

EDITORIAL

Center of Quality & Excellence A - Should & Must – for Every Technical Institution.

Globalization, privatization and liberalization has now come to stay and we are called upon to play on the global plane. The global market demands Quality, in all fields of activities, both, for survival & to face the global competition. Engineering Education is no exception to this.

If so, why not cultivate the Quality Culture within each and every institution of ours – be it an Engineering College or Polytechnic – for that matter, in every Educational Institute.

Quality is a dynamic concept, difficult to define but easy to detect and notice its absence. Hence, understanding Quality requires continuous efforts in a sustained manner over an unending period, till it becomes a habit and a part of the Institution's Culture.

Hence, establish a center for Quality and Excellence in each Institution. Associate senior faculty members with this center. Their job would be, over and above their main functions as a faculty member, also to study literature on Quality, wherever they happen to come across – in the library, in a book, a journal or else where. Let there be a monthly meeting of this center of Quality and Excellence & let the faculty members make a presentation on any topic / aspect of Quality, they have come across. A good book on Quality may be studied by assigning each chapter of this book to a group, let the groups make an in-depth study and present it in the monthly meeting. On a day, different groups may make presentations on their respective chapters, for about 10-15 minutes each. The entire faculty will be exposed to the total contents of the entire book. Thus, over a period of 6 months to one year, the faculty will gradually understand the concept and meaning of the term Quality. And, then may start studying the planning, implementation, and monitoring the Quality Programme. The Institution including the entire faculty, will find itself as pilgrims on the unending journey of Quality.

To support this activity, efforts for Quality should be based on TQM philosophy, With full support of Management, there should be visible financial support. This could be by earmarking an amount of a minimum of 2% of the income of the Institution from fees and other sources on Core Quality activities, which can be mentioned as given below:-

- 1) Center of Quality and Excellence.
 - 2) Teacher Training Programs.
 - 3) Faculty deputation to Conferences.
 - 4) Collaboration with / support to Conferences organized by other institutions.
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- 5) Books on Quality in Engineering / Higher Education.
- 6) Miscellaneous.

Deputation of faculty for PhD is another important item for which separate provision will have to be made; because this item cannot be accommodated within 2% amount, mentioned above for Core Quality activities.

This has to be done year by year on a continuous basis, in a transparent, visible way.

With Center of Quality & Excellence, TQM Philosophy, full management support for Quality efforts & clear provision of minimum of 2% of income for Core Quality activities, the institution will have cultivated Quality Culture & hence will be in a position to comfortably face any accreditation process – be it NBA, NAAC or ISO- because the Quality achieved by it, by then, will be far above & beyond the highest specifications prescribed by any of these accrediting agencies.

Then, Why not try this Quality Path ?

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