

Project title	The Study on Kerala Government Certificate Examination (KGCE) Courses in Engineering
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Abstract

Kerala Government Certificate Examination (KGCE) Courses in Engineering promotes skill education for job seekers with SSLC qualification. There are 156 KGCE institutions functioning in Kerala, under the control of the Department of Technical Education (DTE), Government of Kerala. In June 2017, Higher Education Department of Government of Kerala entrusted KSI to conduct a status study of KGCE Institutions with the broad objective to enumerate the number of private institutions conducting KGCE courses, student intake, fee structure, apprenticeship/internship arrangements etc.

Census method was used to list out all KGCE institutions working in the districts of Kerala. Service of 26 qualified (Graduates and above) Investigators was used for data collection. Responses of institution heads, teachers, staff, old students, present students, and other stakeholders were collected through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) organized in 14 districts. A declining trend in the number of successful students in KGCE examinations could be seen from the examination of data during five years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. Conduct of examination at the end of two years imposed unnecessary burden on KGCE students.

Technical education plays a vital role in development of the country's human resource by creating skilled manpower, enhancing industrial productivity, and improving quality of life. The study found that KGCE courses, providing technical/skill education opportunity to more than 10,000 SSLC pass outs every year. Results of the study suggested the need for re-structuring of KGCE courses to make it relevant to current field situations. Institutions with limited infrastructure and insufficient trainers failed to provide sufficient practical sessions to students. Many Institutions were not keen on helping SC/ST students to avail benefits of stipend.

The study made recommendations for strengthening of KGCE courses in the state. Department of Technical Education (DTE) was suggested to take steps to give graded accreditation to KGCE Institutions based on appropriate indicators like re-structuring of KGCE courses. KGCE institutions providing own arrangements for internship/apprenticeship training to students were suggested to give weightage while giving graded accreditation. It was recommended to revise the tuition fee of KGCE courses. Formation of a KGCE Syllabus Revision Committee with experts and stakeholders was recommended. Formation of a Textbook Committee was recommended.

