INFORMATICS

I NEWS

Compendex plus database at TIET

Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, has obtained the "Compendex Plus Database".

Compendex Plus is a computer searchable version in CD-ROM format of Engineering Index which is the most comprehensive index of current periodical literature in all branches of engineering and allied sciences containing abstracts of research paper of journals, technical reports, engineering society publications, conference proceedings, and individual conference papers in engineering and related fields.

Compendex plus scans 1500 international engineering journals and 600 conference proceedings to prepare this data box, covering every engineering discipline including biochemistry, chemical, civil, electronics, computer communication, mechanical, automotive transportation; materials and many more. Capacity of one disc is 2,50,000 pages of text of A-4 size.

Lateral Entry System In Punjab Engineering Colleges

The Punjab Government proposes to start "lateral entry system from the next academic session for the benefit of those who have a diploma and wish to go for a degree Course.

Regulating Fees in Professional Colleges

The Tamilnadu Government has constituted a committee to go into the question of regulation of fixation of fees in respect of engineering and medical Colleges.

Admissions to American Universities

Educational consultants Consortium (ECC) CF4 Sona Building, 389 G.T-Karnal Road, Delhi 110033 has been authorized to perform all the duties of official Translator and Placement officer on behalf of the International Educational Services LTD (IES) of USA - a well known corporation in the business of students placements in American Universities. ECC will provide fast and efficient services to Indian students seeking admissions to professional and non professional courses in American Universities.

Desirous students will fill a standardised International student Application form" and send the same to ECC which forward & recommend the same to IES alter scrutiny. The IES will get the application processed in the University considering the students qualifications, work experience, course of study to which admission is sought, financial constraints, possibility of obtaining financial assistance etc.

Quality of Science and Technical Education

The forum on Science Education and Research suggested that new links be forged between Universities and national laboratories to improve the quality of science and technical education in the country.

Whither Education?

A reasearch study presented to the Indian Science Congress held in Panaji recently reveals that only less than five percent of teachers really teach students and that examinations have become a more formality and big farce.

The libraries in colleges have no books; the loboratories are without apparatus and chemicals. Only less than ten percent of the students regularly attend classes;

The centralised evaluation system has become meaningless. The examiner who once took more than a month to evaluate 200 answer books; now examines 300 to 400 copies in a week at centralised evaluation centres.

New Courses in SV Varsity

Sri Venkateswara University proposes to introduce five new inter disciplinary Masters courses. They are :

1) M.Tech in Remote sensing in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency.

ii) Master's Degree Course in Rural development and Appropriate Technology in collaboration with the national Institute of Rural Development

iii) M.Tech in Atmosphere Science in collabration with Indian Space Research Organisation; & MST Radar Station.

iv) M.Tech in energy consvervation and Management in collaoration with the Institute of Engineering, Bangalore &

v) Masters course in systems Management.

P.G. Diploma In Forensic Engineering

Anna Universsity in collaboration with this state department of Forensie Science, proposes to introduce a part- time postgraduate diploma course in Forensie Engineering from Jan 1993.

The energy field of Forensic Engineering trains engineers to look at issues involved in failure of an engineering system and come to a conclusion whether it was due to natural causes, human negligence, disregrad for quality or criminal intence.

Admission to the P.G. Diploma will be open to B.E. degree holders of many branch of Engineering.

Chair of Energy Engineering

The UNESCO chair in Energy Engineering was created at the centre of Energy studies, Indian Institute of Technology New Delhi. The chair will promote activities leading to the establisment of Centres of Excellence in Renewable/Alternate Energies, the preparation of teaching-learning packages at undergratuate and post graduate levels, exchange of information and data on renewable energy, transfer of know-how and technology; R&D and education and training.

IIT Delhi Field Unit

The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, has opened has opened a Foundation for innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT) extension office in Noida near Delhi.

The FITT will provide information support service, industrial clinic service a human resource development programme, total quality management programme, technology based services and diagnostic services. It will assist industries in choosing the right technology and diversify their products.

Reorganising Undergraduate Courses.

Introduction of Vocational courses and enhanced use of the electronic media for imparting education are among the steps taken by University Grants Commission to reorganise the undergraduate degree structure. The vocational courses will include electronics and computer sciences.

II VIEWS

Capitation Fees

The capitation fees brings to the fore a clear class bias. It enables the rich to take admission whereas the poor has to withdraw due to financial inability. A poor student with better merit cannot get adminssion because he has no money where as the rich can purchase the admission. Such a treatment is patently unreasonable, unfair and unjust".

[The supreme court of India in its recent judgement in Mohini Jain versus state of Karnataka and others in connection with admissions to capitation fee colleges.]

Science Technology and Moral Values

Dr. B.B.Sundaresan, member State Planning Board, Tamilnadu, while delivering convocation address at the Bharathidarshan University, Tiruchirapalli remarked. "There appears to be an inverse relationship between growth in Science and technology for better physical comforts and moral values. How else could one explain the phenomental increase in terrorism, killing of innocent women and children, enticing children for drug abuse and least concern for the fellow human being, in all parts of the world?"

Cultivation of Values

Dr.ShankarDayal Sharma, President of India, while delivering the convocation address at the eleventh annual convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of higher Learning Prasanthi Nilayam observed.

"As numerals and their inter relationships are basic to mathematics, or mass, energy and time are basic to physics or demand and supply are basic to economics, or ideas and personalities are basic to history, so are values basic to the human being. Values are something which normally an individual has to think through for himself and not something which he can depend on his environment to bestow upon him or others to impose on him. Also, the inner, personal exercise of identifying and determining values, is better undertaken early in life, not postponed to follow life's experiences.

Bharatiya Education

In his Benedictory Adress, Revered Sri Sathya Sai Baba Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher learning, Prasanthi. Nilayam Observed:-

. All that students learn today is unrelated to the Bharatiya system of education. A system which enslaves the mind and promotes, the office-hunting mentality can have no relation to Bharatiya" education. The later is a system to combat injustice and corruption, and promote truth and righteousness. It was not designed to make a student acquire a degree at great expense and then go about with a begging bowl in search of jobs. It aimed at promoting self reliance and encouraging one to take up social service in a spirit of dedication. Bharatiya education was based on two mottos "Sathyam Yada, Dharam Chara". (Speak the truth, Practice Righteousness)

University Industry Interaction

Prof. G.Ram Reddy, chairman UGC, while delivering the sixth convocation address of the Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala said : One of the serious complaints in India has been that the higher education sector and the industrial sector have worked in isolation from each other. In the University teaching and research, there is not much input from outside. Similarly, industries are shy of making use of expertise available in the University system. This isolation has to end and the two sectors need to come together in their own interest and in the interest of the nation.

Self-Financing, Professional Colleges

Mr. C.Aranganayagam, Tamilnadu Education Minister, while delivering the convocation address at Dr. MGR Engineering College at Maduravoyal, near Madras said that the management of self financing professional colleges should use the funds got from students to improve facilities which will prevent-criticism from the public.

III REPROT ON SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

Vocational Education

In the International seminar on "The Changing Vocational World: A challenge to Education" held in New Delhi, form 9th to 14th Dec.1992, educators observed that India and her neighbours can develop faster if they emphasise vocational and technical education. In his inaugral address India's Education Secretary Mr.S.V.Giri emphasised the need to focus on increasing the skilled labour force through vocational training.

The developemental benefits from well directed technical education programmes were pointed out by UNESCO authorities.

The seminar also discussed cost effectiveness of vocational courses and reducation of work pressure as Universities.

National seminar on Role of Industry in Technical Education In INDIA :

Two seminars were held on the " Role of Industry in Technical Education", on 20-21 Feb.1993 at Bangalore and 27-28 Feb. at Aurangabad. They were organised by the Indian Society for Technical Education to mark its Silver Jubile celebration and as a part of India-Canada co-operation project in collaboration with the State Government of Karnataka and Maharashtra respectively.

Confederation of Indian Industry, and many more industries took keen interest, and contributed ideas.

Many industrialists, expresed that if institutes plan to develop capability in industrial research and training, they would actively participate and invest money in them. They have realised the importance of collaborating with academicians within the country and would like to have creative partnership with them.

Following are some of the important recommendations.

1) Today, many Higher Education Institutes (HEI) do not have industrial liasion department, which they should set up, forthwith.

2) Chamber of Commerce and Confederation of Indian Industry ought to take leading role in establishing collaboration between the two, for research, education and training.

3) Government should initiate schemes like research park, incubator, technology park, and bring world experience to the country.

4) An executive organisation for planning and monitoring of industry-institute interaction be specially designed and set up, at national and state levels, to pursue on substained basis.

5) HEI ought to be equipped better in terms of faculty and research facility for which industry and Government should provide more finance. R&D in them is much cheaper than to import of technology.

6) R&D in institutes ought to be given market orientation. HEI and induustry ought to collaborate more effectively for which both should cooperate, and not find fault with each other.

7) Universities and Higher Education institutes ought to be granted autonomy so that they can respond quickly to the market needs.

8) The faculty needs to be given facilities, and wider expertise at global levels, so as to enable them to orient to industrial needs.

9) Colleges and polytechnics should provide testing facilities to industries, and specially equip, if necessary.

10) Advisory committees consisting of leaders from industry be set up forthwith for each college/polytechnic. The projects of final year students, M.E. and other courses should be industry oriented. The advisory committee should meet regularly and prevail upon institute to provide services for which it is meant. It should participate and add resources to institute, whenever needed.

11) Entrepreneurship Development Centres be set up in each college/polytechnic especially in industrially backward areas.

12) Technical Education Institute, Government, and industry have to plan and act in a holistic manner, and especially avoid imbalance in investment.

IV FORTH COMING CONFERENCES

Proposed Date of the Event	Title	Objective	Name of the Organising Department	Name of the Organising Secretary/Officer to be contacted
May 25-27 1993	Sixth Annual Conference of the All India Association for Educational Research	Theme: Research in Educational Management	All Indian Association for Education Research in collaboration with St. Ann's College of Education, Mangalore	Dr. (Sister) Lydia Fernandes A.C., Principal, St. Ann's College of Education, Managalore
1st week of June 1993	Annual Conference of Indian Academy for Instructional Planning	Theme: Instructional Planning-an educational rethinking	Pravara Rural College of Education, Pravarnagar, Dist. Ahmednagar	Dr. P.L.Kirkire Secretary, IAIP, B.Ed. College Loni (Pravaranagar) Dist Ahmednagar - 413712
December 14-16 1993	1993 Annual Conference of the Society for Research for Research into Higher Education	Theme: Governments and the Higher Education Curriculum: Evolving Partnerships	Society for Research into Higher Education, London	Prof. Tony Becher, EDB, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN 1 9 RG.