

EDITORIAL

ON THE THRESHOLD OF 21ST CENTURY

Globalisation, privatisation and open economy have thrown up challenges to all fields of activity including Engineering Education. Fierce competition with the international competitors in open market, demands for quality everywhere and compels us - to go in for quality. Excellence and quality in Industry is a function of the excellence and quality in Engineering Education. As we stand on the threshold of 21st century, we have to take special note of the demand for Q & E and take immediate steps in that direction.

How do we do it ?

We had ample deliberations & discussions on need for quality & excellence, methods to induct this, but by nature we are reluctant to implement these. This inactivity and lethargy has to be discarded, if we are to enter 21st Century with competence and confidence to face its challenges. Let us decide to take up all the quality improvement measures and start implementing them immediately without any further delay.

What are these measures ?

The concept of strategic planning, curriculum Development, PADS, ISO 9000, students contact scheme, training of technical teachers, research & development, students counselling, industry education interaction, technology park, so on & all these are measures that will lead us to Q & E.

How do we go about it ?

Q & E in Education is now a "should" and "must." It has to be taken up by the Principal of every institution - be it a Polytechnic or an Engineering. College - assisted by all HODS. There has to be a will, a determination coupled with commitment and policy support from the Management. A general awareness and urge to induct Q & E in the system has to be inculcated in every teacher and even supporting staff in the institution. Even here there has to be a mission declared and accepted by the institution as a whole.

A collective public commitment is needed

There must be a conference of all such Institutions preferably at

state level. Here all problems relating to Q & E, methods of implementation, difficulties anticipated have to be discussed and a strategic plan for introduction of Q & E in the system, at the state level as well as institution level has to be drawn up, declared and adopted with a time schedule. Such a conference could be held in Feb/March 1997, so that we decide to complete the process by 1st Jan. 2001, where we will have attained substantial degree of Q & E needed for our industry to meet the challenges of 21st Century.

A charter of Q & E in Engineering Education

So let every Institution plan it locally from Sept./Oct. 1996 and prepare itself to go in for Q & E so that by Feb./March 1997, we shall be in a position to draft and sign a charter of Q & E in Engineering Education and acquire necessary skill, competence and ability to cross the threshold of 21 century on 1st Jan. 2001 with all dignity and pride of a fully developed nation, economically sound and politically powerful and take our rightful place of pride amongst the leading nations of the world like US, UK., Germany, Korea, China and Japan.

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N. V. Ratnalikar,

Editor.

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