

EDITORIAL

EXCELLENCE IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION :

Technical Education has made significant contribution to India's economic development. The programmes which have changed the country and diversified and augmented its production since independence, has been possible largely because of the technical manpower provided by our Institutions of Technical education be it an I.T.I. or Polytechnic or an Engineering College. Notwithstanding its positive achievements, our technical education system has not been working very satisfactorily and leaves much to be desired. The mere fact that a system exists and produces some results should not and cannot be a matter of consolation. Merely working is not enough. The efficiency of work and the results produced are of great significance. Promoting efficiency and effectiveness at all levels, by one and all, is the need of the hour. The time has come, now, when our motto should be not merely to work but to work for excellence.

What is excellence ? It is a state of highest performance which can be achieved only by exceptionally hard work coupled with a high degree of dedication to and determination to work for any worthy cause. To work for excellence should be not merely our motto but it should become our habit. Excellence cannot be purchased as a commodity in the market, nor can it be obtained as a Diploma or Degree from any institution; excellence is an attitude of mind, a habit which can be acquired and developed over a long period and requires an urge, a determined effort. It is a concept in totality and cannot be achieved in parts. Every technical institute has to strive to develop itself into a centre of creation of highest calibre wherein every one stretches himself to the maximum limits of his ability and capacity. But how to generate an environment conducive for ushering in excellence in our Technical Education System ?

The Technical Education system rests on the shoulders of policy matters, planners and administrators in general and on the Principals, Head of Department and the teachers in a technical institution, in particular. If we want excellence in technical education, our Prin-

cipals, Head of Departments and Teachers should be trained to work for excellence. An outstanding teachers attracts the finest students and creates an overall intellectual atmosphere in which there is team spirit, with individuals pushed to the very limits of their individual capability and also each deriving strength from the other in a resonant and supportive manner. An outstanding principal with great administrative and management capacity attracts both students and teachers; also the industries look to him for engineers to whom they can safely hand over the wheels of industry. It is mainly these two elements, the Principal and the teacher, on whom the reputation of an institution and the efficiency of the entire system of Technical Education rests. If we want excellence in Technical Education we must have excellent principals and Head of Departments and excellent teachers. But excellence does not come with Diplomas and Degrees. It has to be cultivated as a matter of habit induced as a part of professional skill and can be acquired only by an enlightened, determined and devoted person dedicated to the cause of Technical Education and hence let us train the Engineering / Teachers first for the teaching profession and also train a few of them as managers of Technical Education. With trained Principals and trained teachers we can be sure to have commended our march on the path of excellence.

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