



Role of Collegiate education in enhancing the Quality of Govt. Degree Colleges

Dr.S.Vighneswara Rao, Reader in Economics, Asst.Controller of Exams,
Dr.V.S.Krishna Govt Degree College (A) Visakhapatnam.

Abstract: *An important challenge in the higher education sector i.e. to bring about reforms not only in the institutions of higher learning but also in the regulatory structures of the higher education system. There are also the challenges of maintaining quality and excellence while ensuring rapid expansion and attracting and retaining good faculty in adequate numbers to meet the demands of the rapidly expanding sector.*

Keywords: *Higher education, vocationalisation, networking*

Analysis

Higher education is of vital importance for the country, as it is a powerful tool to build a knowledge-based, research oriented, technically developed twenty-first century society. Improvement of access along with equity and excellence, adoption of State-specific strategies, enhancement of the relevance of higher education through curriculum reforms, vocationalisation, networking and information technology, and distance education are some of the main policy initiatives in the higher education sector.

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In Andhra Pradesh, the Department of Collegiate Education has initiated a number of steps for educational reforms including in regulatory and governance structures in the higher education system. It monitors the administrative functions and academic quality in Government Degree and Government Aided colleges. It monitors the implementation of various programmes for sustaining and promoting the quality of education with the objective to provide a purposeful education to all, particularly to students hailing from marginalized sections of the society.

Keeping in view the recent developments in the society, the Department started introducing need-based, job-oriented new courses in the regular stream like Bio-technology, Industrial Chemistry, Computer Science etc and Tourism, Computer Hardware technology, Mobile phone technology, Fine Arts etc in the Add-on courses stream, in Govt Degree Colleges in the last few years, on partial self-financing basis. Similarly, P.G. courses, on self financing basis, are also sanctioned every year on the basis of demand and



facilities available. These courses are accessible to the students belonging to the poor and marginalized sections. To encourage women education, the department is motivating the colleges to obtain grants from the U.G.C. or use the autonomy funds to provide hostel facility to women students.

English language laboratories were opened with a view to shift the focus from content based teaching to skill based teaching and from teacher centric activity to student centric activity. The ELF trained teachers have become a resource pool and are being used in the JKC's as Guest English Mentors.

Although the Class-room teaching activity is still the main one, a variety of other activities are to be strengthened to fulfil the diverse needs of students and also to prepare them to face global challenges. Keeping this in view, the Collegiate Education is organizing "YUVATHARANGAM" from 2012-2013 academic year, in which various literary and cultural competitions, games and sports competitions are to be conducted. The curricular and teaching plans were revised and newly designed learner oriented plans were communicated. Teachers are motivated to supply the additional inputs to the students with a view to supply the latest information of the concerned subject.

The Department is working towards promoting certain community development programs with the help of the colleges under its control. All the colleges are therefore expected to start NSS and NCC units, Eco Clubs (Harita), Consumer Clubs, Red Ribbon clubs, women empowerment cell, film clubs, youth red cross and heritage clubs to educate the students and society about consumer awareness, HIV/AIDS

awareness, voluntary blood donation, life-skills, protecting the environment and ecological balance and preservation of heritage and cultural monuments.

One lead Govt Degree College in each district (ID college) was selected and District Resource Centres (DRCs) were established in all the districts covering all the Govt Colleges in the State to provide additional support to the students of GDCs situated semi-urban, rural and remote areas. All the GDCs and Aided colleges in the District are linked to the DRCs for conducting activities like sharing of teacher expertise, utilizing library, labs, playground and other infrastructural facilities and student support services like Mana T.V., JKC, Health Centres etc., conducting Joint activities like additional coaching, career guidance, summer coaching camps, competitions etc.

INFLIBNET facility was provided to the Govt Degree Colleges with an objective to modernize the libraries for providing global access for getting the information to the students and with the technical support of INFLIBNET centre, Ahmedabad.

The telecast of curriculum based degree level lessons through MANA TV supports and supplements the normal teaching by providing the latest information. It is modern and innovative learning resource, benefiting large sections of the students belonging to rural areas. Innovative live programmes like Teleconferences, Panel discussions are organized through MANA TV which generates huge enthusiasm among teachers and students.

Repositioning of Higher Education is one of the innovative activities of the



Department aimed at improving teaching learning strategies to suit the requirements of the global era. To achieve this, work-shops are being conducted for the lecturers by eminent academicians. Jawahar Knowledge Centres are established in GDCs to bring-out the latent talents and creativity of students of poorer sections. Students will be trained in soft skills, communication skills, industry needed skills, which are necessary for getting employment. Recently the Collegiate Education Department selected 145 GDCs in A.P. for offering Dual Degrees to the selected Degree College students in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences – a deemed University. Under this programme, syllabus is designed in such a way to cater the requirements of the industry.

The Collegiate Education took several measures and motivated the staff and students of the Colleges to obtain the accreditation from NAAC, which is a significant and shining parameter for measuring the quality of the college. To improve the standards and quality, IQACs were opened in GDCs.

The well-established Govt Degree Colleges are motivated to go for Autonomy with a view to reduce the financial burden on the State Govt and to improve the Quality.

Choice Based Credit System:

As per the guidelines of the UGC, the Indian Higher Educational Institutions have been moving from the conventional annual system to semester system. All the Autonomous Colleges in A.P. and Telangana introduced the CBCS from 2014-2015 academic year, as per directions of the Department of Collegiate Education. The affiliated

colleges of various Universities in A.P. also introduced the semester pattern from the academic year 2015-2016. The semester system is student centered and accelerates the teaching-learning process and enables vertical and horizontal mobility in learning.

Conclusion

The choice based Credit system provides flexibility in designing curriculum and assigning credits based on the course content and hours of teaching. The student can take courses of their choice, learn at their own pace, undergo additional courses and acquire more than the required credits and adopt an interdisciplinary approach to learning.

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