

THE JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION - ITS JOURNEY FROM ISSUE NO. 1 TO NO.75 AND BEYOND

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Introduction :

In June 1983, the Govt of Maharashtra adopted the policy of privatization for the Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics in the state of Maharashtra. Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala had already taken this step much earlier.

The number of Engineering colleges was only 9 and Polytechnics were just 28, upto the end of 1982-83. But with the policy of privatization announced in June 1983, within one month the number went up to more than 60 Engineering colleges and Polytechnics more than 50.

The author organized a 2-day Conference at Pune on 23-24th October 1983, on "Engineering Education". In this conference, more than 60 Engineering colleges and Polytechnics participated. Soon, the necessity for a common platform for exchange of experiences, sharing of views, discussion on emerging problems was felt and the then Director of Technical Education M.S. Prof. G.S.Kadu organised a Conference of all these Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics. This went on for a few

years. In one of these conferences held in Panhala (dist, Kolhapur, M.S.) the author proposed that, with such a sudden expansion of the system and so many technical institutions coming up, we must bring out Journal on Engineering Education. Prof. Ratnalikar tabled a resolution, which was passed unanimously and Prof. Kadu suggested that Prof. Ratnalikar, who had initiated and moved the resolution, should take up the responsibility for the Journal. The author started the work and thus the Journal which is publishing its 75th issue, started publication.

The First Issue:

The Journal was published in a small function, held at College of Engineering, Aurangabad on 28th August 1986. This contained articles from authors from all over India including one from Dr. O. N. Wakhlu, Principal Regional Engineering College, Srinagar. Messages were received from Hon. S.D. Sharma, then Governor, Hon. Shri S. B. Chavan, then Chief Minister of Maharashtra and many other dignitaries for the success of the Journal

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The objectives of the Journal were published in the first issue itself, which are reproduced below :

- 1) To collect and disseminate information about the activities in the field of Engineering Education, in and outside Maharashtra.
- 2) To work for the development of polytechnics, Engineering Colleges and other institutions imparting Engineering Education.
- 3) To focus on the problems of research in Engineering Education.
- 4) To work for the involvement of Industry in Engineering Education.
- 5) To raise the standards of Engineering Education.
- 6) To discuss and review the State and National policies on Engineering Education.
- 7) To acquaint and review the working of Institutions connected with Engineering Education.
- 8) To promote the use of Educational Technology.
- 9) To keep abreast of the recent trends in the international field of Engineering Education, worldwide.
- 10) To provide technologist and Engineers who not only keep the wheels of Industry rolling and help to attain material progress but also provide cultural and spiritual background so that the material progress becomes

meaningful.

Thus, the Journal set out on its Journey. We are trying to keep these objectives in view all these years and making efforts to fulfill these to the best of our abilities.

The Journey :

The author had the honour of being its Founder Editor and has been working in the capacity all these years; so also Dr. R.S.Mahashabde. Many others joined and left as they had their own priorities. We had even members on our Editorial Board, but these members rarely evinced any interest in this activity and the Board had to be soon discontinued.

Our editorials are comments on the matters of current interest and not mere introduction of the contents and authors of the Journal, as is the case with many professional journals. I, as an editor, had the privilege of writing all these 75 editorials except, 4 or 5, which my colleagues had to write as I was abroad. May be, sometimes in future, we may bring out all these editorials in the form of a book which might reflect the then current topics of interest..

Special issues:

I had come across a special issue of the International Journal of Engineering Education published in U.S.A. on "Engineering Education in India". Dr. R. Natarajan, the then Director of IIT Madras, was the Guest Editor of this issue. Since then I had in mind the idea of Special issue and Guest Editor. In 1997, I went to U.K and spent 4 months with my son and his family. I used to visit The Stafford University Library, which was, located

just 2 kilometers from our residence. Here, I had access to journals on Engineering Education from U.K and from other countries. It was then that, this idea of a special issue flashed across my mind and I wrote letters to some of the U.K. authors asking them if they could write articles for my Journal. To my surprise, every one whom I wrote, replied on the third day mentioning that either he would write an article for me or not. They kept their word and on the mentioned date, the article was in my hands. (My experience in India is altogether different. Our authors particularly top leaders, are too busy and rarely do we get prompt replies. We have to send them reminders, telephone calls a number of times and then only we may get response.) On returning to India, we brought out our first Special Issue "Engineering Education in U.K". Similarly, when I went to Singapore, in December 2000, I visited the four Polytechnics and one University. I requested for articles and on returning to India, we brought out a Special Issue on "Engineering Education in Singapore". In Singapore and even in U.K. I was an unknown entity; my only identity was my own statement that was an Editor from India and had access to many authors including the Vice Chancellors, Directors and Principals etc. This paved the way for special issues and by now we have published seven such Special issues as given below.

1. EE in U.K. : January 1998
2. On TTTI's : July 1998
3. Quality in Engineering Education : July & Oct. 1999

4. ACITE : April 2000
5. EE in Singapore : January & April 2001
6. Our IIT's : April & July 2002
7. Developed India 2020 - a vision EE : Oct. 2003 & January 2004

To this we are now adding the 8th special issue on "Current Scenario Emerging Trends and future Direction. Actually we had not specified any topic, but mentioned that the issue should reflect the, Current Scenario, Emerging Trends and Future directions.

Forthcoming Special Issues, are

- i) TQM in Engineering Education and
- ii) the Engineering Education in SAARC countries.

Subscribers:

A word about subscribers will not be out of place. We have more than 1200 Engineering colleges and about 3000 Polytechnics in the country; but we have just 400 subscribers. Of this, about 150 subscribers have not paid their subscription for periods ranging from 2 to 4 years, resulting in huge arrears of about 1.5 lakhs. Even then, we have been called upon to continue to publish the journal. In spite of all this, we continue our journal activity, only because we are convinced that the journal activity is inspired with noble objectives mentioned earlier and is a powerful means to serve practioners both in engineering education and the industry.

(Cont. on page No. 96)