

## EDITORIAL

### *Creating Quality Culture Within An Institution And Then...*

Thanks to the National Board of Accreditation - NBA, Quality Awareness has come up in a big way; but getting accreditation for 3 years or even 5 years is not enough. Quality journey has no destination; it has to be continuous and unending, always seeking higher and higher degree of excellence. The number of Engineering Colleges & Polytechnics accredited by NBA, so far, since the NBA started functioning a decade back, is dismally poor. Can we do something more for Quality enhancement?

If quality is a major concern for all the Engineering Colleges & Polytechnics, why not add a department of Quality Education ( or Centre of Quality & Excellence ) in our Institutions, similar to the departments of Civil, Mechanical etc. that we are having today. We can associate senior faculty members from the faculty with this Centre of Quality & Excellence. Their job would be to study Quality literature from Journals & Books and make presentations in a monthly meeting of the entire faculty, which should be a regular feature. Even other faculty members should be encouraged to study Quality and make presentations. In such meetings Quality issues and their implementation should be discussed; philosophy of TQM and its relevance to engineering education should be thoroughly explored. This will help the faculty to understand the Quality Concept, pick up Quality message and develop a passion for Quality which is so essential for a building up Quality in the Institutions. This will also facilitate the Principals' task of inducting; maintaining & enhancing Quality. With this, NBA accreditation will not be a difficult task as it appears to be, today because by this time Quality will have become a habit of the faculty members and a Culture of the Institution. Many problems of the Institutions can be, thus, identified and tackled and the Institution will be marching on its path of Quality & Excellence. But, there will be problems which cannot be tackled at the Institutional level for want of resources, expertise and some other reasons. Also growing and developing of an Institution in isolated manner, is not desirable in this era of globalization. Hence, we have to try to come together and grow together, rather grow synergetically. For this we can form a Consortium of a group of 10 to 15 Colleges and Polytechnics. The Consortium members particularly the Principals should meet at regular intervals, identify their problems, share their experiences, discuss these and try to find a way out using the combined resources, expertise and talent of the consortium Institutions. The problems of training of Technical teachers, organizing Workshops, Seminars and conferences on selected themes can be planned on a long term basis. This will help to bring in Quality in the system itself. And also enable the consortium to become a learning Organization - a demand of the 21st century.

Such Consortia can be formed at different places in a State forming a network and leading to the formation of a State level Federation of Consortia. Issues like State & National Policies matters, views on the practices and rules & Regulation of the State & Central Government, the A.I.C.T.E,

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the University etc.can be thoroughly discussed and commented upon and our views can be communicated in a effective manner to the Policy makers at State as well as Central level. Such a mechanism is totally absent today, hence, an urgent need of the same.

***Can we think on these lines and see and watch the outcome?***

It will be gratifying to note that Engineering Education Foundation, Pune, has taken a lead by establishing five such Consortia at Nagpur, Amaravati, Aurangabad, Kolhapur & Pune. And five more centers will be established shortly. Soon it is proposed to form a State Federation of the Consortia. Similar developmnet in other State can lead to the formation of a National Federation and then? the National federation and the State Federations can put forth their suggestions in a meaningful and powerful way before the Policy Makers and make sure that their suggestions are reflected in the national and State policies on Engineering Education formulated by the Central/State Governments, year to year.

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