



25th Indian Colleges Forum National Conference and Higher Education Summit, 2019

Brief Report

25th ICF national Conference and Higher Education Summit, 2019 was held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi from 15-17th November 2019.

The Background

Introduction

The need for the transformation of higher education to meet the future challenges of human resources development and R & D has been felt very strongly for almost a decade or so. A recently submitted Draft New Education Policy 2019 by Dr. K. Kasturirangan recommended for the overhaul of the system of higher education by introducing the concept of UG, PG and Research programme under the concept of socially relevant multidisciplinary and liberal education in the framework of Type-1, Type-2, universities/institutions and the Type-3 -with degree-granting status. This future model of higher education has also to respond to challenges emerging from 4.0 Industrial Revolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet-of-Things (IoT) and Block chain Technology, Cloud Computing and Digitization. The 4.0 revolution will change the world of work, way of living and communication.

India and similarly placed developing countries have to deal with dual demand for development of so far left out areas and people and grappling with fast-growing technology pertaining to 4.0 industrial revolutions. This will require the system of higher education to educate students in new knowledge, skills, ability of analytical and critical thinking, decision making and the ability to work in Team. It will

require teachers and scholars to engage in innovations and development that are closely linked with the development of society. It will also require education leaders to become transformational leader to transform the system.

The 25th Indian College Forum and Higher Education Summit,2019 was organized to deliberate and make recommendations on: (a) issues pertaining to future and far-reaching implications of proposed policy changes and the impact of emerging technologies on institutions of higher education and their stakeholders; (b) impact on management and finances of government -central and state-managed institutions, private- aided and self-financing colleges and universities as also on the sponsoring bodies namely, trusts, foundations and Industries.

The theme of the 25th Annual Conference of Indian Colleges Forum and Higher Education Summit 2019 was::

“Transforming Higher Education to Meet Future Challenges”

Sub-themes:

1. Transforming higher education for ::

- (a) Converting autonomous colleges as type 3 universities and affiliated colleges as autonomous colleges /degree-granting institutes;*
- (b) introducing a multidisciplinary liberal arts 3 and 4-year degree program linked with industry and society with flexible choices to students and evaluation based on the outcome of learning as proposed by Draft NEP,2019; and*
- (c) Recruitment, retention, career and professional development of teachers and educational leaders for higher education transformation.*

2. Challenges of preparing students to manage, harness and develop 4.0 technologies namely, AI, IoT, Block Chain, Cloud Computing and Digitization that are transforming the world of work and life of people.

Challenges of mobilization of financial resources for the transformation of public and private institutions of higher education

Inauguration

The conference was inaugurated by Shri J. Veeraraghvan. Former Secretary, Human Resource Development, Government of India. Dr. Prasant Bhalla Chairman Education Council, ASSOCHAM and Shri Nipun Goenka, vice Chairman, ASSOCHAM welcomed the Chief Guest Shri Veeraghan. Dr. Bhalla while welcoming the chief guest highlighted the importance of the conference in the light of the announcement of draft education policy by the Government of India. He emphasized on the need for making higher education relevant to future needs. He also said several structural and process change is proposed in the policy, but there is a need to work out an action plan and adequate resources to implement the policy. He also said the government has to clearly work out implementation strategy to involves private education providers in a more cooperative manner. Professor MM Pant, Chair LNMP Trust, also stressed a long term vision in particularly taking note of changes likely to be caused by emerging technologies under the fourth industrial revolution. Dr. G.D. Sharma, President SEED-ICF said that Draft New Education Policy is proposing to change structure, processes, a system of evaluation linking education society and industry. He said the draft policy needs a wider discussion and debate, in particular, for working out a strategy for its implementation. He said this 25th ICF Silver Jubilee conference is, therefore, focusing on draft national education policy with its broader and sub-themes. He also thanked ASSOCHAM in particular Dr. Prasant Bhalla for readily agreeing to support the holding of the conference in Delhi. He also thanked Professor MM Pant for spontaneous voluntary support of holding a conference in India Habitat Centre.

Shri J. Veeraraghvan while inaugurating the conference congratulated organizers and said “policy is what policy does. It is an implementation that matters. He said”

you who are present here, will actually implement the policy and will give the real shape to it. “He highlighted seven challenges of implementation of the policy. These: are (1) Challenge of consolidation (, (2) Challenge of Academic Reorientation, (3) Challenge Research and Innovation, (4) Motivated and energized Faculty, (5) Regulatory Transformation, (6) National /State Regulatory Authority, (7) Financial Resources. While highlighting salient issues under each of these aspects he said draft” policy does not spell out the role of the private sector in education. Although it has a few good words to say about private philanthropy sector in education, it has no specific suggestions for incentivizing and encouraging the private sector in education” In his concluding remarks he said, The new education policy has a number of valuable suggestions and quite a few of radical reforms. It is essential to implement the same effect and with speed so that India is able to emerge from less developed country status to middle-income country status. Dr. Radhakrishnan former Principal Surana College and Dr. BK Tyagi proposed a vote of thanks to all.



Photo of dignitaries present in Inaugural Session — from left to right ***Professor NV Varghese, Dr. G.D. Sharma, Dr. Bikas C. Sanyal, Shri Nipun Goenka, Dr. Prashant Bhalla, Shri J. Veeraraghvan, Dr. Garg, Dr. Singh, Professor M. Anandkrishnan, Dr. B.K Tyagi, Dr. Ganesh.***

Technical Sessions

1. Transforming Higher Education to Meet Future Challenges.

There were six technical sessions pertaining to sub-themes. The first session was on “Transforming Higher Education to meet future challenges”. Keynote speech on this theme was given by Professor NV Varghese, Vice-Chancellor, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi. The session was chaired by Dr. Bikas C. Sanyal, former Higher Education Specialist of IIEP, (UNESCO), Paris and Co-chaired by Dr. Vinaysheel Gautam. Former Director, IIM, Kochi. Dr. Varghese in his keynote speech traced the development of higher education throughout the world and changes that have occurred during the last decade or so. One of the key observations he made was that massification of higher education in rich country has taken place with the support of public institutions whereas in poor countries it has taken place through private institutions..

While giving chairman remarks Dr. Sanyal observed that the spread of higher education in developed countries is very high. In OECD countries an attempt is being made to universalize higher education. Dr. Viny Sheel Gautam while praising the organizers said in India we need to develop a culture of promoting positive thinking through higher education against the present culture of fault finding and negating the positive initiatives. Dr. Sunita Angom was rapporteurs of the session

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From Left to Right – Dr.Sunia Angom, Professor NV Varghese, Dr. Bikas C.Sanyal and Professor Vinayshil Gautam.

Silver Jubilee Cake

Dr. Nalini Bhatt, Director HMV College, Una, Gujarat and an active member of ICF brought a 25th year Silver Jubilee Cake to celebrate the event. The cake was cut by President SEED-ICF in the presence of delegates during the lunch time.



From Left to Right Dr. Budhin Godoi, Dr. Saikia, Dr. P.K Saxena, Er. Katoch, Dr. Bikas Sanyal Dr. BK Tygi,Dr. GD Sharma, Dr. Varghese and Dr. SC Sharma

2. Converting Autonomous Colleges as Type -3 Universities and Affiliated Colleges as autonomous /Degree-Granting Institutions.

Keynote's speech on this sub-theme was given by Professor M. Anandkrishanan, Former VC Anna University, Chennai and former Vice Chairman State Council of Higher Education Tamil Nadu State. He made PowerPoint presentation tracing the development of autonomous colleges in the country and role played by them in introducing new and innovative courses relevant to industry societal needs. He also said the growth of autonomous colleges has happened very recently under the private sector. Earlier in spite of several attempts number of colleges did not grow. In some cases, the autonomy given to colleges was also withdrawn. He said while desiring to make colleges as type -3 universities and degree-granting institutions a clear guideline, strategies and program of action needs to be worked out otherwise India may not achieve desired objectives. The session was chaired by Dr. Kavita Sharma, Former Vice-Chancellor South Asian University, New Delhi and former Director IIC, New Delhi. She also headed an eminent College namely Hindu College in Delhi. She in her observation said there is a need to clearly work out a plan for autonomy to college and giving degree giving status. Delhi University has not yet given autonomy to any of its affiliated colleges. The session was Co-chaired by Shri Bal Dev Mahajan. In his remarks, he said there is a need for change, but it has to be worked out systemically. Another speaker in the session was Dr. Neeru Shehi. She brought findings of her study on this subject and stressed for developing proper system of resources allocation and governance of autonomous institutions. Dr. Sunita Angom was rapporteurs of the session.



From Left to Right – Dr. Sunita Angom, Dr. Kavita Sharma, Professor M. Anandkrishanan , Dr. Aarti Srivastav and Shri Baldev Mahajan.

3. Introducing Multi-disciplinary Liberal Arts 3 and 4 Year Degree Programme linked with Industry and Society.

The major recommendation in the proposed National Policy on Education with regard to higher education is reforming curricula and teaching-learning processes in higher education in particularly linking with industry and society with a focus on a multidisciplinary approach. The key speech on this theme was delivered by Professor Bhusan Patwardhan, Vice Chairman UGC. While sharing his personal experience of the introduction of a multidisciplinary Health Sciences Programme, he said the shift from uni-disciplinary to multidisciplinary is a challenge. You need to convince both peer groups as well as academic administrators. However, if we wish to make education more socially relevant with a focus on problem-solving approach multidisciplinary approach is a must as problems of industry and society are always multidisciplinary. He said there are several practical issues namely teaching, evaluation and credit transfer from one discipline to another. He said University Grants Commission is presently working on these issues and will soon come out with a scheme of multidisciplinary

credit banking to facilitate the introduction of multidisciplinary programs of studies in higher education. In multidisciplinary courses we should think in terms STEAM than only STEM - that is incorporating liberal Arts education He said “Multidisciplinary gives liberty to choose what is right” .He said UGC has introduced new scheme for transdisciplinary Research (STRIDE) and shared the concept National Academic Credit Bank.

Another Speaker was Dr, Usman Mohammed, Director Amal College, Kerala. He shared the introduction of a multidisciplinary program at UG and PG level in Colleges in Kerala. He said affiliated colleges have served a great cause to train undergraduate students. While carrying out structural changes in terms of autonomy and degree granted status to college proper strategy and action plan need to be worked out.

The session was Chaired by Professor Kamlesh Joshipura, former VC Saurashtra University, Rajkot and member of Nehru Memorial Museum Library, Delhi and Co-chaired by Professor Kumar Suresh. Professor Joshipura while making the chairman’s remark observed that in oldest universities namely Nalanda, Taxshshila and VikramShila were having liberal arts and multidisciplinary approaches in education processes. He said universities in developed countries namely USA and European countries leading institutions have multidisciplinary programs of studies. The draft policy therefore rightly focuses on this aspect. Professor Kumar Suresh while making his remarks said that approach of multidisciplinary courses, Academic credit banking suggested by Professor Patwardhan are need of the time. However, while conceptualizing the Multidisciplinary programs of studies ground-level problems of governance, resource availability, processes and evaluation of students need to be addressed carefully. Dr. Anupam Pachory was a rapporteur of the session.



From Left to Right- Dr. Anupam Pachori, Professor, Kumar Suresh, Professor Kamlesh Bhai Joshri Pura, Dr. M Ushman and Professor Bhusan Partwardhan

4. Recruitment, Retention, Career and Professional Development of Teachers for higher education transformation

Teachers are vital to any innovations and development in higher education. Process or recruitment, retention, and career advancement significantly influence the outcome of innovations and change. The session was chaired by Profesor Jitender Das, Director Fore School of Management. New Delhi and Co-chaired by Dr. KK Uphadhayay, Director College Development Council, Nagaland University. While setting the tone for the session Dr. Das shared his personal experience of recruitment of teachers in imminent institutions wherein academic administrators approach the good teacher for recruitment and are given the space to innovate and change. There is no formal process of advertisement and interview.

Key speakers on this theme were Professor Sudhanshu Bhusan, Head Higher and Professional Education, National Institute of Educational Planning and administration, New Delhi and Professor Saumen Chattopadhyay, Professor of

Zakir Hussain Centre for Educational Studies, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Professor Sudhanshu Bhusan in his speech highlighted the importance of teachers in implementing any education reform. Therefore, recruitment, retention and professional development and academic freedom given to teachers determine the teaching, research and development of higher education. However, ground realities if delay in recruitment and appointment of adhoc teachers in large proportion is very disappointing. His study of students satisfaction survey had shown that first general students need teachers to guide and support them beyond class room teaching. He said during the recent past, too much focus on regulation, performance evaluation, and the straight jacketing the teaching profession has restricted and limited the role and contribution of the teaching profession. The first and foremost step needed to give academic freedom and re-assure the profession to enable it to transform the system of higher education.

Professor Saumen Chattopadhyay which delivering his speech said the proposed recommendation in National Policy on Education appears to be fine. But the real question is of implementation of proposed recommendations. Implementation is directly linked with the system of governance, system resources made available to higher education and finally a system of assessment of accountability/ performance evaluation. In the past, it was attempted through the Academic Performance Appraisal system through indexing performance on certain parameters which were far removed from real situation obtaining in universities at least in JNU which offers interdisciplinary programs of studies. Therefore, the key to success in higher education in a particular teaching profession is how are the schemes designed and implemented. NEP 2019 appear to follow more top down approach rather than bottom up approach. There is major concern regarding contractual appointment. Accountability concept has shifted to administrator from academic peer group. He said “teachers need space and freedom to deliver and fulfill their responsibilities to society.”

Another speaker Dr. Aarti Srivastave shared her studies on the teaching profession and highlighted ground realities of teachers rural areas. She also made several suggestions for improving the situation in colleges and Universities. She stressed on professional development of teachers, incentivizing teachers to perform and self regulation of teachers.

Dr. Das in his Chairman's remarks said one needs to work out how in some situations teachers perform the best and in others, they are not able to perform so well. Academic freedom and space to explore new areas of research and teaching is key to professional growth and development. Dr. KK Upadhyya, Co-chair said the problem often occurs in colleges when freedom is given. Therefore, the challenge is balance freedom and accountability. The rapporteur of the session was Dr. Neeru Snhehi



From Left to Right- Dr. Neeru Snehi, Professor Chattopadhyay, Professor Sudhanshu Bhusan, Dr. KK Upadhyay, Dr. Jitender Das, Dr. Arti Srivastav and delegates

Cultural Programme:

Days deliberations were followed by an evening of cultural program rendered by artists of Ganesh Natalya. The performance and composition of the program were par excellence. Artists enthralled the audience by presenting Shiva stuti- the adi guru and concluding it by alaripu. Audience congratulating

the artist, choreographer and light and sound person. The program was sponsored by Kawa Group of Institutes, J&K. Er. MS Katoch thanked the chairperson of the program Dr. M. Annndrishnan, Dr. KE Radhakrishana thanked the artist in his artistic style.

Day-2

1. Challenge of preparing institutions of Higher Education to Manage, Harness and develop 4.0 technologies.

The session was chaired by Professor J. B. Nadda, Director, Consortium of Educational Communication – IUC –UGC and Co-chaired by Professor Ganesh, Director, Crescent Institute of Science and Technology. Key speakers were Professor MM Pant, Former PVC, IGNOU and technology expert, Professor Nupur Prakash, Former VC IG Technology University, New Delhi, Ashis Bhargava, Director, IT, BM University, and Col. A Garg, KIET, Ghaziabad. While setting tone for the session Dr. Nadda chairman of the session said that “online courses have gained popularity over the formal courses. However, they are not effectively delivered due lack of experience and knowledge of use of new technology in education. There is need to explore how new and emerging technologies are likely to impact the education processes. He hoped this session will through light man –machine interaction in education. Co-Chair Dr. Ganesh said “globalization, demographic changes, adoption 4.0 technologies would transform and impact the jobs and education process in next 5 years.

The very lively presentation was made by Professor MM Pant covering a large ground of development of technology over a period. He also shared his experience of running the AI-related program on what's App groups. Professor Nupur Prakash made presentation and made case for technology skill development as in future nearly 45 percent of jobs would be needing new technology. She also shared availability of open source software in new technologies and emphasized on developing technologies to suit the need of India and similarly placed countries on open source or shared sources. She also

suggested introduction of programme of UG and PG students in emerging technology. Dr. Bhargva shared the development initiated in his University and training programme launched for the students. Col Garg in his presentation made a case for introduction of programmes in emerging technologies in the university. Dr. Sandip Paul and Dr. M Abdali made presentation about kind of work being done in their institutions.

Professor Nadda in his Chairman's remark while setting up the tone for the programme emphasized the need for developing technical know how to participate in fourth industrial revolution. He shared kind of academic programme developed by CEC in new media and technology for UG students and conducted tests awarding credit for the same. He also shared that CEC streaming educational contents through Higher Education Channel and E content and MOOCs platform of CEC. Professor Ganesh shared the latest development data capturing and recognition through using retina embedded technology. Dr. Kriti Dagar was rapporteur for the session.



From left to right – Dr. Sandip Paul, Dr. Nupur Prakash, Professor MM Pant, Professor JB Nadda, Dr. M Abdali, Dr. Ganesh, Col Garg and Dr. Bhargava

2. Challenges of Mobilization of Financial Resources for the Transformation of Higher Education for Public and Private institutions of Higher Education.

Timely flow and adequacy of finances can only help the implementation of reforms as envisaged in the Policy. Draft Policy makes the recommendation for allocating 6 percent of GDP on education in an incremental way over a period of 10 years or 20 percent of the budget of GOI again in an incremental manner. The session was chaired by Professor Furqan Qamar, Former VC Himachal University, Himachal and Secretary General Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi. And co-chaired by Professor NV Varghese, Vice-Chancellor, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi. Key speakers were Professor Bikas C. Sanyal, Former Specialist Higher Education, International Institute of Educational Planning, UNESCO Paris and Professor MM Ansari, Former member of University Grants Commission. New Delhi. Professor Sanyal made detailed presentations on mobilization funds for higher education throughout the world. He also shared his views on the mobilization of funds for the implementation proposed Policy. In particular, his emphasis was exploring new avenues to fund the institution of higher education along with State funds. Dr. MM Ansari while sharing his concern about lack of allocation funds by the Government of India on Higher Education. He also expressed doubt about the possibility of allocation of funds by the government given the present economic scenario. He said funds have gone for the recapitalization of banks rather than making funds available to institutions of higher education. He suggested exploring equity-based funding for higher education. This may help to mobilize more funds for higher education. In his Chairman's remarks, Professor Furqan Qqmar shared his discussion with Parliamentarian for the allocation of funds on higher education. Wherein it is often felt there competing for demands for funds by several sectors and it is difficult to allocate more funds to

education. His suggestions were if the nation desires to achieve demographic dividends and develop technology in the fourth industrial revolution we need to allocate adequate resources. Professor Varghese Co-Chair of the session shared his finding of the allocation of funds on higher education. He said rich countries public sectors spent higher education and in poor countries, it is the private sector spent higher on higher education. Which is quite paradoxical? Dr, VPS Raju was rapporteurs of the session.



From Left to Right= Dr. VPS Raju, Professor MM Ansari, Professor Varghese, Professor Furqan Qamar, MS Kriti Dagar and Professor Kameshbhai Joshipura

Group Work

The delegates and resources persons worked in groups on the three major sub-themes namely, (1) Higher Education Transformation, (2) Meeting challenges of 4-0 technology, (3) Mobilizing resources for the transformation of state and private universities. Group made several recommendations on these sub-themes. These groups were chaired by Professor M. Anandkrishan and Co-chaired by Dr. Melchias Gabriel –

Group-1, Profesor Nupur Prakash chair, and Dr. Budhin Gogoi Co-Chair – group-2 and Professor Bikas C. Sanyal - Chair and Dr. S, C. Sharma Co-Chair group-3.

Valedictory Function

Valedictory Session was presided by Professor Furqan Qamar, Former Secretary-General, Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi. The chairman/co-chair of the groups presented the reports of the groups. Delegates were given a certificate of participation. Professor Furqan Qamar in his presiding address lauded the work done by delegates during the conference and recommendations on several aspects made by the group. He also praised organizations for holding a very timely conference on the draft National Education Policy. He said recommendations given in draft education policy are very bold in transforming higher education. However, it has to be seen how these recommendations are implemented and in particular allocation of resources and developing an appropriate system of governance. Ms. Kriti Dagar compered the program for two days.

Closing

The conference was closed by Dr. G.D. Sharma President of SEED-ICF by thanking all the resource persons and delegates for their contribution in making the conference successful. The conference ended with a group photo and singing of the National Anthem.



Group Photo of delegates and Resource Persons

