

State level consultation
On
“Challenges and Prospects of Higher Education in Odisha”



CONSULTATION REPORT

VENUE: Pantha Nivas, Bhubaneswar

7th June 2009

Organized by:

**Human Development Foundation School of Management (HDF, SoM),
Bhubaneswar**

Executive Summary

Higher education is crucial for development of economic and social entrepreneurs, workforce and knowledge that are crucial for sustainable development and higher quality of life. It is needless to mention that our higher education system is in a state of crisis. Our colleges and universities are no more places for effective learning. Possible strategies for putting the higher education in the right track are given below.

A. Governance related

- a. Develop a system for generating data related to higher education for planning, monitoring and facilitating development.
- b. Develop a Higher Education Policy for the state and set up a State Council of Higher Education. Till the State Council for Higher Education is reestablished an interim Advisory Group of eminent academicians may be formed to advise the Minister of Higher Education.
- c. Remove plus two education from higher education ambit.
- d. Provide autonomy (financial, administrative and academic) to Universities and Autonomous institutions and ensure their accountability through a performance contract. Avoid political interference while implementing academic and administrative discipline. Create an enabling environment for changing syllabus at a pace that meets industry needs.
- e. Appoint Vice Chancellors and Principals on the basis of their proven leadership through a transparent process and for a 5 year tenure.
- f. Chairman of governing body of colleges must be an academician of repute, not bureaucrats and not politicians.
- g. Declare one college from each district as a “state college” and make it a model institution of higher learning through grant of autonomy, establishment of a progressive governance system and injection of adequate resources.
- h. Establish new institutes/programs in emerging/interdisciplinary areas relevant for the state and students (Forestry, Coastal zone management, indigenous knowledge system, etc.).
- i. Establish regulatory body to ensure quality in educational institutions,

facilitate entry of private players and foreign players, settle disputes and break unholy nexus among educational entrepreneurs and powerful elements in the society.

- j. Rating and accreditation of higher educational institutes by recognized body at the state level.
- k. Review Orissa Professional Education Act.

B. Faculty related

- a. Fill vacant faculty positions
- b. Rationalise faculty types and compensation system in colleges and universities. Performance based compensation system may be planned.
- c. Avoid contractual faculty.
- d. Establish dedicated institutes and incentives for faculty development.

C. Student related

- a. In the long run, fee needs to meet the operating expense of imparting higher education. Accordingly, create an education development fund for facilitating loan to students at reasonable terms and conditions for all types of higher education.
- b. Create a state level advisory body to systematically guide and counsel students for their choice of higher education considering their individual priority and national needs.
- c. Strengthen education that leads to increased competence in communication, comprehension and analytical power.

D. Infrastructure related

- a. Strengthen physical infrastructure in the public university and colleges through state fund.
- b. Provide autonomy to institutions for resource generation through fee increase, self-financing courses, donations and public-private partnership.
- c. Provide shared facilities for expensive infrastructures, e.g. data bases, laboratories, high speed computing facility, etc.

Perspective

HDF School of Management organized a state level consultation on the theme, “Challenges and Prospects of Higher Education in Odisha” on 7th June at Panthanivas, Bhubaneshwar. Eminent persons from academia, civil society, industry and government participated in the seminar.

Human Development Foundation (HDF) believes that in our era of knowledge economy and growing challenges from environmental degradation, globalization, recession, rising inequality, marginalization, poverty, under-development and unemployment, the role of higher education has become more important than ever before. While primary and secondary education provides the foundation for human development, higher education is essential for developing economic and social entrepreneurs and for producing knowledge workers crucial for sustainable development and higher quality of life. If Odisha has to leapfrog in development indicators, higher education led progress can be one of the paths worth following. In the above context, the Consultation was organized on the challenges and opportunities of higher education in Odisha with reference to technical education, agriculture and veterinary education, medical and health education, management education, social science education and education in emerging areas. It was also decided to discuss the status of existing governance and administrative system of higher education and its requirement to steer the development of the state to achieve the desired goal.

Brief summary of consultation:

The Consultation was inaugurated by Shri Debi Prasad Mishra, Hon’ble Minister Higher education Govt of Orissa. The keynote address was delivered by Padmashri Prof. K.L. Chopra, Chairman Board of Governors of HDF School of Management. In his opening remarks the honorable minister

welcomed the initiative of the HDF School of Management for facilitating discussions on the issues and challenges for the state in the Higher education arena, and also sought the cooperation of all the stakeholders in order to come up with a roadmap for the future. Prof. Trilochon Pradhan , former V.C of Utkal University and Dr. D.P Ray, V.C OUAT spoke during the inaugural session.

Shri Madhusudan Padhi , Secretary Higher Education Govt of Orissa, chaired the first technical session on Governance and Administration of Higher education in which Prof Abani Baral, Secretary, Sikshaya Mahasanga, Prof Omkar Mohanty Vice Chancellor BPUT, spoke on the challenges of governance in higher education, in particular the university system.

In the second session, chaired by Utkal University Vice Chancellor Prof. Binayak Rath speakers like Prof DV Ramana of XIMB, Prof Sukadev Naik of Sambalpur University, NISER Director Prof TK Chandrasekhar, Former DST Director Prof SN Torasia and secretary Orissa Private Engineering College Association Binod Dash spoke on issues relating to social sciences, Professional, technical, and pure sciences education.

In the final session the key participants reviewed the views of all and recommended that reforms must be undertaken in the state to achieve the vision 2020 set forth by the Knowledge Commission based on the objectives of universal access, equity and affordability. The participants suggested that a Council of Higher Education need to be formed with eminent academicians which should come up with an education policy to make the State an education hub at the national level. Among others DK Roy, Executive Director HDF, Sudarsan Das, Secretary HDF, DK Mishra chairman HDF, and Dr. Haribandhu Panda Director HDF SoM facilitated the discussions.

Summary of Proceedings

Inaugural Session:

The session commenced with welcome address by Shri Sudarsan Das, Secretary, Human Development Foundation. Shri Das also put forth the basic objectives of the Consultation to identify the relevant issues and challenges of higher education so as to chart a road map for greater achievement in higher education sector. He highlighted on the much needed change in governance and administration system in education. Followed by this the inaugural lamp was lighted by Honorable Minister along with eminent guests and panelists. The deliberations that followed are as follows;

Hon'ble Minister **Shri Mr. Debi Prasad Mishra** , in his inaugural speech stressed on the importance of human resource development as a prerequisite for development of a region. He spoke of strategy to achieve the objective by strengthening and broadening the higher education sector, through public – private partnership. He suggested that higher education in Orissa can be strengthened by;



- ✚ Development of better communication in rural areas
- ✚ Updated and quality curriculum
- ✚ Formulation of a state policy for higher education

He acknowledged the initiative of the HDF School of Management for facilitating discussions on the problems of the State in the Higher education arena, and also sought the cooperation of all the stakeholders in order to come up with a roadmap for the future.

Prof. K.L Chopra made a presentation on “**HIGHER TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN INDIA –PROFILE OF GROWTH AND FUTURE**” .He deliberated on the enrollment status which is decreasing day by day. He said the high school population is about 100 million. General education in higher sector cover about 10-20 million while graduate level/ technical education covers 0.8 million and P.G. level technical education covers about 37000. This shows a distressing situation in terms of access. He gave a picture of present higher education institutions in India, Problems of Collaboration with Foreign Institutions, Regulatory &Accreditation Systems, and Major Issues in Technical Education.



Higher education institutes of India

- National Institutes: IITs , NITs, IIITs, IISc, ISERs
- Central Universities-Institutes of Technology
- State Universities and Affiliated Colleges
- State Technical Universities
- Public-Pvt Partnership Universities
- Deemed Universities (Pvt Technical; R&D Institutes)
- Virtual Universities / Distance Education/Open Univ
- Autonomous & Affiliated Colleges & Some Polytechnics
- NRI Universities
- Foreign Universities

Problems of Collaboration with Foreign Institutions

- Many course offerings not accredited in the provider’s own country.
- No efforts for adaptation to local ethos.
- Usually commercial interest dominates offerings.

- Twining arrangements do not always optimize strength of partners. Exposure to different cultures and managing diversity is mostly one sided.
- On-line learning if not suitably adapted could create problems of understanding accents, phraseology, local examples etc. Reliability of outcome evaluation difficult.
- Course wares on public domain very useful to teachers but not so much for students who need guidance
- Students learn a lot laterally from colleagues, from environment and from casual discussions over coffee tables. This is lost in Distance and OL modes
- Foreign offerings do not train for managing diversity.

Regulatory & Accreditation Systems

- Technical Education is regulated by AICTE and state govt technical education departments
- Accreditation of technical education programmes is done by the AICTE's National Board of Accreditation(NBA)
- NBA lacks the autonomy to shield itself from AICTE and Government interference
- General higher education is regulated by UGC and state govt higher education departments.
- Accreditation of general higher education institutions is done by National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC)of UGC

Major Issues in Technical Education

- Concern of Equity : Equal Opportunities for admission
- Role of Private Institutions :Commercialization
- Lack of Qualified Faculty
- Inadequate Infrastructure
- Questionable Quality of Curriculum

- Outdated Teaching-Learning process
- Negligible Research and Development
- Little Entrepreneurship Activity
- Rigid and Opaque Governance & Management
- Lack of Autonomy
- Stifling Affiliation and Government Policies
- Ignorance of Ethical Values
- Globalized Accreditation & Mobility not available

He presented **some recommendations** to strengthen technical education, which are as follows:

- Management Style: Flexible, Pragmatic by academia, for academia
- All institutions should be encouraged to raise resources ethically from legitimate sources
- Monitoring & grading of the performance of an institute should be a major responsibility of the governance system
- Quality of faculty determines to a large extent the quality of the institution and its product. Institutions should pursue affirmative action policy to ensure national homogeneity & gender equality
- Performance incentives for faculty must be introduced
- All institutions should be encouraged to set up STEP, Entrepreneurship Development Cells (EDC)s, or Technology Business Incubators (TBIU)s to faculty to join the companies so created as stakeholders.
- Need to have a non-government & autonomous higher education body to act as a national think-tank for a world class higher and technical education in the country
- Roles of UGC and AICTE need to be defined precisely for development, standardization, monitoring and regulation
- Automatic approvals for the establishment of new institutions & modifications in the old institutions subject to certification of

minimum requirements. Information should be available as an “Open Access”

- Credible accreditation should be handled by financially autonomous and self-sustaining non-government agencies
- Large investments required from both Private & Public sector for setting up a large number of world class universities and technical institutions in India
- Need for setting up a GoI funded Education Development Bank

He also stressed upon research and its importance. He said research is helpful for nurturing students to become the next generation faculty, to create entrepreneurs to support the creativity chain, to interact with industry through research and consultancy, to participate in national and international conferences for exchange of ideas, to undertake consultancy work for intellectual and economic benefits, to earn economic benefits in terms of recognition, fellowships of academies, awards and rewards, to bring laurels to one’s institution and thus create its brand image differentiation. For strengthening the research activities he suggested some basic requirements which are as follows:

- Institutions must provide basic infrastructural facilities such as adequate electrical power and water which are lacking even in all IITs, the Institutes of National Importance.
- Needs qualified & research oriented faculty who, besides undertaking R&D activities, will nurture the future generation of qualified faculty
- Research students should be trained and allowed to use the facilities on their own for both experience and maturity
- Due recognition should be given to the R&D contributions of the research students in terms of credits, awards and rewards
- Research publications arising out of publicly supported projects and summary of MTech and PhD theses should be made available as an “Open Access”

He recounted the recommendations of Knowledge Commission of India for reforms in technical education. These include curriculum reforms, outcome based teaching-learning process, promotion of interdisciplinary engineering, synergy between education, research and industry, integration of science and engineering, focus on PG studies and research, reward for performance of the faculty, outcome based autonomous accreditation process, flexible and pragmatic management. He also defined opportunity and threats on technical education in India:

Opportunities

- India is on the threshold of opportunities to significantly upgrade its technical education to world quality standards.
- Serve the requirement of brain power and manpower of Indian industries and organizations.
- Its highly enthusiastic student community attracted towards tech education is a major asset.
- India has all the opportunities to significantly enhance its share of knowledge and innovation power in the global economy.
- It should create and retain Advantage India in technical education.

Threats

- Barring the IITs, NITs and a few selected premier institutions such as DCE, BITS Pilani and IIITs, the technical education is overshadowed by private initiatives, largely interested in commercialization rather than quality and scholarship.
- The system being largely dominated by teaching institutions at UG levels, the research and innovations require a much greater care and involvement of the government.
- Major corporate are keeping themselves away from technical education, primarily because of Government interference and lengthy approval systems. Thus, depriving tech education Advantage Corporate for quality and productivity.

Prof.(Padma Bibhusan) Trilochon Pradhan, former Vice Chancellor called for need of systematic and sustained effort for study and research of pure science and humanities in addition to technical education. He expressed his strong reservations for the competence and capability of overseas universities and education experts to assess the distinctive needs of Odisha. He said the teacher plays a vital role in building a society and hence the society should give respect to teacher. He suggested for introduction of new courses like marine biology, oceanography etc.



Prof. D.P Roy, Vice Chancellor of OUAT expressed his views regarding education in agricultural sciences. He said at present 50 agriculture universities and 4 deemed university under ICER are operating in India. OUAT offers many courses like agribusiness management, micro biology etc. He said OUAT regularly updates curriculum and in monitor quality education. OUAT also believes in practical oriented teaching so that students are given rural exposure for application of their theoretical knowledge. In several districts Krushi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) are operating under OUAT for research and study which has been more effective for practical exposure to students. He told more then 50 departments have PG programme and Ph.D programme. As the VC of OUAT he stressed on research and good faculty. According to him good faculty is hard to get. He suggested for increased facility for research is a tool for grooming good faculty from society.

Technical Session I: **Governance and Administration of Higher Education System of Odisha (11.30 AM – 12.30 AM)**

Shri Madhusudan Padhi , Secretary Higher Education Govt of Orissa, chaired the session on Governance and Administration of Higher education in which Prof Abani Baral, Secretary, Sikshaya Mahasanga, Prof Omkar Mohanty Vice Chancellor BPUT, spoke on the challenges of governance in higher education, in particular the university system

Prof Omkar Mohanty, Vice Chancellor of BPUT stressed on quality, equity, access and ethics which are indispensable ingredients for higher education. He said 90% of people between age group 18-20 in our country have not completed higher education according to GER (Gross Enrollment Report). Economic down turn has also adversely affected prospect of higher education. According to him governance should provide for autonomy and accountability and that government interference should give way for government intervention only. Currently 63 engineering colleges and another 4 deemed universities come under BPUT. He stressed on the following action points for betterment of higher education,



- Academic Infrastructure
- Financial Health
- Faculty training programme
- Technical education Quality Improvement Programme
- Autonomy
- Monitoring and evaluation of education in college level as well as University level

He stressed that education must be come up as Education Social Responsibility (ESR) where students receive education as stimulus.

Prof Fakiruddin stated that now 45% unemployable are existing in Orissa which is due to lack of higher education. He defined problems in respect of faculty, finance and students. Good faculty is now a crisis for the nation for which society is now suffering. The society needs good faculty for a good student. He also suggested for strengthening of general college system.

Prof. Abani Baral made a spirited statement on the defects in the educational policy and the defects and deficiencies in the governance aspects of higher education in Odisha.

Technical Session II: Challenges and prospects of social science and physical science Education in Odisha(2.30PM- 3.30PM)

In the second technical session, chaired by Utkal University Vice Chancellor Prof. Binayak Rath speakers like Prof DV Ramana of XIMB, Prof Sukadev Naik of Sambalpur University, NISER Director Prof TK Chandrasekhar, Former DST Director Prof SN Torasia and secretary Orissa Private Engineering College association Binod Dash spoke on issues relating to social sciences, Professional, technical, and pure sciences education.

Dr. S.N Tarasia, stressed on the importance of Planning. He said for every work planning and strategy designing is the key area which need to be done very carefully. He said by 2010 India would require many engineering colleges but state and country has not met the prediction. Another aspect is lack of resource which also needs to be addressed for betterment of higher education.

Shri Binod Das, Secretary Private Engineering College Association stated that, the country has the biggest youth power in world but eventually poor in higher education. With a comparative overview he said in USA every year 800 computer students get their Ph.D whereas in India the number is about twenty five. While he recommended the following to strengthen higher

education in Odisha, he strongly advocated the scrapping of Orissa Projected Educational Act:

- Uniform Education Policy
- Uniform syllabus
- Uniform fee structure for engineering and self financing course
- Transparent inspection and accreditation policy
- Clear cut admission guide line

Prof. D.V Ramana of XIMB discussed some pertinent points in higher education and recruitment policy. He said BBA is not an effective course even though the students waste their money and time without any out put. He told that Govt. needs to take pro active steps towards higher education with strong regulation for accreditation. He specially opined that Vice chancellor should be recruited through open process and interview because it's a key post on which depends a lot towards quality education.

Prof. K.B Das, Prof. of Economics, Utkal University in his insightful deliberation said that without research teaching is zero. Research is an important path for real development of education. He said at present mismatch of degree with job is also a big issue. Indian education system has sacrificed socialism for the field of booming professionalism. All are busy with their own professional course. He suggested for Improvement of quality which has been greatly hampered by education commercialization. For successful implementation of programme, state regulation and monitoring is essential. He expressed that educational attainment must address to building a good society, instead of building a good corporate world.

Prof. Sukdev Nayak suggested that social science component should find place in all degree courses including engineering, medical and science courses. He said teaching quality is also not up to the mark and hence teachers training and research activities are very much needed.

Prof. T.K Chandrasekhar, Director, ISER, said that a huge amount of money is available with several departments like HRD, DST, and CSTR for research activity but from Orissa very few research proposals have been submitted in comparison to Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Karnataka. He also suggested for quality teachers recruitment in colleges and university level.

Technical Session III

This session was chaired by Padmashri Prof. DP Pattnayak. The participants reviewed the views of all and recommended that that reforms must be undertaken to achieve the vision 2020 set forth by the Knowledge Commission for the state based on the objectives of universal access, equity and affordability. In addition to the review and recommendation, the panelists gave views on some aspects which may be indicated.

Prof Pratap Rath, President Utkal University Teachers' Association expressed his strong reservations on the current approach to education in many aspects. This thrust was on undesigning of top down approach of importance in educational administration.

Prof. Santosh Tripathy of Utkal University highlighted on the affiliation process of universities .He said the university must look at all criteria of colleges with full of accountability for affiliation. He also opined that lack of joint inspection is somehow responsible for hampering quality education. The higher education is now neglecting general studies stream and also very little attempt has been laid upon general studies. So conscientious attempt is needed for social studies and general studies.

The representatives of College Teachers' Association namely Dr. Rabi Ray spoke of the need of good governance and establishing a state level quality assurance cell.

Dr. Amiya Mohanty acknowledged the efforts of HDF for organizing the consultation. He said the review of autonomous colleges is a pertinent point. He suggested 30% fund should be allocated towards education from the total revenue. Review and update of curriculum according to the market need is essential. He said the State Advisory Board which has been formed since 1977 has been defunct. He suggested some specific points to strengthen education system:

- Support to teacher association.
- Regulation for self finance course is needed.
- Higher education council should be form in the state.
- College management committee should be strengthened and the members must be from among local educators.

After the deliberation of key dignitaries **Dr Dhanada Kanta Mishra** facilitated a presentation on “*Five things Odisha need to do to achieve its Potential to be an Education Hub*”. He discussed briefly about the education policy 1992 and common minimum programme of UPA which gave attention towards better education. He also presented the knowledge commission recommendation and Goldman-Sach Recommendations for higher education. He stressed on “Five things we need to Do” which is as follows:



1. *A State Higher Education Policy*
2. *Decentralization of Governance of Higher Education through an Independent State Council for Higher Education*
3. *Strengthening Private-Public Partnership;*
4. *Raising Resources for improved Infrastructure;*
5. *Empowering academic leaders and attracting quality faculty.*

Summary of Suggestions:

The suggestions that emerged from discussion have been highlighted in the Executive Summary. Nevertheless the specific suggestions that came up are listed below:

- * *Need of quality curriculum.*
- * *Formulation of higher education policy*
- * *Monitoring & grading of the performance of an institute should be a major responsibility of the governance system*
- * *Vice chancellor post needs to be recruited through interview.*
- * *Quality of faculty determines to a large extent the quality of the institution and its product. Institutions should pursue affirmative action policy to ensure national homogeneity & gender equality*
- * *Performance incentives for faculty must be introduced*
- * *All institutions should be encouraged to set up, Entrepreneurship Development Cells (EDC) s or Technology Business Incubators (TBIU) s for faculty to join the companies so created as stakeholders.*
- * *Need to have a non-government & autonomous higher education body to act as a national think-tank for a world class higher and technical education in the country*
- * *Roles of UGC and AICTE need to be defined precisely for development, standardization, monitoring and regulation*
- * *Automatic approvals for the establishment of new institutions & modifications in the old institutions subject to certification of minimum requirements. Information should be available as an “Open Access”*
- * *Credible accreditation should be handled by financially autonomous and self-sustaining non-government agencies*
- * *Large investments required from both Private & Public sector for setting up a large number of world class universities and technical institutions in India*
- * *Need for setting up a GoI funded Education Development Bank*

- * *Financial provision should be raised towards higher education.*
- * *Faculty training programme should update according to market need.*
- * *Introduction of Technical education Quality Improvement Programme*
- * *Monitoring and evaluation of education in college level as well as University level*
- * *Uniform Education Policy must be required through out country.*
- * *Uniform fee structure for engineering and self financing course should be regularized.*
- * *Transparent inspection and accreditation policy should reform.*
- * *Clear cut admission guide line*
- * *Preparation of data base for planning process*
- * *Govt. should provide financial and administrative autonomy to universities*
- * *All post should be filled up by Government.*
- * *Higher education council should need to form.*
- * *Committee should form for review of Autonomous colleges should*

The consultation ended with vote of thanks by Prof. KC Meher, Dean, HDF School of Management.

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