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Best Practices For Quality Of Higher Education

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Research Paper - Education

Topic : **Best Practices For Quality Of Higher Education**

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Introduction ;--

India was the pioneer nation in introducing higher learning. Most of the pioneer institutions attracted foreign students. In ancient India Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Nadia, Vallabai and the like universities attracted the scholars from China, Japan, Korea, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and other countries. Higher intellectual atmosphere was the important characteristic of these centers. These universities resembled with present modern university. Later British started three universities in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta in 1850 on the model of London University. The Muslim rulers started their own centers of learning called 'Madrasas'. At the time of Independence in 1947, India had twenty universities, only most of these universities were teaching universities. As on May 1992, there were 293 universities and 13,000 affiliated colleges with a total enrolment of 7.5 million students and 3.5 Lakh teachers India. The expansion of universities is gradually increasing year by year. Indian students are employed in abroad in higher positions. The foreign companies and institution prefer Indian students and scholars for important position. This shows the stuff quality of education in India, However, there is a moral fear in the mind of educationalist that whether it could be possible to compete with foreign University or not when they enter into our soil from 2005 onwards. In this context, it is better to check and spell out the best practices for quality of higher education. The present paper is developed with the objectives of:

(a) To analyze the meaning of quality education.

(b) To study the problem in the context of quality higher education.

(c) To advocate the best practices for quality higher education.

Quality Education

The word quality is a complicated word to understand. Therefore, it is better to elucidate the term 'quality' before proceeding further. There are two studies to evaluate the word quality. They are (a) Management studies and (b) Development studies in management studies, there are two approaches to measure the quality (a) Standard based approaches and (b) Client - based approaches. The standard based approach defines quality as compliance with a given standard or approximation to a set benchmark. The best example is standard as per ISO certificate, in the beginning for products, now it applies to services also. In applying these, it refers to compliance with a credible standard or parity with fixed benchmark. There are parity with a fixed benchmark. There are certain criticisms against this approach. It is criticized for its self limiting character. Further it is also criticized that it represents a provider's view with giving less importance to the client's view that is customers or user's view. But in second approach, the quality is measured through client satisfaction or customer's satisfaction. Applying of these approaches to the field of education, it is observed that on one side, quality is defined from the providers point of view and on the other side it is measured from clients point of view that is fro the perception of students, employers and society. Though these two approaches view on their own, they are complementary to each other. Therefore it is noted from these that quality is a judgmental aspect. Accordingly it effects the worth of a product or a service as perceived by the provider or producer and as conceived by the consumer or client. According to the development studies, the quality is meant to quality of life. This, in general, used to measure by improvement in life, Therefore it is very clear that in management studies, it quality is referred to quality of product or services only whereas in development studies, it refers to the quality of life. For higher education point view quality according to these studies is relevant. This means that quality as per management studies, measures the quality of education as a service and as per development studies is technique to asses the implements of education for quality of life. In simple it is

observed that quality education provides quality of life.

Problem in Higher Education

In this paragraph, the problem in the context of quality of higher education is presented. Higher education is a stream of education providing learning process to students who are in above schooling. In general, is a dynamic phenomenon which recognizes the changes in external environment, responds to the current expectation of the society and keeps on developing in proportion to the changes that happen? Though it is flexible in nature, it has its own problem in maintaining good education. There problems in the context of quality for higher education is presented as follows.

(a) The present system of higher education in basically functioning as a tutorial institution. They teach subject as per syllabus within the span of time limit available. They aim at providing guidance to student to get a degree.

(b) The present education system is based on western education system and is static in nature. This means the frequency of changing of the structure and syllabus is very low.

(c) The Higher education system prolongs with traditional way to teaching and using old model of technical tools and instruments for demonstration.

(d) The students are taught with stereo type mode of teaching with good old syllabus. This restricts the creativity and reading habit.

(e) The syllabus for certain subjects is unchanged for quiet a long time. These syllabuses are irrelevant in practice.

(f) The present government adopts reform in different sectors. Reform on education in also a part. In this regard fund allocation to higher education is reduced a lot. This creates congenial atmosphere among higher educational institutions. Therefore, most of the aided could become aided-self-financing courses. Here, the low paid or new vacancy with more work load. This is certain cases, reduces the quality of education. The same kind of trend is visible in all self supported colleges which are affiliated to universities.

(g) Autonomous status is given to certain colleges as a part of implementing the Kothari commission report. The financial crisis is more in these institution due to delayed sanctioning of autonomy grant, on the other side, there is no proper evaluation and monitoring system in these institutions.

(h) The lecturer accustoms to the good old syllabus this stagnates the level of thinking and capacity of improving knowledge. Further there is no proper appraisal system to evaluate their performance.

(i) Universities run distance mode of education and Open University system of education. These system are developed to tap money or resources from innocent people. This develops the character of setting degree rather than acquiring knowledge. In fact there is no proper monitoring system to check the quality of such education.

These problems are common in India. At this juncture, the higher education needs a change in itself to meet the necessity as per globalization. The expected changes are presented in the following paragraph.

Best Practices for Quality Education

The higher education needs all round development to provide best education to the society. As it was discussed under the needing quality, the higher education should maintain a standard and should satisfy the society, students and employer, these qualities are discussed as follows.

Standard :

The image of the institution could be achieved only through sustainable improvement in its. This can be achieved through adopting new method of teaching and learning the choice based credit system is a recent development in teaching and learning process. This is adopted in a different manner at different levels of education; at undergraduate level this should be adopted for breadth wise, developing knowledge and at post graduate level, this should be for developing in depth knowledge.

The institution should be improved with updated international standard having internet, automated telephone, payment of fees by credit card, computerized class room, libraries, on line learning, lap top for learning and teaching, dormitories and sports facilities and the like.

In case of evaluation the present system of examination oriented evaluation should be changed and continuous internal evaluation method can be introduced. In certain situation, self study - evaluation method can also be allowed the institution should encourage the staff members to

undertake research work and minor and major projects. The provision should be created for research consultation. The institution should evaluate the performance of the staff through appraisal. This will help the staff members to understand where they are Students satisfaction is the ultimate aim of any institution. This can be reached through, updated subject, adopting new method of teaching, giving cent percent freedom of choosing subject and the like.

Satisfaction of the Society

The present market is a societal oriented market. This market is controlled and managed by society. In this regard, the educational institution should supply a good number of quality product (Students) to society. This means the institutions should have placement cell to supply efficient students to markets. Further the institutes should extend their helping hands to improve the quality of life. The value and culture of the society should be maintained and brought to international market under globalization. It is the real satisfaction of the society.

Students Satisfaction

The institution should provide with updated subjects and new method of teaching. The students may be allowed to take part in curriculum formation. The institution should open plenty of opportunities to students to learn as they like. Further the students should not be imposed on choosing their own subjects. The students may be directed to involve with extension work. The students of different departments of the institution may get themselves involved in imparting knowledge on their own field to the rural people. This can be done by adopting on village per year. There would be a provision to collect feed back and to resolve the grievances. Indeed, counseling is to be provided to students to overcome their day to day stress.

Employers Satisfaction

Employers satisfaction is one for which the expectation of them is achieved. This is possible through good leadership of the institution. In fact the leader should be a dedicated and sincere personality. The leader should commit themselves for building up of team spirit, collective action and setting up of good organizational culture. They should build the image for institution. In this way of functioning the employer will satisfy himself or herself. Further, it is also felt that the satisfaction can be reached only by proper feed back from different people about course quality, staff members infra structure and the like.

On the basis of above discussing, the following are the quality of education being emerged.

(a)The infrastructure should be developed on par with international standard.

(b) The course structure should be dynamic in nature.

(c) The placement cell should be created for job opportunity.

(d) The Value and culture should be added with curriculum.

(e) The syllabus should be a need based syllabus.

(f) The performance appraisal should be done now and then to evaluate the performance the staff.

(g) The feed back should be collected to check how the system is functioning.

(h) Grievance - redress cell should be formed for students,

(i) Choice-based-credit system should be introduced,

(j) Each institution should adopt one village per year and educate them to improve their quality of life,

(k) Research and research consultation should incorporate in curriculum.

(I) New method of teaching and learning should be introduced.

(m) The educational institution should come forward to teach value added and cultural based education,

(n) The educational institution should come forward to teach value added and cultural based education,

(o) Good leadership should be essential for achieving excellence in education.

Summary

The higher education in lndia exist in midst of various problems. These problems are basically the barriers to higher education. These can be easily overcome through its modified approaches. These tend to create quality of higher education. In order to achieve these, it is better to have best practices in higher education system.

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