

EDITORIAL :

FUNCTIONS OF AN ENGINEERING COLLEGE, TODAY.

To impart instructions in accordance with the prescribed syllabi of the University is the main function of an Engineering College. But is it enough? Then what differentiates it from a private coaching class? The functions of an Engineering College is much more than merely to impart a set of instructions/information/Engineering skill and knowledge. An Engineering College is a part of a system which is responsible for providing engineers to the industry so that the industry can provide better and better environment for the people and the Society so that they can progress and prosper. Hence an Engineering College has to undertake the task of producing the engineers fully alive to the environment in which it functions - namely the industry and the Society. The functions of an Engineering College should be considered against this background and are stated below :

(A) To provide physical facilities and faculty.

1. *Physical facilities like Buildings, Equipment, and Laboratories and a good Library.*
2. *Faculty with necessary qualifications and experience*
3. *Supporting non-teaching instructional and administrative staff.*
4. *Adequate hostel facilities and other amenities for boys and girls.*
5. *Sports and Gymkhana facilities for students.*
6. *Quarters for faculty and other staff.*

(B) Check on the students and their progress.

1. *Continuous assessments of the students' performance and to keep their parents informed.*
2. *To operate student teacher contact scheme for students counselling.*

(C) To provide opportunities for the continuous development of the faculty.

1. *Quality Improvement Programme for faculty both in technical subjects and in the teaching profession.*
2. *Testing and Consultation Cell.*
3. *Engineering Education Cell.*
4. *Quality Circle Approach for development.*

(D) To keep liaison with the industry and the society

1. *Industry Institution Interaction.*
2. *Entrepreneurship - Technology Park and Technology watch group.*
3. *Training and Placement Department.*
4. *Research and Development Cell*
5. *Community Services.*

How many of our Colleges are discharging these functions? How many of these Colleges are aware of these functions and are ready to accept these as their functions?

Accreditation System is expected to start functioning in our Country under A.I.C.T.E. It is said that this system will not merely check the physical facilities but will ascertain the academic climate generated by a College. A suitable conducive academic climate can be generated only when a College undertakes all the activities mentioned above and discharges these functions efficiently and effectively. Let-us hope Accreditation system will do the good it is supposed to do and that A.I.C.T.E. will act speedily and vigorously without any further loss of time.

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