

EDITORIAL

PRIVATE ENGINEERING COLLEGES & POLYTECHNICS — NEED FOR STATE LEVEL FEDERATION & A NATIONAL CONFEDERATION —

In many states e.g. Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamilnadu, a large number of Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics have been established by private managements which have been sanctioned by the State Governments and affiliated to respective Universities or Boards of Technical Education. These outnumber the Govt. or Govt. aided Colleges and Polytechnics. The quality and standards of Technical Education of any of these states, now, depend on the performance and quality of education imparted by these institutions.

In spite of the facts that most of these Institutions have overcome their teething troubles and are emerging out of their formative stage, they face many problems. The problems of shortage of teachers, problems of training of these teachers and improving their qualifications, use of audio-video aids in teaching, exploring new methods of lab. techniques, integrated approach to teaching, problems of regular assessment, home assignment, feedback to and from parents, seminars, project work for final year students, training and placement, training for entrepreneurship; students counselling, extra curricular activities & so on. All these problems can be tackled better on common platforms where representative from a large number of Colleges and Polytechnics come together. They can present their problems, identify common problems and try to find out workable solutions. There will be sharing of ideas and experience and pooling together of resources and expertise. For this, there has to be interaction between different groups at different levels;

Groups of teachers teaching a particular subject/teachers who are guides for seminars and projects, Heads of Departments, the Chairman of Board of Studies and Deans of Faculties, Principals, the representatives of Management - all these can meet from time to time, to the mutual benefit of all. Hence, there is an urgent need for an Association of all private Engineering Colleges preferably with Govt./Govt. aided Colleges as well; a need for a Federation at State Level and hence a need for a Confederation at National Level.

In Maharashtra, since 1983-84, there were four or five such conferences. These were held at the initiative of the D.T.E., of the State and to consider mostly problems faced with respect to admission only, as seen by the Govt./Directorate. But the real problems faced by these private Engineering Colleges were never seriously discussed.

Hence, there is an urgent need and necessity for a conference of all Engineering College/Polytechnics where common problems could be identified, need for interaction can be discussed and a blue print be drawn for continuous interaction between Colleges, Teachers and Managers so that all those concerned with Engineering Education can work hand in hand for quality and excellence in Engineering Education.

What is true for Maharashtra is equally true for Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and other States where such private Colleges have been established on a large scale. Hence the necessity for Federation of these Engineering Colleges at State Level and for a Confederation at the National level.

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Prof. N. V. RATNALIKAR

Editor.