

Professional Education in India

The Quality Paradigm

Jointly organized by



Faculty of Management Studies,
Banaras Hindu University

&



GLA University
Mathura

at Banaras Hindu University Campus
on 23 & 24 April 2011

.....A Report

A Report on

Directors' Conclave on

Professional Education in India: The Quality Paradigm

(23rd and 24th April, 2011)

In an environment of global competitiveness it is important that India should provide quality education in terms of the value system and richness in the personality of the students. India is witnessing a proliferation of management and technical institutions. While the intention of making professional education accessible to the masses is noble, yet it must not be at the cost of the quality education. Therefore with the industry getting intensively selective about recruitment standards, the pressure is on the institutions to deliver their best.

In this context, the Faculty of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University organised **Directors' Conclave on Professional Education in India: The Quality Paradigm** on 23rd and 24th April, 2011, in association with GLA University, Mathura, Business India as media partner and Microsoft as its corporate partner in order to provide a constructive, interactive learning platform for the Directors, Academic administrators and Head of Institutions across the country imparting professional education courses so that a new quality regime could be thought of and formulated.

The Inaugural session began with garlanding the bust of Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya and lightening of ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest. Dr. Mohd. Masood Ahmed, Member Executive Board & Executive Director, Association of Management Development institutions of South Asia, (AMDISA) and Prof. D.P. Singh, Vice Chancellor, BHU.

In his welcome address Dean FMS BHU Prof. SK Singh has emphasized the problem of unemployable graduates which actually depends on the quality of higher education. According to him quality can be defined in terms of fitness of purpose. Therefore once the purpose of education is delineated the parameters of fitness can be identified and the operational steps can be formulated towards designing a course structure which can withstand the upcoming socio economic changes. While elaborating the objective and the structure of the conclave, Secretary General Prof. HP Mathur exhibited the growth of professional education in India since independence and articulated the various thematic clusters around which the discussion in different technical sessions and panel discussion were planned.

Dr. Mohd. Masood Ahmed, Member Executive Board & Executive Director, Association of Management Development institutions of South Asia, (AMDISA) and the Chief Guest of the function highlighted the importance of health over the education. He expressed the importance of thrust for learning, optimal utilization of resources, and networking in order to achieve world class quality of higher education. Prof. D.P. Singh, Vice Chancellor, BHU in his presidential address focused on the importance of the framework for education in order to make the nation more powerful. He also emphasized on the inculcation of value, improvement in quality and inclusion of villages into the development process. Prof. HC Chaudhary, Former Dean FMS, BHU honored the guest with mementos and shawls. Dr. Abhijeet Singh introduced all the eminent speakers and conducted the proceedings.

In the first technical session on "Higher Education: Challenges and Introspection" coordinated by Prof. Usha Kiran Rai, the eminent speakers were Dr. CM Dwivedi, Global Head, HR, Datamatics, Mumbai and A.T. Raman, Consulting Editor, Business India & Chairman, SEAA New Delhi. Dr. Dwivedi threw light on the urgent need of team spirit to meet challenges and competition and focused on embodiment of high level integrity, trust, ethics and values. Mr. Raman emphasized on engagement of professional education with corporate, government, industries and stakeholders.

The post lunch technical session on "Strategies for building excellence in higher education", coordinated by Dr. Ashutosh Mohan, was graced by two distinguished personalities - Prof. Furqan Qumar, VC, Central University of Himachal Pradesh and Prof. Anup Singh, Director Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida. The session was started with the deliberation of Prof. Anup Singh, who emphasized the importance of achieving Excellence in higher education. Prof. Singh explained that excellence is basically achieving strategic fit between effectiveness and efficiency in operations of higher educational institutes. It can be achieved through multifaceted development of students and faculty members of institutes while taking care of institutional health. Prof. Furqan Qumar drew the skeleton of higher education in India. He grabbed the attention of audience with some hard facts and figures of Indian Education system such as India is having largest number of educational institutions but it is lacking the virtues of inclusive growth. His thought provoking deliberation raised several questions, which require strategic intervention by different authorities and institutions so as to achieve the status of developed country by 2020.

The third technical session on "Creating values and leveraging resources", coordinated by Dr. Shashi Srivastava, was graced by Prof D.S. Chauhan, VC, Uttarakhand Technical University, Prof R P Singh, V.C., Sharda University, Greater Noida and Dr. A.C. Augstein, International Management consultant, Pune.

Prof. R.P. Singh emphasized on the improvement of quality and value creation through leveraging resources. Prof. D.S. Chauhan has shown his deep concern towards deteriorating value system among the new generation. Dr. AC Augstein very interestingly differentiated the role of mentor from that of a teacher with the help of film clippings.

During the fourth technical session on "The Role of ICT in Higher Education" Dr. Pradeep Verma, Advisor, IIT Rajasthan explained the whole working of the National Mission for Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), its role, objectives, modus operandi which will bring literacy through ICT.

Prof. Karmeshu, from Department of Computer science, JNU, New Delhi, deliberated upon the theme of "critical mass in ICT Innovation diffusion :A perspective "where he highlighted the use of the mathematical model for solving the management problems in the area of marketing, finance production etc.

The fifth technical session entitled "Management of Finances in Higher Education" had two eminent key note speakers, Prof. B.P.Singh, Chairman, Delhi School of Professional Studies & Research; and Prof. S.K. Kak, V.C., Mahamaya Technical University, Noida was coordinated by Dr. P V Rajeev. Prof. B.P. Singh started with black and white picture of India. He talked about Geopolitical Power Index which ranks each nation's ability to project hard and soft power globally. He reiterated the basic question as when the growth rate of Indian economy is good, why we don't capitalize this strength towards gaining momentum of strengthening the education & health care system. Prof. Singh also spoke about the pathetic condition of governance and the pending cases in the judiciary. He felt that a progress could be made only when the young minds take a decision to fight corruption and take the society to the next level. Prof. S. K. Kak opined that, there is a need for a continuous up gradation of knowledge by the teachers for a quality education. He was of the opinion that there is a need for three basic necessities for a teacher to fit into the category of quality teacher. A teacher should have the passion to teach, learn and mix. He must understand the moral responsibility of following the basic ethical norms and values, Prof. Kak felt that, along with the domain knowledge, a need for interaction with experienced faculties and taking up training is very much required for nurturing a nation with quality education.

In the sixth technical session on "Governance in Institute of Higher learning", Prof. Kripa Shanker, V.C., Gautam Buddha Technical University, Lucknow said that corporate governance should not be limited to higher education but it should also spread down to family and level of elementary education.

Prof. Kripa Shankar emphasized that quality education is the key to ensure good governance, innovation and development. Prof. B.V. Somsekhar, V. C. Gyanvihar University threw light on the importance of internal and external governance. He said that excessive commercialization of higher education should be forbidden. The session was coordinated by Dr. R.K. Lodhwal.

Subsequently there was a comprehensive presentation by Mr. Lokesh Mehra, Director–Education Advocacy from Microsoft Corporation who gave an overview of various initiatives taken by their organization for enhancing the skills of students and faculty so as to keep pace with the global standards and expectations.

Microsoft is taking a leading role not only in India but also across the globe in enhancing and uplifting the standard of higher education and empowering academic administrators and trainers in various soft and technical skills so that their knowledge could percolate down to the students they interact with. Mr. Mehra’s session was well taken by the august gathering and there was a mass interest shown by the audience in the initiatives that Microsoft is taking or is proposing to take in future.

Thereafter “The Panel Discussion: The Road Ahead” was conducted by Prof. P.S.Tripathi, FMS, BHU. Prof. Jai Prakash, VC, GLA University and Dr. B.R. Singh, MD, Strategic management consultancy, Mumbai laid the foundation by raising the question of quality in the institution of professional education. The panel discussion drew the attention of participants on issue of concern such as financing and management including access, equity and relevance, values and ethics and quality of higher education together with the assessment of institution and their accreditation.

The programme came to an end with the valedictory function that observed presentation of mementoes to the guests by the Conference Chairman Prof. S.K. Singh. The session was graced by Dr. B.R. Singh, MD, Strategic Management Consultancy, Mumbai as the chief guest and it was presided over by Prof. Jai Prakash, Vice Chancellor, GLA University. Dr. Madan Lal, Secretary, Directors Conclave welcomed the guests.

A brief report containing glimpse of two days event was presented by Dr. Shashi Srivastava, FMS BHU. Dr. R.K. Lodhwal FMS, BHU proposed vote of thanks to all the revered guests, delegates, participants, to the organizing committee and the students of FMS, BHU. The valedictory function was conducted by joint secretary of the conclave, Dr. Ashutosh Mohan.

Some common notes that come out from various technical sessions of the two day Conclave were:

- ↳ Quality is the single most crucial factor in professional education which needs to be highlighted in order to face the upcoming socio-economic changes.
- ↳ Since 90 percent students are dropping to the door of private sector, unorganized sectors can not be left in isolation.
- ↳ The intention of Radakrishnan Commission on University Education, formed in 1948-49, seems to be relevant even in the present environment, i.e.
- ↳ ***The most important and urgent reform needed in education is to transform it, to endeavor to relate it to the life, needs and aspirations of the people and thereby make it the powerful instrument of social, economic and cultural transformation necessary for the realization of the national goals. For this purpose, education should be developed so as to increase productivity, achieve social and national integration, accelerate the process of modernization and cultivate social, moral and spiritual values.***