

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT OF POLYTECHNIC - A KEY TO INDUSTRY-INSTITUTION INTERACTION

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Introduction :

The Indian industries at present are facing shortage of properly trained manpower inspite of the fact that every year more and more engineering graduates and diploma holders are joining the ranks of unemployed. It is a very strange situation. This is mainly because technical institutions still continue to follow conventional curriculum and training methods despite the rapid development in science, engineering technology and education technology. Consequently knowledge and skills imparted by the institution have very little relevance to industrial needs. To solve this problem, it is very essential to have a closer linkage between the institution and industry.

The engineering curriculum should be designed in collaboration with industry not only to develop in the students appropriate knowledge, intellectual abilities, physical skills and attitudes but also develop Professionalism. In fact, professional involvement should be central to student's training in the techni-

cal institutions.

Professional Involvement :

If the passout from technical institution has to face real life successfully with zeal, determination and vigour, he should develop appreciation of, interest for and motivation towards the world of industry. This process of involving student professionally must be initiated during his stay, in the institution. The change over from institution to industry should be smooth and not abrupt. The difference of the environment, method of working and culture between institution and industry should be as minimum as possible. This is a difficult job but the institution and industry together have to evolve a mechanism to inculcate professional involvement in technical student.

How to Inculcate Professional Involvement? :

To develop professionalism in the institution both teachers and students are to be involved in a wide variety

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professional activities involving industries very actively. To achieve this end following suggestions could be made :

Teachers :

1. Involvement of teachers in the problems and projects of the industries.
2. Carrying out developmental work for the industries specifically, small scale industries like new product development, plant layout etc.
3. Conducting short term, long term, part-time, day release and block release courses for the industrial personnel in the areas of new/emerging technologies, training technology, computers, management, etc.
4. Exchange of practising engineers and technical teachers.
5. Industrial training of all levels of teachers regularly.
6. Transfer of technology through carrying out relevant and needbased research.
7. Participation and presentation of papers in the seminars/conference organised by professional bodies and institutions.
8. Conducting Entrepreneurship Development programmes for students and helping young

entrepreneurs to solve their problems.

Students :

1. Systematic (well planned and organised) long term industrial training of students and frequent industrial visits.
2. Undertaking real life industrial projects by the students.
3. Extension lectures by practicing engineers.
4. Exhibition of industrial products at the technical institutions.
5. Involvement of practicing engineers with examinations.

Institution :

1. Involvement of practicing engineers in the curriculum development exercises and instructional material preparation work.
2. Involvement of institutions in the continuing education projects.
3. Organisation of seminars and conferences in the institutions in collaboration with professional bodies and industries.
4. Feedback from industry to technical institution.
5. Providing access to industry to use physical and human resour-

ces of the institution.

6. Arranging exhibition, demonstration and display of industrial products and literature.

Conclusion :

Teachers, students, practicing engineers and managers joining hands

together, understanding each other and working for mutual benefits will definitely inculcate professionalism in the technical institutions which in turn would develop deeper and long lasting industry-institution interaction. This would ultimately lead to improve the quality of passouts who will be more acceptable to the employers.

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GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

- 1) The articles should be typewritten and in duplicate, accompanied by the author's brief biodata (Not more than 100 words).
- 2) The length of the article should normally not exceed 3,000 words approximately.
- 3) The article should be sent six weeks earlier than the Month of Publication of the Quarterly Journal which is published in Jan. April, July and Oct. of every year.
- 4) The Synopsis of the article (not more than 300 words) should be sent immediately.

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