

Editorial

A NGO Type Organization like FICCI or CII... Is the need for Higher and Engineering Education

It is unfortunate that engineering education has been separated from higher education in India. No such bifurcation exists in any other country in the world. We have AICTE & UGC; we have Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics on one side and Arts, Science, Commerce colleges & all type of Universities on the other side. That the educational aspects of all these disciplines are common, is totally forgotten. The earlier, this is realized by the policy makers & administrators at the top, the better it will be. Other aspects of the disciplines need separate treatment and this can continue to be done, as it is being done, now.

We have so many common problems faced by Engineering Education & Higher Education. We don't have a national policy for the last 20 years although the educational scenario has witnessed radical changes --- the globalization, the liberalization and privatization, the distance education, the e-learning, GATTS, the Global market in higher / engineering education and so on. Practitioners / leaders are going their own way in the higher education in the absence of any policy / direction from the Centre. We are heading towards an era of confusion and this will be disastrous particularly when we are dreaming of and also working in a small way for "Developed India / India as a super power, by 2020".

Individual voices of wisdom our leaders express from time to time at Seminars and Conferences and public platforms go un-heard & un-noticed and are lost in air because they are from individuals. Prof. Kulandai Swamy, former V.C. of Anna University and IGNOU, New Delhi, Dr. Nigavekar former V.C. of Pune University and Chairman, UGC and many other experts, from time to time have expressed their views from educational Forums and News papers but these words of wisdom are lost in wilderness. We have no organization at state / national level which can apply pressure on the State / Central Govt. Industry has CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) & FICCI (Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry) & the Central Govt. takes cognizance of their views. But for higher or Engineering Education, we have no such organization from where our leaders from engineering education / higher education can put forth their views with a force and power that the Government, be at State or Centre, can ill-afford to neglect.

Hence, we need today a NGO organization at the State and Centre like CII and FICCI if the educational system in India is to be brought on proper track & the system has to face the global challenges successfully.