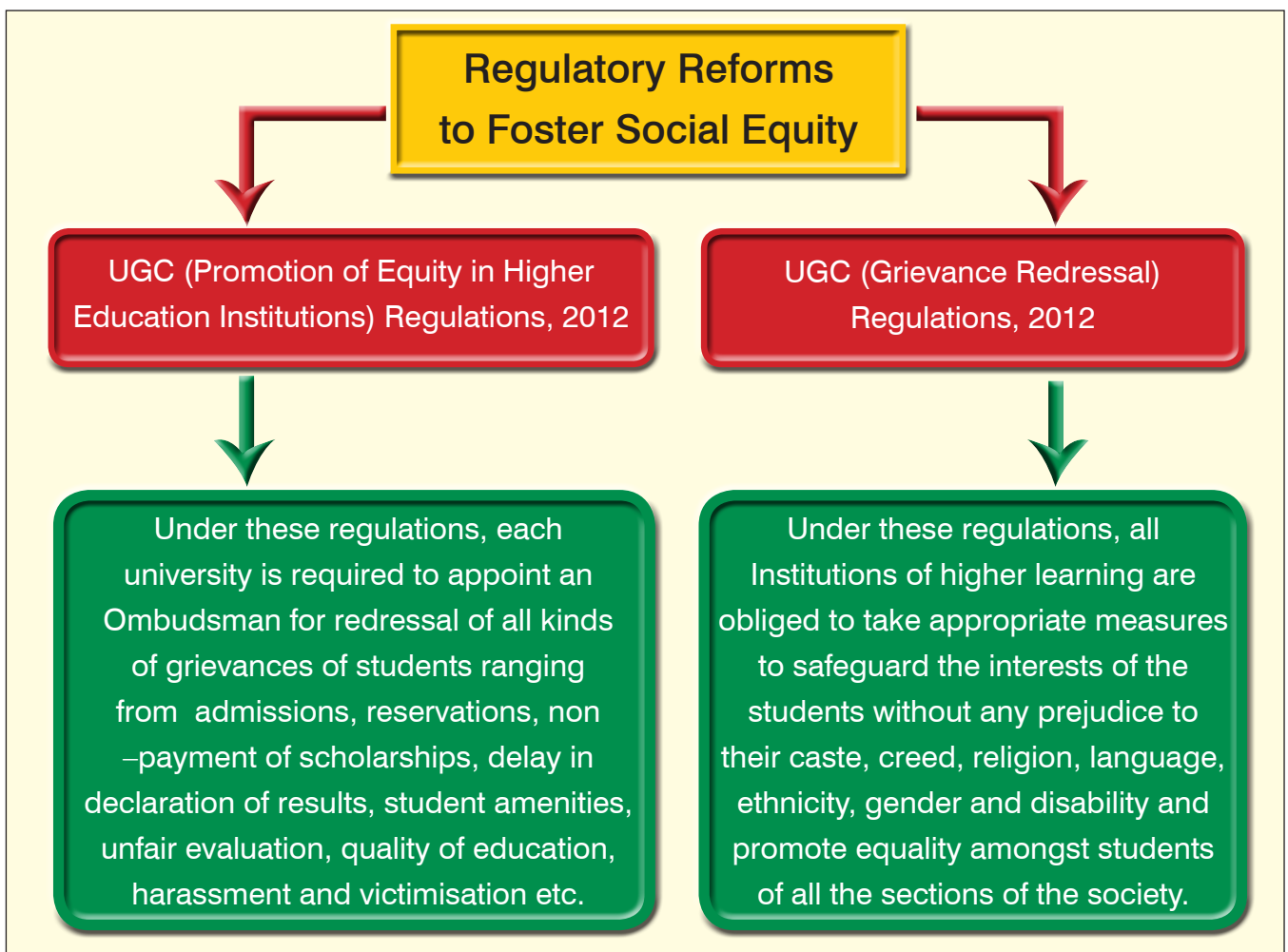
Schemes for Empowerment of Women



Promotion of Higher Education in Educationally Backward Districts



Regulatory Reforms to Foster Social Equity



Social and Regional Equity : Futuristic Concerns

The UGC proposes to further pro-actively address the concerns of social and regional equity in higher education, as its futuristic agenda.

- UGC will endeavour to provide continued special support to historically disadvantaged groups for their faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth.
- UGC will make sustained efforts to improve enrolment ratios and reduce drop-out rates, specially for girl children among SCs/STs/OBCs and Minorities. Equal Opportunity Cells to be made proactive to ensure equity and inclusion. Ensuring necessary inputs for maximum utilization of 27% seats for OBCs in all Central Educational Institutions.
- UGC will design special schemes to address equity and inclusion in respect of Minorities, Women and Weaker sections.
- UGC will review the existing schemes for social and regional equity and, if necessary a new system may be designed to overcome the difficulties experienced in the past and to ensure that special interventions for the disadvantaged categories are implemented in letter and spirit.
- UGC will launch multi-sectoral development programmes in 90 Minority Concentration Districts to further strengthening and ensuring increased participation of minority groups in higher education.
- UGC will initiate special action plans for persons with disabilities in consultation with stakeholders to ensure that their concerns are adequately met as defined in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
- UGC will strive to enhance participation in higher education through new and innovative programmes for the North-eastern Region.
- UGC will make concerted efforts for implementation of reservation policies in Universities and Colleges with a view to ensuring increased participation of marginalised sections of the society in higher education.



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