

EDITORIAL

Voluntary Organisations Needed To Enhance Engineering Education Quality.

We have today a large number of Engineering Colleges & Polytechnics in the Country; 40% of these are self financed. This recent expansion in Engineering Education Institutions has resulted in a great concern & anxiety about the quality and standards of passouts. Efforts on the part of the Governments, both Central and State - lay emphasis on quantity and show little concern for quality. The measures taken to gauge and report on the working of Educational Institutes are through Government Inspection Committees. University Affiliation Committees and these have become so routine and casual in their working that they hardly show any concern about the quality of education. Recently, it was heartening to note that Government of India had invested AICTE with statutory powers; but unfortunately, the work of this Council - AICTE - has been very disappointing; even after five years of its existence, it has yet to make any impact on quality of Engineering Education.

When Government fails to tackle a problem, people have to step in. Voluntary organisations should and must come up and take all steps needed to raise the standards and work for quality.

Voluntary Organisation differ from Government / Commercial organisation in their motives; Government Departments work only under instructions, where as Commercial organisations work only to make profits. Social Service and upliftment is not their immediate concern. Hence, we cannot depend on these to attain our goals, for which one can look hopefully, to voluntary organisation - a band of devoted workers as inspired with the aim of social Service and not thinking in monetary terms of profit and loss.

For quality improvement, we need professional training for teachers, specialists in curriculum design and implementation, expertise in developing Industrial Institution Interaction, ways and means to offer community services, training in research & development, educational planning and administration. Such organisations need teachers with vision and foresight, with commitment to Engineering Education, awareness of the problems of Industry and Institution and the skill to attain compatibility between these. Such people are available in adequate number, if not in plenty. Besides

these, we can seek the assistance of the Engineering teachers who retire at the age of 58 or 60 and still have enough of strength and energy and are willing to serve the cause of Engineering Education. A voluntary organisation can form a nucleus around which such educationists can cluster. They have adequate energy and strength coupled with foresight and vision and if provided leadership can do a wonderful job in raising the standards and quality in Engineering Education. Such voluntary organisations can as well become self-financed without any profit making goal, and offer their best services to Engineering Education and enable it to serve the industry and the nation in a much better way.

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