

EDITORIAL

Self Financed Engineering Institutes i.e. SFEI Special, 25th Issue of JEE.

The Journal of engineering education (JEE) started its publication in 1986, as the only quarterly in the country devoted to Engineering Education. Initially, its subscribers were mainly from Maharashtra but by now we have, subscribers from all the states; very soon we propose to take up a drive to reach a figure covering almost all the engineering colleges and polytechnics in the country. Our contributors are drawn from all the states; from J & K to Kerala and Gujraht to west Bengal. Our main concern is Engineering Education.

Since privatisation has come to stay, we feel that Self Financed Engineering Institutes i.e. SFEIs which dominate the Engineering Education Scenario today, deserve special attention in respect of quality and standard of Engineering Education. Hence, this special issue on SFEIs.

This is the 25 th issue and we are proud of it. We could involve so far, about 125 authors from all over the country; we are proud that this list includes the top most educationists as well as the budding ones, which is evident from the index page of any of these 25 issues published so far. We cover all topics and aspects that concern Engineering Education and have definitely been successful in spotlighting the current issues facing us from time to time. we have now another quarterly journal " Indian Journal of Tech. Education " published by ISTE and we welcome it. In view of the vastness of our country and our huge population, there is need for more and more of journals on engineering education in the country and we hope this number will increase, in days to come.

What is special about this special 25 th issue ?

Prof. A. Prabhakar, Principal of the first SFEC in the country - Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal (1956) narrates in his article " A decade of Spectacular Progress for MIT, Manipal" their experience in the growth and development as a SFEC and how this has been given an autonomous status, today. Professor V.D. Karad, Director M.I.T. Pune, In his article " Private Unaided Engineering Colleges - growth and future Directions " describes the conditions that led to the establishment of private unaided engineering colleges and polytechnics in Maharashtra and the problems that they face today, consequent to the Supreme Court judgement of Feb.1993. Advocate B.E. Avhad, a senior Advocate and an ex-chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra in his article " Professional Education - Some legal Aspects " discusses implications of the judgement and points out the likely adverse effects on the educational system. According to Advocate Avhad "The scheme (given by the Supreme Court) is unworkable and would produce the effects exactly opposite to the intended ones". Prof. B.M. Naik of S.G.G.S. College of Engineering and Technology, Nanded, presents, in brief, the desirable and not so desirable aspects of SFEIs in his article " Privatisation of Technical Education is good; but not good enough". He feels that professionalism needs to be inducted in SFEIs. Prof. P.D. Kulkarni, formerly Principal of TTTI Chandigarh and now an

Educational Consultant and system Analyst in his article "Participation of Teachers and Principals in Managing SFEI's" says "To provide quality services to these consumers the management of SFEI will have to introduce professionalism in their management to ensure both effectiveness and efficiency in their functioning". He narrates, in details, the implications of professionalisation of educational actors in SFEI. According to Prof. P.D. Kulkarni, SFEIs must run their enterprise commercially but by using ethical means which commercial and business organisations are required to do under the consumers protection Act. Who knows, continues Prof. Kulkarni, under pressures from students, parents and industries, SFEIs may be brought under the consumers protection Act? In his article "Issues in faculty Development" Dr. G. M. N. Dixit of S.J.College of Engineering, Mysore makes a detailed study of the role of teacher and the so called freedom he enjoys and underlines the need for an integrated faculty development program. An Institution should be regarded as a productive system with due emphasis on the welfare of the faculty who form the fulcrum of the system, according to Dr. Dixit. Dr. Jha, Prof. V.K. Sarda and Prof. R.K. Datta of Regional Engineering College, Hamirpur (H P) in their article "Resource generation in engineering Institution with special reference to SFEIs" deliberate on the great potential the SFEIs and other institutions possess for resource generations and advocates the full utilisation of this potential particularly for SFEIs.

Dr. Y. V. N. Rao, Principal of Kakatiya Institute of Technology, Warangal (AP) presents a comprehensive outline of the SFEIs in the country along with the problems particularly financial aspects. Prof. N. V. Ratnalikar puts forth the idea of a self financed Technological University as a logical consequence of SFEIs and advocates the necessity of such a University, one in every state if not more, if professionalism, ethics and academic atmosphere is to be injected in the SFEIs. He is particular that such a University be funded by the Industry and other beneficiaries of the Engineering Education System. He further explains how such a University can be a self financed one.

Thus all these articles coming from various sections of the teaching fraternity spotlight the current issues that SFEIs face, consequent to the supreme court judgement on Education as a fundamental right and that professional education to be on cost basis. A note of caution may be added that this educational enterprise though to be run on cost basis should and must be run on no profit basis; it must distinguish itself as an educational enterprise with enough of professional ethics.

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Editor.