

Geological Curricula for the 21st Century: The Indian Context

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Modern education in geology began in India in the second half of the 19th century, a little after the establishment of the Geological Survey of India in 1851. The curricula drafted then continued till more universities, in addition to Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, started instruction in geology at graduate and post-graduate levels. There were reviews of these curricula periodically after Indian attained independence, by Krishnan, Chalmers Roy and committees appointed by the University Grants Commission, as geophysics, geochemistry and other inter-disciplinary subjects were introduced and subsequently new branches like marine geology, nuclear geology and statistical geology, and remotesensing also found their place. After implementing the recommendations of the 1979 UGC Committee, another committee of the UGC reviewed their recommendations and submitted fresh proposals regarding curriculum in geosciences with particular reference to B.Sc structure and academic programmes, introduction of environmental geology, geotectonics, geo-exploration, and post-graduate education in geology and geophysics. This pattern consists of core courses to give professional grounding in the M.Sc courses to be succeeded by post-M.Sc and M. Tech. courses of three years duration that offer specialisation, including projects and dissertations. This scheme will continue in the 21st century till at least 2010.