

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1632
ANSWERED ON 15.03.2023

Master's degrees in Guidance, Counselling and Family therapy

1632 Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Universities awarding Master's degrees in Guidance, Counselling and Family therapy;
- (b) whether the above said degree program is considered equivalent to a Master's degree in Psychology, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether in view of the fact that the Master's degrees in Guidance, Counselling and Family therapy is a specialized degree training for students to get employment as Counsellors, whether Government will consider declaring the said degree as equivalent to degree in psychology and remove this anomaly; and
- (e) the time-line by when the equivalence will be awarded?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Dr. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (e): The University Grants Commission (UGC) specifies degrees in accordance with the provisions of section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956. The right of conferring or granting degrees is exercised only by a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act or an institution deemed to be a University under section 3 or an institution specially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees.

The UGC has informed that as per All India Survey of Higher Education Portal 2020-21, only Indira Gandhi National Open University is offering PG diploma in the discipline "Counselling and Family therapy" and M.Sc in the discipline "Counselling and Family therapy".

Further, it has also informed that equivalence of degrees is not determined by the UGC. For higher education purposes, it is decided by the university concerned and for employment purposes by the employing organisation.
