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ADDRESS AT THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF UNIVERSITY GRANT CC

28-12-2003 : Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

University Education and National Missions

I am indeed delighted to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Ur Commission which has contributed to the cause of higher education in the post indepe the last five decades through several innovative schemes. I congratulate the Min Resource Development, University Grants Commission and all those who are assor growth. The Universities have a major responsibility in nation building through en Engineering and Technology and by providing value based education to students to m leaders. On this occasion, I would like to share with you some of my thoughts on "Univ and National Missions".

Second Vision for the Nation

We have all heard about the first vision of the Nation which commenced in the year 18 period there were few universities in the country. Many of our freedom fighters were e Lawyers, educators, poets, academicians, industrialists all of them participated i movement. It was a long drawn struggle and we got the freedom and India became ind year 1947. There has been substantial growth in higher education after independence a 10 million students are studying in our colleges thereby in our universities. We have de higher education system and educated over eighty million students during this period w in a variety of national and international assignments. After five decades of growth ou face new challenges. It has a second vision to become a developed India by the year 2 population of over one billion people of which 260 million are still living below the po need education, they need habitat, they need health care, and creation of employe meet their needs we need the second vision for the nation. Our GDP is growing at an 5% p.a. whereas the economists suggest that to remove the poverty of 260 million pe grow at the rate of 10% p.a. consistently for over a decade.

Partner to Developed India - Missions

How do we counter this situation? What role our educational system will play in the : national development? Is an incremental change sufficient or do we need a quantum s for developing people who can participate in transforming India into a developed nation study the proposed integrated missions such as 5000 PURA's (Providing Urban Am Areas) out of 25000 PURA's, interlinking of rivers, power mission, agriculture, agro-f tourism, healthcare, infrastructure development, information and communication te mass transportation system and critical technologies. Youth with knowledge, skill a required for undertaking and completing these tasks in time.

In the next two decades, nation will witness the occurrence of many events. The vision into action-oriented missions. Interlinking of rivers may get priority in the list and PU implementation by all the states. Now the university system apart from its researc become partners in national development. This will call for changes in the syllabi. I include several aspects that will nurture entrepreneurial skills in the students. It will als systems at its core. We now know that high quality developments like PURA and th rivers are missions that will also call for high quality research. In order to meet requirements it has to be recognised that the university should also be a place of rese university facilities should be allocated exclusively for research. Creation of national ins will also help in identifying areas where research and developments are co-located an another.

Present Status of Higher Education System

Number of schemes have been launched by UGC for the development of the Universities provide access of education to all the section of the society equitably, especially for the and differently abled persons. I understand that UGC has also launched career orientec academic staff colleges. To meet the challenges in education and in global society, UG scheme of granting potential for excellence status to selected universities. It is good four National Institute of Science at Chennai, Pune, Allahabad and Bhubaneshwar excellence in Science Education in collaboration with CSIR, DBT, ISRO, DAE, D Department of Oceanography. Generating the sustained interest in the scientific disc continuity in provision of employment.

Employment Generation through entrepreneurship

There has been substantial growth in our higher educational system and we are ge million graduates every year. However our employment generation system is not in a pc the graduates passing out from the universities leading to increase in educated unempl year. This situation will lead to instability in the social structure. We need higher educ employment opportunities. A multi pronged strategy is needed to make education mor simultaneously create employment potential - how do we do that?

Firstly, the educational system should highlight the importance of entrepreneurship a students right from the college education to get oriented towards setting up of the er will provide them creativity, freedom and ability to generate wealth. Apart from entree youth should have the spirit that "we can do it". Secondly, the banking system should capital right from every village level to the prospective entrepreneurs for undertaking r Banks have to be proactive to support the innovative products for enabling wealth gene entrepreneurs by setting aside the "conventional tangible asset syndrome". Definite certain amount of calculated risks which can be eliminated by making an analysis of su capital enterprises. Thirdly, there is a need to identify marketable products and € purchasing power among the people. This can come through the implementation of me such as PURA, Interlinking of Rivers, Infrastructural missions, Power missions anc genuine border trade can improve if we have a friendly border in all sectors.

The universities should become a facilitator for creating this entrepreneurship scher support of the banking system and the marketing system. This is one way of reducing i gap leading to upliftment of the 260 million people living below the poverty line.

An empowered University

The SAC-C (Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet) has given the recommendatic of the country both in terms of the quality and quantity is so enormous that the gove alone will not be adequate to take care of the needs of the higher S&T education. It is that the requirements of the trained manpower arise not only from within the countr abroad as a result of the globalization of manpower markets.

Recently I was talking to a Physics Professor from Princeton, I asked him, what is between an Indian University and Princeton University? And he replied in a single word t the difference". Of course this freedom comes out of national administrative vision graduate towards this. Science has no borders and integrates many fields. May be, this i was followed in our Gurukuls and Nalanda University, which were never dependent or the government or the kingdom. I started visualizing an ideal university in our country an autonomous totally free educational environment, which can meet the challenges of 2 empowered Board of governors and an academic council is appointed for establishing university. The board of governors should elect the Chancellor and Visitor from withir board giving credence only to the academic excellence. It is made fully autonomous wil develop human resource of excellence for deployment towards societal transformation.

Each student is assigned a computer connected to the Internet through wired or wirele In order to make use of the integrated educational services any time, any where- be it ir or the hostel, he stays always connected. He is in direct touch with all the happenings and also in continuous communications with his/her teachers. Assignments are given,

submitted through e-learning system. His teachers do not provide him or her solution. They only trigger his or her imagination to think wider and find a solution for him or her. They encourage him to take risks and think differently. Students are taught the art of learning by learning itself. In this 21st century, we are seeing the death of time and distance. Information is located at any time, any one, any place. And we will be able to access information, in fact all the information that you need in your life can be packed in a computer that may store few terabyte. You will be overloaded with the information. The one who knows how to mine the data and convert it into knowledge. Can we have an empowered university?

Virtual University

It is time that we should start looking at the possibility of creating a Virtual University through networking of all the universities and other educational institutions for imparting education. Virtual university will have the following tasks:

- a) Act as a central hub of all universities which are networked.
- b) Identify experts of national/international eminence in specialized areas.
- c) Coordinate, organize, schedule and broadcast the lecture of specialists at a mutually convenient time to all participants.
- d) Record the live transmission of the lecture with interaction details in a data bank for participants for review learning.
- e) Digitize all the university libraries and make it available for seamless access by all the participants.
- f) Provide for all the 3-Ls of learning- Lectures, Laboratory and the Library- all over the country.
- g) The universities need to become learner centric.

This experiment across the country will provide a common platform for teaching School and Universities and even vocational courses. This will give equal emphasis on theory and practice in spite of the fact that it will be done in the cyberspace. Such is the power of the technology that it will help in the understanding of it. This facility would also help in expansion of telecommunication and this would lead to synergising the strengths of different universities in promoting quality education for our students in a cost effective manner. I suggest the Five Universities which have been identified as having "potential for excellence" should be asked to create virtual universities on the lines of excellence which will enable sharing of excellence by all the Universities.

Concluding remarks : 11 initiatives

UGC has formulated number of initiatives for promoting excellence in higher education. I would recommend certain initiatives, which can make the educational sector vibrant and address the challenges of providing vital human resource for national development.

1. a. In the first phase 5000 PURAs (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) are planned. 25,000 possible PURAs in the country. Youth with knowledge, skill and passion are required at the centre stage for participating of such PURAs. An integrated programme should be developed at graduate and postgraduate levels for developing technologists and managers for sustaining PURAs. The first course may commence from academic year 2004-05.
- b. University needs to become the knowledge partner in the programmes such as Indira Arogya Yojana, interlinking of rivers, desalination of water through nuclear and solar energy etc.,
2. A transparent system of University performance Evaluation scheme is required. Evaluation criteria may include areas such as quality and quantity of research, contribution to society, transformation, utilization and performance of the students who have passed out in the last 5 years, quality and standing of the teaching staff, promotion of E-governance, transparent system and the student centric responsive administration.
3. Performance evaluation results could also be used to plan merger of some universities to create synergy and excellence and reducing managerial overheads.
4. A simple, easy to implement "educational loan scheme" should be evolved by UGC with the banks for enabling meritorious students to pursue higher education without dis-

5. UGC should create a dynamic curriculum review mechanism relating to current socio- of the country.

6. There are a number of young prodigies in different areas. A system for recognizing and promoting their growth consistent with their abilities different from the convention; to be designed and implemented.

7. UGC should create simplified uniform inter-university mobility norms for students a universities.

8. UGC should plan to build a common digital library for the all universities and provide access to the literary resources.

9. Build Educational Grid which connects Universities for resource sharing, content gen core competence, e-learning, tele-education and universal certification.

10. Enlist great teachers of the nation who love teaching from various sectors

11. Lead to the approval of empowered university with private initiatives, national/interr

Wish you all the best.

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