



Professional Education-Concepts and Innovation

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Abstract:

This paper discusses the the current situation prevailing in professional education. The authors have conducted researches in the professional colleges and have come to the conclusion that more attention could be given to practical examinations than the theory examinations. This article also deals subjects like expansion, equity, excellence, employability etc.

1.Introduction

We are living in an era of globalization driven by Science and Technology. Education aims at raising the confidence of an individual, to dream to achieve something high and translate his dream into action. All parts of country and all segments of our society must be developed so that India becomes a developed nation. The Indian system of higher education paradoxically has no relevance to the common person and his needs. It has distanced itself from the real world.

Within the system of colleges and Universities, there are distances between disciplines. Within a single campus, disciplines often grow in complete ignorance even of each other's presence. This lack of dialogue becomes more profound when we talk of areas like engineering, medicine teacher training etc., Here we have ended up with statutory bodies which exist purely for the task of regulation. It is ironic that they do not have the power to determine whether an institution that claims to train engineers or doctors has the wherewithal to do so. Nor do they have sufficient say in designing the academic programme influenced by the statutory bodies like MCI or AICTE.

2.Expansion

The foremost strategy in revamping higher education must start with 'expansion'. This principle is two fold. 1. Opening more and more new colleges. 2. Increasing the strength of the existing colleges. The focus will be on increasing the enrolment of students in the new as well as in the existing institutions. There must be a plan to motivate students towards higher education. Economically backward and the rural students should be helped with incentives like scholarships and fellowships. The top most priority is to exploit the available and forthcoming resources to develop a healthy society.

3.Equity

The second priority in higher education must be in terms of economics status and gender. As Bharathyar dreamt, en-number of girl students vies with boys in attaining degrees and obtaining gold medals. Significant number of students coming from economically weaker communities is learning in our centers of higher education. Anyway, the percentage of such students needs improvement and enhancement.

4.Excellence

The present state of 'excellence' is not up to our expectation. Radical revamping is the dire need of the hour. Four major factors that affect the progress in reaching the goal are

1. Shortage of qualified teachers 2. Inadequate infrastructure 3. Faulty examination and valuation system 4. Irrelevant curriculum.

4.1.Shortage of Qualified Teachers

We are running short of sufficient skilled faculty. Institutes for the development qualified and well-equipped teachers must be developed. Fresh graduates without teaching experience have to staff the classes at present as far as self-finance institutes are concerned as the managements want to curtail the establishment expenditures. Fresh graduates as well as the working teachers should undergo sufficient training in the national and international level faculty development programme.

4.2.Inadequate infrastructure

Colleges and universities must be equipped with adequate infrastructure. The monitoring committees like AICTE, UGC and MCI should see that this prime concern is truly translated in to reality. The present attempt remains that somehow or other the rules regarding infrastructure are evaded or sidelined.

4.3.Examination and Evaluation

The existing examination system in higher education is mostly theory oriented. The students learn subjects by rote memory, write the examination and get through the examination. Practical examinations are conducted in the respective institutions in a lighter vein. Our suggestion is to video graph the entire practical examination so that the marks awarded during these examination sessions are reliable and justifiable. The undue importance and tension over the final examination can be avoided by continual assessment like seminars, projects, innovations, knowledge application, analytical ability and logical thinking. Largely learner and teacher autonomy must be given importance.

4.4.Irrelevant curriculum

There is a wide gap between the ideal expectation and actual availability. Revamp must be made based on the recent trend and current needs of the industries and society. "Campus to corporate" must be goal of any educational institution. In other words, a

curriculum developer must aim at “lab to land”. One point that must be considered for all disciplines is ‘Ethics and Values’. Value Education is the utmost need of the hour.

5. Employability

Our graduates are not employment – ready. Only a small percentage of our fresh Engineers is ready to take any employment; may be for any company or for teaching. The present system lays its focus only on transfer of knowledge or storing some data. The proposed curriculum must aim at developing skills. By skills, we mean only communication and soft skills. We forget the domain skill, which is necessary for the industries. Institutions must prepare a curriculum to ensure employment immediately when the students receive their certificates.

6.E – Governance

In higher education, the administration must have the following as its primary goal viz objectivity, responsibility, responsiveness and accountability. ICT can be used as a tool to bring in accountability at every level – from admission, conduct of examination, announcing the results, to the issue of certificates.

7. Involving Society

In all these endeavours, the participation of the society will make the attempt a success. Hence, the involvement of the Society must be made use of. Without private-public partnership, we cannot achieve the target of universalisation of higher education. Voluntary, Selfless service and cooperation from all quarters can be welcome.

8. Encouragement

A dilettante attitude is observed among some of the students enrolled in higher education. This attitude remains an obstacle to the achievement of goals and mission in higher education. Such students need constant encouragement and proper counseling so that they can have a consistent teaching learning atmosphere and attain win-win performances. A body of training and placement in every institute and consortium among these institutions will pave the way for finding employment to would be engineers and doctors. The performance of these placement cells will throw a light on the vast area of unexploited resources that are craving for the services of our future technocrats. This will shake the less affair attitude of the teacher and the taught.

9. Use Of Library

True learning commences from self-learning and real thinking otherwise called creativity. This only caters to the present competing world's competitiveness need and requirement. It could only be possible by a well-equipped library and the effective use the same. Suitable time may be allotted for library-study in the timetable and a supervised library reading encouraged.

10. Conclusion

Briefly, education is the panacea for all miserable situations in a country. It aims at modifying the behaviour of an individual towards a desirable state. It must be designed in a manner, which gives more confidence to a learner. This ideal state could be possible only by giving thrust to more practicality rather than mere theory and theory-related education. Hence, the enforcement of rules and regulations of higher education faculty must be canalized in such a way.

11.Reference

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