

BOOK - REVIEW

REVIEWED BY : PROF. S. K. GAJENDRAGADKAR

Title of the Book : "Engineering Teachers in the Development of Technical Education System in India"
Author : Dr. Subhash d. Awale
Publisher : I. S. T. E., New Delhi

This book is the Doctorate thesis of Subhash Awale who is the Joint Advisor (Technical) to Government of India. With his vast experience in the field of technical education management it was natural that he selected a subject of 'Teachers in development of Technical Education' - The study has tried to collect data from and about :

1. Teachers and teaching profession.
2. The interest and perception of the student about the teaching profession.
3. Adequacy of present selection procedure.
4. Professional development of engineering teachers.

Dr. Awale has tried his best to collect data by preparing different soul searching question leading to various facts of problem to different groups of personnel connected with teaching.

These questionnaires include the question to find why new graduates do not enter this field or why there is no continuation. The unfortunate part is about less response from the parties to whom these questions were sent. (following Manilla Method of 1988, the plan was finalised). It is reported that about 33% to 43% Persons /Institutions responded and sent the filling in replies. Even IIT's and REC's are in defaulters. This itself speaks about the lethargy and disinterest in problem of the faculty, and institutes (Principal / Directors) in such activity especially where teachers are concerned. Dr. Awale has not commented on this. I believe probably personal approach / interview would have given more response. Dr. Awale has done a very good statistical analysis of the data collected giving rankings and finding out the wighted averages for arriving to definite conclusion.

There are interesting recommendations as conclusions, about "enriching value system", Teachers getting involved in R & D activity and multifarious activity, improving technical education system, motivating students to become teachers and role of professional societies. These should be taken with due reservation. Because this becomes only an ideal solution. Unfortunately, the teachers are not treated properly is well - known thing. The author has not taken into consideration the private colleges (though mentions of a few aided private colleges were included - it is not clear which private colleges he has included and why) where the entire selection and payment etc. is ruinous to the profession. He should have referred to this part and since his studies are done in 1994, after a decade of private non - aided colleges came up in Maharashtra. Also in the special measures of Government of India for faculty development (P-7) the author has mentioned Technical Teachers Training Programme (TTTP) (59 - 69). What has happened to Technical Teachers Training Programme after 69 ? If it is stopped thesis should have included the reasons. Also while discussing the academic disciplines facing shortage, the reasons are not explained. The recommendations made with reference to indifferent attitudes of talented engineers towards teaching career are genuine, yet generalized.

The author has made suggestions for further research which not only reflects his deep appreciation of the problem but also his desire to better the situation by conducting (1) a nation wide survey (2) comparative study of persons in teaching and non-teaching areas

(3) Expectation from industries, and most important is (4) Comparative studies with other developed countries.

Probably somebody can work for Ph.D. under Dr. Awale only on this subject.

One of the major hitch in all these questionnaire and getting data is the reliability. For instance, it is difficult for a teacher to tell that he is doing consultation if the college is not giving permission without sharing 50% of consultation fees. Similarly the institutes will not accept that due to reservation etc. they are not getting right type of persons or the payment is not done as per regulations nor the staff will say so. Also that the teachers in most of the colleges are forced to spend their major time in non-academic clerical work, will never come to the forefront. Therefore the conclusions of the studies are to be taken with due reservations. It is found that the references are not complete: e.g. Sen (1987) is mentioned in the text which is not given in the list of references. This needs to be corrected.

Dr. Awale needs to be congratulated for the pioneering work done which was a necessity. Bringing out his PH. D. thesis in a book form will enthuse, many persons to understand and appreciate the technical teachers role in the educational system. Probably more Ph.D. will be working on the similar topics. Prof. George deserves gratitude from engineer fraternity for publishing this book as ISTE publication. He should also publish similar Ph.D.. thesis. I believe every engineering teacher will enjoy going through this book and learn a lot.

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