

**EDITORIAL****QUEST FOR QUALITY**

*Engineering Education System has expanded phenomenally during the last decade. The number of Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics has been increasing year by year. Getting approval from AICTE does not appear to be a problem. Today, Maharashtra Govt. has provided as many seats as the number of applicants for these seats. Whether there is any policy to match the demand for Technical manpower and supply by Engineering College & Polytechnics, is yet another matter. Quality of Education, today, has become a matter of concern for all educationists.*

*Globalisation, Liberalisation and Privatisation has forced our industry to go in for quality and industry is going in for ISO 9000 in a big way. Today, our industry needs and will demand quality education from our Engineering Education System. Hence, today, QUALITY should be at the top of our agenda.*

*Relevance of ISO 9000 for education is still a debatable topic. Accreditation by NBA i.e. National Board of Accreditation set up by AICTE, is still not mandatory. TQM is yet something which we have not heard of. It is against this background that we have to go in for QUALITY.*

*Engineering Education, today, must have a single point agenda i.e. QUALITY, at least for the next 5 years. Quality awareness program on one side and deep and thorough study of all aspects of Quality in the context of Education, on the other, must be taken up by us on war footing. It is gratifying to note that Maharashtra has already taken steps towards Quality Awareness. Engineering Education Foundation, Pune has launched a quality mission for all Engineering College & Polytechnics in the state and Pune University for all the Colleges affiliated to it. They should follow up with quality induction/enhancement programs & set up QUALITY COUNCILS to advise them. What has been initiated in Maharashtra, must be taken up by all other states. The apex bodies like the Govt. of India the AICTE & ISTE, state governments, DTE'S, BTE'S and the Universities must formulate quality policies, declare their determination to go in Quality in a total way. One year plan for QUALITY AWARENESS (year 2000) followed by a five year plan or QUALITY INDUCTION (2001 -2005) is the need of the day.*

*Let us awake to the reality and act.*

**Pune**

**15 - 08 - 1999**

**Prof. N. V. Ratnalikar**

**Editor.**