

EDITORIAL

Professional Training of Engineering Teachers - Need for a Staff Academic College for Engg. Teachers -

Training is a must, for our soldier who protects our national boundaries, for a police who maintains law and order; for a Doctor who takes care of our national health for an administrator who administers at various levels and sector; for a teacher who teaches at primary and secondary level; but when we come to higher and particularly Engineering Education, we consider training as something un-necessary. This way of thinking must change and it is gratifying to note that it is changing.

ISTE Annual Convention held at Pune in 1988 had Professional Training of Engineering Teachers as the theme; were discussed. The need for new areas and approaches for such a training. But it took more than five years to realise this need and ISTE has started the Trainers Training Programmes in four areas, recently. This step is good but inadequate. The problem is a massive one and urgent as well. This needs to be tackled on a war footing looking to the liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation that the national economic policy has brought in. The Engineering Education supplies technical manpower and leadership to our industry which today has been called upon to face stiff competition in the international market and for this we have to go in for quality and excellence. Our Educational Institutions at higher learning, particularly Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics have to go in for quality and excellence in a big way. We have to start / introduce measures like PADS, Quality Circles, Autonomy, ISO 9000 & TQM etc. Will our untrained teachers be able to take up this challenging task, unless they are trained as teachers first and then for the various other important roles they are called upon to play from time to time such as instructional planning and implementation, Curriculum Design, Institutional Planning and Educational Administration ?

ISTE efforts depend on GOI Funds which are limited and likely to reduce to a trickle due to its emphasis on Education for all and Total Literacy. The principle of cost based Education has come to stay. The need now is for massive efforts of providing professional training of Engineering Teachers. ISTE as a professional body should lead this activity. It should work out a consensus on the course contents, duration and mode of instructions for such a Training Course. Govt. and the Society must welcome and encourage private agencies and educational trusts to conduct such professional training courses for teachers on a massive scale throughout the country, particularly in the four Southern States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamilnadu. Actually, what we need today, is a Academic Staff College for Professional Training of Teachers which can become the focal point for this massive task; it can initiate and lead this massive task. The Association of Private Colleges