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HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL.

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Abstract:

Meritocracy of education at higher levels is more important than mere quantitative expansion. It is often said that quality of higher education in the country is deteriorating with quantitative expansion.

INTRODUCTION:

A general lack of accountability has been often mentioned as the shortcoming of the administrative system. And it is said to be even more pronounced in the university system. However several well-known educationists have stated on more than one occasion that students do not study and teachers do not teach, of course such a general statement would be doing injustice to many diligent students and devoted teachers.

Good quality higher education is indispensable for all-round development of people as well as the nation. Higher education without quality is meaning less. Teaching, learning and evaluation is major criteria which ensure quality in higher education.

Quality has been a central issue for researchers in the field of education for quite some years now. The shift has been observed as from quality to quality control to quality assurance and now it is total quality management (TQM). The growth of the Total quality management phenomenon in higher education institutions (HEIs) has been radical in the last part of the 20th century. Still the application of total quality management in higher education institutions is questionable and the implementation rate is very negligible in comparison to the other sectors like, industry, service sectors etc.

DEFINITION OF TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT:

Mukhopadhyay, (2005) remarks that, depending on the goals the term quality in education has been defined as excellence in education (peters) and waterman-1982); value addition in education (fiegenbaum-1952); fitness for educational purpose (Joram and gryna-1988); conformance of education output to planned goals, specifications and requirements (Glimore-1974; rosby-1979); defect avoidance in education process (Crosby-1979) and meeting or exceeding customers expectations of education (parsuraman-1985).

Dahigard et al (1995) define total quality education as “an educational culture characterised by increased customer satisfaction through continuous improvement in which all employees and students actively participate”.

Why meritocracy declining at higher education:

Due to imperfection in the knowledge and skill industry the think tanks views are normally neglected. The current market led developments are taken up by the society without forecasting the

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knowledge market. Building of knowledge and skill requires certain set of organization through the formal and informal education should be designed on the basis of human resources planning. Higher education in some of the streams does not gather any skills and capacities. A gap between demand and supply always occurs in higher education.

Market requires quality in skills and knowledge. Obviously the quality of the education should be judge by the market. To that effect NAAC is rating the higher education by applying various parameters and methods of judging the quality of both educational institutions and the teachers. This should be followed as a continuous evaluation procedure.

Higher education includes two groups. One is related to the teaching of practical skills in post secondary, sub-degree, technical and vocational training institutions and the other deals with more theoretical educational services provided by universities, colleges and specialized professional schools. Higher education in India consists of university education and education imparted in the colleges.

Best practices in Teaching, Learning and Evaluation:

The process of NAAC, on reaccreditation of the colleges is already started and many colleges have to go for Re-accreditation in covering all the seven criterias. Among all these seven criterias, the first and the most important one is Teaching, learning and Evaluation, which gets the higher weightage of 450 i.e. 45% of the total scores, which needs to be considered very carefully in getting higher scores and grades.

So what are the best practices that are carried out by the various colleges in teaching learning and evaluation needs to be considered and what is to be done to improve the same.

It includes following aspects:

- 1) Admission process and students profile
- 2) Catering to diverse needs
- 3) Teaching, learning process
- 4) Teacher quality
- 5) Evaluation process and reforms
- 6) Best practice in teaching learning and evaluation

1) Admission process in the institutions should be carried out through entrance tests with due attention to the students, interests and aptitude. It should be transparent giving opportunity to all classes of people.

2) The strength of the students in the colleges should have been an increasing one, rather than decreasing. Decreasing trend indicates the failures, though the reasons might be many more. It would be better to an Institution, if it has got many ranks in the Annual Examination during the last five years.

3) The colleges may be placed at the higher grade if they cater to different needs or requirements of the students ex colleges having NSS unit with annual campus, N.C.C. units with regular Annual campus, Extraordinary volunteers and higher ranks in sports at the university level state level and at the National level may be expected to get higher grades. Students who won prizes are the assets of the colleges. For such students necessary opportunity must be given.

4) Teaching, learning and Evaluation is a continuous process which needs due care for promoting effective teaching, teachers should be well qualified. Simply going to the classroom and dictating notes makes a Teacher dictator. But a teacher should go beyond that. He should have passed either SET or NET or Ph.D. and he should have been trained at least for six months in the Teaching process. Then he becomes the Master of Teaching, which is essential in Teaching and learning. He should teach beyond the curriculum. He should hold group discussions in the classroom and conduct class seminars regularly so that students take keen interest in learning. Similarly he should hold interaction session in the classroom to make the students to know the subject clearly. Intercollegiate quiz competition and workshops should be arranged to the students to improve their general knowledge. Ad- on courses are to be conducted along with regular classes such as computer. Application and spoken English. We are neglecting spoken English, basically in rural colleges, thereby we are killing the career of the students. For that purpose, they should be made to learn spoken English to complete in the competing world. Teachers should use modern methods of teaching through the aid of OHP and LCD projectors. Along with all these, different types of skills, such as communication skill, managerial skill, technical skill and administrative skill are to be taught to the students. This will help to improve their personality, which in turn creates interest in learning by the students.

5) Evaluation is a means to an end but not an end in itself. Clearly, specifying what is to be evaluated has priority in the evaluating process. The process of evaluation is done by the universities through tasks and

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annual examinations, under which a student is made to omit within three hours whatever he has learned in four months, but this method is cumbersome. Practically, we want to test his knowledge and also his ability to communicate. For this purpose, evaluation should be done partly through written examination (By 50%) and partly by interaction (By 50%). Similarly, the college should have to obtain the feedback from students to evaluate the teachers. So also feedback of the students through Teachers. This helps to identify the areas of deficiency and to correct them in the future.

To facilitate effective teaching, the colleges require basic infrastructure such as well built-up building with necessary furnitures, ventilation and space and also laboratories. Besides an institution should have library with library automation, E-mail services, electronic publishing, digital and practice of assignment. All this definitely makes an institution proud of it.

Above all these, the colleges should have a TQM cell consisting of all the stakeholders viz, the Management, the teacher, students and the parents. All these share holders of higher education should meet at least once in three months to analyse the performance of the college and to suggest some measures to plug the loopholes in the performance and to improve the academic excellence.

SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

The general agreement on trade and services (G.P.T.S.) under the W.T.O. is the first ever set of multi lateral agency to promote trade in education it made few suggestions.

- 1) Updating and Innovations in the educational system needs strategic action.
- 2) Making education more inter-disciplinary offering a capataria system is required.
- 3) Indian education system needs to explore the fields where it holds master such as yoga, Music, Fine arts, Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Naturopathy.
- 4) India has to develop internationally relevant short term courses in social sciences, humanities, applied arts and other areas, where expertise is available.
- 5) Stronger partnership needs to be developed between Indian institutions of higher education and of other countries.
- 6) Developing an international approach to quality assurance and accreditation is the need of the hour.
- 7) Bench of Marketing initiatives like NAAC are useful to build a culture of excellence, the management principals, teachers and students, non-teaching staff, the entire institution should be able to commit themselves to a paradigm shift in favour of excellence, though internal, self-initiated bench marking.
- 8) Innovative leadership by university vice-chancellors, principals, Teacher's, political leaders, administrators and policy makers is required to broaden and expand the higher education in the Global market.

CONCLUSION:

To conclude with the statement made by Prof. Kohli an educationist said: 4 pillars in Good education system are.

- 1) Discipline 2) Healthy Tradition 3) organisational culture and 4) Character These four pillars are to be strengthened for the betterment of a nation

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