

8. MALADIES IN AFFILIATING TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA

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Engineering Education has always been at the cross roads. Policy makers are at the cross roads not knowing how to accommodate the fast changing developments. It is understood that the knowledge profile of an engineer becomes completely obsolete within three years, if he is not in touch with the developments in the respective field. If he is a computer science graduate, his knowledge profile gets grounded to zero, if he is not in touch with the developments in computers and information technology field. It is also understood that the technology innovations, we see today, is one third of what we would see in the next five years. Our capability and capacity are inadequate to face the new inventions and innovations.

The effect of the Tsunami in the education sector is that all our teachers have become obsolete; the teachers, who are not in touch with the developments, have become redundant irrespective of their age and experience. The educational system and the universities that govern the educational system are headed by people who provide very weak leadership. They could not accept the challenges in the technology of education. Administrators of education and policy makers continue to work with the age old techniques and technologies and are not willing to venture for new changes in technology of education caused by the inventions and innovations.

Seniors in academics are not in tune with the current technologies; some are not ready to accept the new technologies.

Unfortunately, our educational system is such that the degrees and diplomas are awarded to the aspirants through the system called university. And such universities are headed by the highly academic stalwarts. Such stalwarts normally are not willing to adapt to the changes. They have limitations in accepting the new inventions and innovations in the educational methodologies. Faster progress in education and educational methodologies depend upon the Presidents/Vice-Chancellors/Rectors and Vice-Rectors. However innovative these younger teachers are, the whole progress in education limits at a point where the academic leaders stay.

If one critically looks at the educational maladies, the following issues and concerns would emerge:

Concern

1. Educational system is not dynamic to accommodate the inventions and innovations of new technologies.
2. Engineering Education lacks strong knowledgeable leadership to face and understand the obsolescence in educational system.

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3. Engineering Education lacks courageous leadership to venture for new technologies in educational system.
4. Engineering Education lacks in understanding the changing social relevance and the social responsibility.
5. The teacher, educational administrator and policy makers of education are unaware that obsolescence is engulfing them every minute.
6. The teachers and administrators are also unaware that new innovations are pervading in the learning process and delivery methodology.
7. The teaching – learning process is getting more complex which the policy makers are unable to appreciate.

Issues today

- Definition of teacher has changed;
- Definition of student has changed;
- Definition of classroom has changed;
- Definition of conventional degrees and diplomas has changed;
- Definition of research methodology has changed;
- Definition of education itself has changed;
- Internet has brought revolution;
- Internet has introduced complexities in understanding the education;
- Internet has also brought simplicity for complex educational issues;
- Teaching delivery methodology has become complex;
- With Internet, difficult concepts have been understood easily;
- No place for values of life in the fast

changing educational scenario.

In the light of the above, we must look at the Affiliating structure of Universities of Technology. Since the inception of University Grants Commission (UGC), various committees appointed by UGC were of the opinion that affiliating structure of University should vanish. Smaller autonomous institutions should evolve. Smaller universities should be established in order that the issues raised above could be addressed.

States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Karnataka started affiliating Technology Universities to govern all the technical and management institutions in the respective states. It ended up in seeing thousands of institutions under one university.

Affiliating such large number of institutions result in the following problems:-

1. Institutions are mainly started by registering a trust under the Indian Trust Act. When the trustees have difference of opinion, they end up in court to settle. The students enrolled in such institutions undergo lot of hardship because the administration of the institution is in turmoil.
2. Faculties recruited in such affiliating institutions are not safeguarded with respect to their salary, pensioner benefits etc.
3. Value education imparting cannot be monitored in such large system
4. Student discipline is a major problem because they use IT enabled gadgets in the campus.
5. Internet is a vital component and monitoring the availability is a major task.
6. Land issues are frequently cropping up.
7. Capitation is a serious issue that engulfs the affiliating self funded institutions.
8. Monitoring the infra-structure is a major

- task.
9. Monitoring the quality of education being offered has to be effective.
 10. Monitoring the false advertisements made by the institutions should be effective.
 11. Monitoring the trust for its effectiveness in maintaining the funds as agreed upon, in the registered trust documents.
 12. Conducting examination for such a large system is a herculean task.
 13. Evaluation of answer scripts with all sincerity is a question mark.
 14. Maintaining the history of students and make the tracking mechanism of students is a difficult task with the presently available system and manpower.
 15. Stimulating such large number of institutions for promoting research is not an easy task.
 16. Monitoring the quality of teachers in the long run is also a difficult task.
 17. Such large universities should support parallel accreditation process.
 18. The principals and Vice-Chancellors are not

enlightened with these problems, nor they have the drive to achieve the results(there are always some exceptions).

19. Large number of institutions means large scale corruption in affiliation, conducting examinations, evaluating the answer scripts, and in the whole monitoring process of education.
20. Large system will facilitate the political bosses to introduce corruption in all the possible forms which we are witnessing in the states mentioned above.

There are many more issues that concern the development of education in the affiliating structure of the university, specially in the appointment of Vice-Chancellors, Registrars and other posts critical to the development of the university.

Conclusion

In India, we cannot completely eliminate the affiliating system as a whole. However, we may introduce smaller universities with a maximum of only twenty technical institutions affiliated to any technical university. Involvement of political bosses in the making and running of the universities must be avoided in order to eliminate corruption.

