

EDITORIAL

Engineering Education ----

- From Quality to Total Quality Management (T Q M)

Today, the Engineering Education system appears to be in a melting pot.. The apex bodies like the AICTE, the UGC and other bodies which are in place for more than a few decades, it is reported, are to be dismantled and replaced by a single regulatory body. Whether the system was wrong or the persons handling these bodies were at fault, nothing is known. How the new set up will take care of the drawbacks of the earlier set up, has not been explained. When the Engineering Education Faculty finds itself in this precarious situation, how should it respond?

The primary duty of an Engineering Teacher is to carry out to the best of his ability, the teaching & learning process, the Lab work and other duties assigned to him. This constitutes about only 60% of his job. The remaining 40% consists of keeping watch on the system under which he is to operate, sense challenges and threats to the system, he has to face as a professional, enhancement of the professional practices, the emerging trends etc. This part of his job, a teacher is rarely aware of and generally neglects. In the context of this part of his job and the changes referred to in para above, A teacher must :-

- 1) Keep in touch with the impending changes, study how these changes are likely to effect him personally and professionally, prepare his comments in a critical and clear manner and voice forth his feedback from a common platform and convey this to the Policy Makers and Administrators.

In a democratic set up, it is expected, that the Policy Makers are on the look out for such feedback and utilize it. in framing the policies in the interest of the whole system itself.

- 2) Also work continuously for enhancement of Quality and Excellence of the System, individually as a teacher, under the guidance of the Principal, and the Management the Institution and collectively as a member of teaching community. Those who lead the Quality movement - be it the Principal or the Quality consultant, should remember that Total Quality Management philosophy not only provides a methodology for bringing in this change but also provides the tools and techniques for effecting this change. Today, the efforts made by the Principals and Managemnts for induction and enhancement of quality, has no set philosophy, no direction, no constancy of purpose , and hence are not very effective and meaningful .That is why, the standards of our engineering education system, still continue to be a matter of concern . The Quality of education has not has not gone up, in spite of the existence of NBA for the last 14 years.
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It is against this background that the Engineering Education Foundation has decided to spread the message of Total Quality Movement to all the Engineering colleges and Polytechnics, through the medium of this Journal. **We have decided to bring out a seperate section on “ Quality to TQM” as a regular feature, from this issue itself, i.e. January 2010.**

We, therefore, request;

1. All the Principals , Management , and leaders in the field of Engineering Education, to use TQM as a launching pad for all their quality efforts and write articles on the quality efforts and also prepare case studies for this Section.
2. All our authors, present and potential, to study TQM and its application to Engineering Education in all its aspects and write, studied and scholarly articles, for this section.

The Engineering Education Foundation has a strong TQM Centre and will provide all assistance / guidance for such Quality efforts made, using TQM philosophy as a launching pad.

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Our TQM Plans for the next 2 years.

1. At the end of 2 years from now i.e. in 2012 years, we have plans to organise a **National conference on “TQM for Excellence in Engineering Education”**
2. And this will be followed by an **“International Conference” with the same theme.**
3. Not only this, we plan to bring out, **an International Journal on TQM in Engineering Education.**
4. Incidentally, at that time, we shall be publishing our **100 th Quarterly Issue.**

Thus, we have a period of two years to understand the TQM philosophy and to adopt it for enhancement of Quality in Engineering Education, so that our Institutions are brought on par with the World Class Institutions. And we shall have developed adequate expertise in TQM to host such an international event.