

EDITORIAL

ON FUNCTIONING OF A.I.C.T.E.

One of the main outstanding features of National Policy on Education - 1986 is that it has a Program of Action, which distinguishes it from all the previous policy statements of the Govt. of India on Education. As far as Technical Education is concerned, investing statutory powers in AICTE is the most significant aspect of this policy. However, the extent of enthusiasm and urgency associated with the functioning of AICTE is anything but encouraging. May be, this is the transition period, and things will be better, soon. AICTE Act (No. 52 of 1987) was passed by the parliament and immediately came into effect from 23.12.1987. It is more than 3 years since then and the AICTE has yet to make its presence felt, not to speak of making any impact on the system of Technical Education in our country. Even today, its functioning, its policies, its relations with other statutory bodies like UGC, state statutory universities are not well defined.

Some of the doubts that come across the minds of those concerned with Engineering Education are mentioned below :-

1. AICTE Council has a total membership of 51, which includes 34 appointed members, 15 ex-officio members and 2 elected members. But there is neither representation, for the teachers who is at the centre of the teaching environment for the Principals who is responsible for managing an educational institute. Why this important class-the teacher and the Principal-are totally neglected.
2. AICTE has been vested with statutory power. What does it exactly mean? The Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics are already governed by statutory bodies like the State Universities, UGC, State Boards of Technical Education.
3. When AICTE has recommended revised pay-scales (with effect from 1.1.1986) for Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics, why these pay-scales have not been implemented by many State Governments? Do they have an option? When AICTE recognises an Institution, does it imply that AICTE pay-scales have been implemented in that college.

4. Is it mandatory for an Engineering Institute - which has been sanctioned by the State Government and its affiliation granted by the State University, to seek AICTE recognition? What is the advantage/benefit/priviledge an Institution derives from such recognition? What does an Institution loose miss if it does not seek this AICTE recognition.
5. A large number of Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics have been established on no-grant basis in Maharashtra in 1983-84. AICTE has come into existance in 1988. It is nearly more than 3 years, but these Institutions have not been inspected by AICTE. Who is to take lead; whether AICTE or the individual Institutes?
6. What is the procedure for getting AICTE recognition? Is there any prescribed form of application. Is there any prescribed time limit for seeking or getting recognition?
7. It appears AICTE distinguishes between Govt. and private, no- grant basis Institution, and is partial to Govt. Institutions, Newly started Govt. Institutions, even without any infrastructure worth the name, have been recognised; How can this be explained?

It is in the interest of the Technical Education System that necessary clarification on the points mentioned above is given by the concerned authorities as this will facilitate the work of the Institutions who would be willing to seek. AICTE recognition and make its own contribution for strengthening the technical education system in the country and help accelerate our march towards quality and excellence.

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