

## 15. SEPARATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

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[Editor's Note:- Views of the Vice Chancellors of the Maharashtra State on the "Proposed Technical University were sought; but only Vice Chancellor from S R T Marathwada University, Dr Nimse responded. His views are given below.]

During the last two decades, there is an enormous growth in institutions and number of students opting for engineering & technology, management and pharmacy education in the state of Maharashtra. As a result, there is demand for separate state university exclusively for these faculties. Yashpal Committee report is very harsh on such specialized (few discipline) universities. It goes against the concept and spirit of the university framework, as practiced globally. Even premier Indian Technical Institutions like IIT's are enlarging their ambit by introducing degrees on basic sciences, social sciences and even humanities. By establishing such university, state may end up with university affiliating more than 700 institutions across the whole state. Number of such affiliated institutions and their geographical distribution will create more administrative problems, will kill innovative practices. This is against the concept of autonomy. Creation of such huge affiliated structure, is also against the policy of higher education which asks for discontinuing outdated affiliated system, as practiced in India.

Everything is not rosy in present system also. Many times, problems of engineering faculty are ignored by the academic councils of the state universities using brute force of majority from other disciplines. Academically and administratively, sound solutions for this problem is to amend present Maharashtra University Act, 1994, suitably so that faculties of the respective disciplines have more powers to decide their core issues. Now, such powers are vested in academic councils. Further, mechanism be developed to have porous boundaries between various disciplines (faculties) so that meaningful interdisciplinary dialogue can be established amongst the different faculties. This is essential as, throughout the history of higher education and research all over world, university is conceived as institutional framework of organized scientific learning processes covering all branches of knowledge.



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