

Editorial

Engineering Faculty of India,
to provide feedback and policy inputs,
on Engineering Education, to

We have, in India, today, about 2000 Engineering Colleges spread across the country along with a Faculty strength of more than 2,50,000. The AICTE is, still, liberally permitting the setting up of new Engineering colleges, every year. Thus, ours may be the Second largest Engineering System and the second largest community of Engineering Faculty in the world, next only to China. If India is to be a Super Power by 2020, It is time, we revisit the role and responsibilities of this faculty, because Engineering Education is the main driving force for the economic growth & development and welfare of the country,

The role of an engineering teacher can be described by subject matter competence of the Faculty, it's mastery over teaching learning process, evaluation of the students, participation in extra-curricular activities, efforts in building of the institutions. efforts to enhance the professional practices and, their professional standing.

This was acceptable, so far; but now, the impact of globalization, privatization & liberalization Policy-which we adopted in 1991-is being felt and things have changed & are changing fast. In view of this, the above criteria are not adequate by themselves. We are called upon to identify additional functions that an Engineering Teacher is called up[on to undertake, to absorb the impact of globalization & Internationalization of Engineering and Higher Education.

Our institutions do not operate in a vacuum but in an environment and are acted & reacted by the Educational Authorities in the State and the Country. We have, now, the MHRD, the AICTE, UGC, the State Directorate of Technical Education and the University. Our Institutions are, regulated, controlled & shaped by these institutions. Hence, we are required to keep a watch on the developments in these institutions and how they affect our working.

But who will keep this watch? The Management, the Principal? Yes, they will do it, but, only to a limited extent. It is mainly the faculty which will have to undertake this task. The faculty will have to understand the systems, policies and other regulations imposed by these agencies and align their working, accordingly. Faculty are the main players and

change agents, as well, so they will have to undertake this new responsibility of analyzing the situation, taking a critical view of the policies that the State & Central Governments adopt, from time to time. Not only this, they will be required to give feedback on Engineering Education System, to State & Central Governments and the Policy Makers and also provide policy inputs, from time to time.

So we may add one more task for the faculty i.e :-

“ To take a critical view of the system in which they are operating, come out with suggestions as to how improvements can be made for effective & meaningful functioning of the institutions: and taking a strategic view, provide policy inputs to the Administrators & Policy Makers, both at the State & National Level.

This task can be performed only by the senior Faculty Members: may be, those you have put in more than 10-15 years of service. Teachers with up to 5 years of service should concentrate on their teaching and learning process: those with 5-10 years of service should start understanding the systems in which they are operating and others, more than 10-15 years of service, should take up additional task of providing feedback & policy inputs to the concerned authorities, always with a focus on meaningful & efficient functioning of the institutions & making them world class.

If the faculty is to convey its views on the current system and provide policy inputs, it must develop its own voice in a collective way. What individuals or small group say, will always go un- noticed. Hence, a loud voice is a should and must .

Hence, the Engineering Faculty of India needs to develop its own voice, if Engineering Education is to make its substantial contributions to make India a super power by 2020.

The Engineering Education Foundation,Pune, has already established 10 Consortia of Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics in Maharashtra and has come out with the State Federation of Consortia.This State Federation provides an effective and appropriate platform to the Faculty to voice forth their feed back and policy inputs. The Faculty is welcome to utilize this platform and carry on its efforts to bring in Quality and Excellence in the Engineering Education System and enable it to make distinctive contributions to make India Super Power by 2020.

A beginning in this direction can be made in the Second Annual Convention of the Maharashtra State Consortia, which is to meet, on Saturday, 2nd July 2011, at Pune.

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Editor
