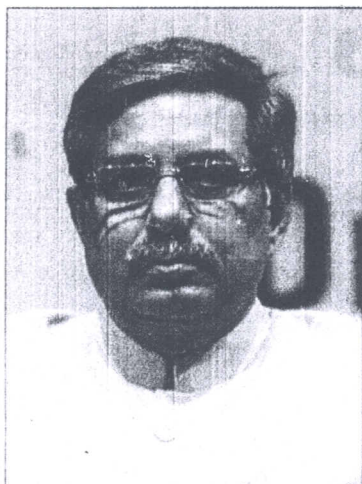


GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION



Prof. D.P. Singh

INTRODUCTION

The Indian Higher Education system, being one of the largest systems in the world, has undergone massive expansion in post-independent era. As against 20 universities and 500 Colleges at the time of Independence, the country has now grown to 634 Universities (including 303 State Universities, 43 Central universities, 130 Deemed Universities, 97 State private Universities, 5 Institutions established under State Legislation and 55 Institutes of National Importance established by Act of Parliament) and 33023 colleges which is likely to be 800 universities and 40000 colleges by 2020 to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) to 30 percent as against 18.8 percent currently (Higher Education in India at a Glance, 2012 & Inclusive and Qualitative Growth, 2012, UGC). Along with this the nation is heading towards increasing its capacities at higher education level through its initiative of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyaan (RUSA) by creation of an additional capacity for 2 million more students from eligible age cohort to have access to higher education in a demand-driven manner up to 2020.

Thus, it is apparent that the scenario of higher education is now expanding like never before in terms of number of teachers, students, institutions, administrative works, infrastructure, roles-responsibilities and functions. With an increase of the human and infrastructure at the higher education level the issues and problems related to the administration, functioning, monitoring, financing, management, quality too are on increase. The system is now becoming more and more complex and rigid instead of the desirable one. Creation of additional capacities requires a higher education system which is flexible, effective and efficient so as to cater to the needs of stakeholders.

SOME CHALLENGES

It would be meaningful to address the following challenges for developing a holistic perspective on good governance for quality higher education:

- Linking higher education with the national development / state development
- Developing professionally competent youth, equipped with ICT and communication skills
- Preparing youth for global competitiveness and employability
- Increasing intellectuals rather than just degree holders

- Developing youth with human value and professional ethics
- Preparing environmentally sensitive young generation
- Preparing competent teachers for higher education
- Empowering educational administrators through autonomy with accountability
- Establishing world class institutions of learning and research along with centres of excellence
- Strengthening infrastructure and human resources in the institutions of higher learning
- Developing research culture
- Releasing grants timely and utilizing justifiably
- Expanding both qualitatively as well as quantitatively

Above are some of the major challenges of higher education in India. These challenges are an inherent part of development mechanism of higher education. Any major initiative for higher education should address these challenges.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

With the advent of innovations the term like Governance, Good Governance, Swaraj are in the air for bringing quality into the Processes and Products of the higher education administration. Good Governance is an indeterminate term used in international development literature to describe how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources. Governance is "the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented)".

The term governance can apply to corporate, international, national, local governance or to the interactions between other sectors of society (UNESCAP, 2009). Recently the terms "governance" and "good governance" are being increasingly used in development literature. As per United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) 2009, Good Governance has eight major characteristics - Participation, Rule of law, Transparency, Responsiveness, Consensus oriented, Equity & inclusiveness, Effectiveness & Efficiency and Accountability.

Further the Good Governance assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and the

the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society. Keeping these core characteristics in mind the one can conceptualize Good Governance at the higher education level.

SUGGESTIVE MEASURES

- **State Council of Higher Education (SCHE)** should be created in the States as an apex advisory and decision making body for the higher education. SCHE should be non-political body headed (Chairman) by an eminent educationist. It should have two divisions – (i) Planning and Academic Division (ii) Finance and Management Division.
- **Accreditation** should be mandatory for all educational institutions and it should be done by a national body and on established national standards. NAAC should establish its Regional Offices for Accreditation and Assessment of the Higher Education Institutions so as to provide a uniform yardstick for Accreditation and Assessment.
- **Private players/organisations** may be motivated to open Universities and Colleges in the Rural and tribal areas rather than in the Urban areas. The rationale behind this is to reach the unreached and uplift the rural and tribal population for better living through higher education.
- **Types of Universities :-** In State two types of Universities at divisional level are required – (i) Residential Universities (ii) Affiliating Universities.
The Residential Universities should have only University Teaching Departments. Such Universities should focus on research and innovation. These Universities should have excellent infrastructure, equipments, qualified faculty and staff and teaching-learning resources. These Universities should be the Centres of Excellence in higher education for knowledge creation, knowledge sharing and knowledge dissemination. The Affiliating University should deal with colleges and look after academic, affiliation and examination related issues of colleges in the Division.
- **Managing University Affairs :-** It is high time to realise the concept of 'Autonomy with Accountability' in the management of higher education. The Executive Council of the Universities should be empowered to : make Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations; creation and filling up of teaching and non-teaching positions; financial and other resources etc..
- **Education and National Development :-** There is a felt need to institutionalize

the 'visioning role' for future human resource development and perspective planning for education taking into consideration the futuristic national and international scenario. In this context, the educational planning and human resource development need to be linked with sustainable national development. What would be the scenario of the development of the country in the next 25 years? What type of human resource will be required to achieve the perceived target of the national development? What type of skills will be required to fulfill various roles in different sectors of economy? To perform various perceived roles what type of techno-managerial competence will be required? And for all this what changes will be required at various stages of education? In view of this, there should be a designated institution to co-ordinate the 'visioning activities' and for preparation of vision documents. An apex new institute should be established for Human Resource Planning and Management or this role be assigned to some existing institution.

- **Preparing Teachers for Higher Education :-** Provision for appropriate training of newly inducted teachers' needs to be made. This role may be entrusted to the NUEPA, UGC-Academic Staff Colleges and some other identified institutions. This will facilitate development of desired skills and aptitude. There should be a provision of on-the-job training of teachers as in various other Government Departments. This would help teachers in acquiring necessary skills and capabilities.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The concept of 'Good Governance' in its true spirit can bring the qualitative changes in the system which is aiming at achieving Equity, Access, Quality, Relevance, Excellence and Value based higher education. The efforts mentioned aforesaid needs committed, qualified manpower coupled with the good infrastructure facilities which in turn needs a strong financial base. The country is heading towards making strategic changes in the area of Higher Education. To sustain the demographic dividend and stability of a nation with huge young population, India now needs better economic growth and excellence in higher education, both in quantity and quality.

Prof. D.P. Singh

Vice Chancellor
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya
(Former Vice-Chancellor, BHU &
Dr. H.S. Gour University)
email : vc.davv@dauniv.ac.in