

**Report of the AIU West Zone Vice Chancellors meet hosted by IITE-Gandhinagar on 27th
and 28th November 2017**

27th November 2017

Inauguration Session :

Association of Indian Universities West Zone Vice-Chancellor Meet for the year 2017 was organized in collaboration with IITE Gandhinagar during 27-28 November 2017. Around 45 Vice-Chancellors from West Zone Universities representing Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Goa attended the meeting. The Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, Shri O. P. Kohli inaugurated the meet which was presided by Prof. P. B. Sharma, President, AIU. Prof Furqan Qamar, Secretary General, AIU, Prof. Anil Gupta, the former Prof. IIMA and prof. Shashiranjana Yadav were present on the dias. The inauguration ceremony was started with the recitation of National Anthem and lighting of lamp

The Governor of Gujarat Shri O.P.Kohli inaugurated the 2 day meet of Vice Chancellors of the West Zone of India.

At the inaugural, President of AIU Prof P. B. Sharma gave a road map that why Vice Chancellors should deliberate on the Indian centric issues and challenges over the next 2 days and should link education with society.

Prof Furqan Qamar, Secretary General, AIU enlightened the audience on the need for innovative changes in higher education and rightly pointed out that since creativity becomes a casualty with age its best to "catch them young" and hence provide the necessary opportunities to students on campus to explore their creativity.

Governor of Gujarat focused on the need of planning a relevant higher education Indian Model which would prove instrumental to lead our nation's development. He strongly suggested to restructure the higher education which would empower our youth.

Hon. Governor spelt the concept of GURUKUL and argued with logic that GURUKUL happens to be the best and oldest educational system. He congratulated the Vice Chancellor and his team

of IITE for bringing many bold reforms in Teacher Education. Hon. Governor also talked about the need to discuss google generation and their needs.

The Keynote address

Prof Anil Gupta, IIM-A gave the key note address in his lucid style with interesting examples which highlighted the fact that a bit of sensitivity towards the larger cause of innovation is needed and risks involved in the process would go a long way to bring forward a change in mindset among faculty and students towards innovative ideas. He also highlighted that the youth of India needs space to explore their creativity which is inherent in them.

Here it should be noted that Prof Gupta is known as the father of grassroots innovations. He is also given the credit of organizing shodh Yatras - visits to the interior of Indian country side. During these shodh-yatras he will locate, and groom indigenous innovations.

Technical Session 1 – Incubating Innovation

Session Chair: Prof. Nitin Kamarlkar, VC, Savitridevi Phule University , Pune.

Co-Panelists:

- 1. Prof. Shashiranjana Yadav, VC, IITE**
- 2. Prof. Mahendra Sharma, VC, Ganpat University, Mehsana**
- 3. Prof. Pandit Vidhyasagar, VC, SRTMU, Nanded**

Prof. Shashiranjana Yadav, VC, IITE, initiated the panel discussion with the concept of Beyond Classroom and towards excellence. He spoke at length how the new IITE University was like a startup where various successful innovative concepts introduced have paid off well in the benefit of the progress of the students / University. How student weaknesses were identified and by introducing horse riding, judo, karate and rifle shooting various personality aspects were enhanced and developed amongst the students. These innovative changes in the course structure helped in creating a new model wherein the students were successful in the global market. Employability was created and many students secured jobs abroad. Prof. Yadav also opined that it was time that skills needed for employability must be included into the curriculum.

Recommendations

1. Skills must be part of curriculum
2. Skill courses to be developed such that they help increase employability, improve happiness index and make better citizens.
3. Best practices should be discussed and circulated

Prof. Mahendra Sharma, VC, Ganpat University, Mehsana emphasized on the fact that campuses need to build the young for the future as it is not possible to build the future for the young. He highlighted how constructive disruption methods are relevant in the field of higher education. A need for a silent plan by the VC for his university goes a long way in achieving great results. Experiment – Engage and Learn is the philosophy he follows on his campus. An interesting concept of how social issues and causes are addressed on his campus by engaging both students and faculty members and over the past few years they have adopted 9 villages in which their students teach and help the village folk as a part of service to society.

Recommendations

1. Silent plans by VC
2. Experiment engage and learn
3. Engage in social work in the neighbourhood

Prof. Pandit Vidhyasagar, VC, SRTMU, Nanded expressed a need to change the mindset for long term skill development and to make this successful among the students he had initiated a innovative concept on his campus where 1 teacher – 1 skill was introduced. However he mentioned the heterogeneous crowd over a large state university campus generally creates a lot of hurdles in administration

Recommendations

1. Long term skill development
2. Innovation like one Teacher - one skill

Chairperson Prof. Nitin Kamarlkar, VC, Savitridevi Phule Pune University summed up the discussion well and also added from his university experiments that most important for the higher education teaching community to flourish was to create an environment of free dialogue and knowledge sharing among / across departments for knowledge sharing. He suggested that good research should be supported and funded but not freely to one and all but to quality work.

Technical Session 2 – Impact of Technology on Innovation or Changing face of Innovation in the era of technology

Session Chair: Prof. Anamik Shah, VC, Gujarat Vidhyapith, Ahmedabad

Co-Panelists:

- 1. Prof. Parimal Vyas, VC, MSU Baroda**
- 2. Prof. T. K. Reddy, Director General, PDPU University**
- 3. Prof. P. K. Dashora, VC, Kota University, Rajasthan**

Prof. Parimal Vyas, VC, MSU Baroda brought to the panel discussion ten different areas in the field of administration of the university wherein use of technology and innovative ideas has smoothed and streamlined lots of processes. Many of the IT changes and programs were made and suggested by people on campus and successfully implemented. There was a mention of Office of International Affairs to handle corporate affairs and also a unique concept of Student Internship Program which has been a great support to the shortage of staff and is an innovative way MSU has mobilized internal resources. Innovation is possible due to sensitivity from the top and it cannot happen without empowering the people on campus was his view on the topic.

Recommendations

- 1. University must talk to the campus people, they have better idea about what changes should be done.**
- 2. The shortage of staff can be dealt by bringing internship of students**
- 3. Empower the people of the campus to bring culture of innovation**

Prof. T. K. Reddy, Director General, PDP University, gave a brief introduction of the various innovative courses started on campus in view to provide students with relevant and latest concepts. There is a healthy International Student/Faculty Exchange Program at PDP and there is a good support from corporate houses to make all this possible. There is a tinkering lab called “tod – phod – jod” to motivate students towards innovations. Placement in core area of Petroleum is good in PDP. Challenges are a need to rework on curriculum for employability and to translate ideas into prototype and take them further.

Recommendations

1. Creative labs to motivate students

2. For employability keep changing the syllabus

Prof. P. K. Dashora, Kota University, Rajasthan spoke on the challenges faced by state universities where number of students is large and they come from poor background. Many good courses like M.Sc. Physics (Energy) had to be closed as those students could not be appointed in government sector jobs as teachers or lecturers. He recommended that there should be enough thought given to students from humble background as they form 60% of the youth in higher education in state universities. He also spoke on the challenges of volume of examinations work. He believed that there is no thumb rule to solve problems but transparency and justice is needed to handle various issues.

Recommendations

1. 60% of the students are from middle classes, universities must think about them

2. Bring transparency and justice

Session Chair Prof. Anamik Shah summed up the discussion acknowledging the valid points and also added the challenges of his university where 80% students come from tribal region and hence he raised an issue where MOOC project for India i.e Swayam and Swayam Prabha should not be only in English but need to be converted in regional and national language for larger reach and accessibility.

Recommendations

1. MOOC should be in vernacular languages too

AIU Business session

This was followed by the AIU Business Hour for West Zones Vice Chancellors. There were some interesting thoughts and innovative suggestions brought to the table. AIU committee members Prof Amrendra Pani and his team made a note of the same and would be forwarding ahead. AIU secretary general Prof. Furqan Qamar made a positive note of the various recommendations.

28th November 2017

Technical Session -3 (Innovation in Education)

Session Chair: Prof Shashiranjan Yadav, V.C IITE, Gandhinagar

Co Panellists

- 1. Prof Bimal Patel, Director General, GNLU-Gandhinagar**
- 2. Prof Satish Pandey, Professor, PDPU-Gandhinagar**
- 3. Prof Sanjiv Oza, VC, Ayurved University, Jamnagar**

The session was initiated by Dr Yadav where he explained how the generation of learners has changed from Gen X, Gen Y followed by Google Generation and now it's the Whatsapp Generation. The change in the mind set of students has happened drastically and there is a need to revamp the education pedagogy with innovation in order to cater to this mass. The technological shift has its pros and cons, as with the emergence of this technology a lot of jobs are becoming obsolete and their place is being taken by business models such as Uber, Big Data, Drone Logistics, Driverless cars and so on. On the other hand the accessibility to information has ushered a knowledge era. The gender disparity is also becoming less with this shift. In order to cope up with the times and bring innovation in education IITE has created landmarks in teacher education with innovations such as Project based learning, Incorporating Dance, Drama, Horse Riding and Rifle shooting as a part of curriculum.

Recommendations

1. Google generation - research must be done.
2. Impact of technology on human kind

The session was followed by Prof Patel where he highlighted the emphasis given to research in their institute and touching lot of unexplored territories like collaboration between law and economics as one such. They have a policy of having a research theme for a year for their faculties. He emphasised on the fact that if there would be a quality research then the resources will not be a problem.

Recommendations

1. Universities must develop unexplored curriculum
2. Incentives to push research work

Prof Pandey took an alternative root of teaching innovatively in the social science subjects of HR through movies and then also conducted a bicultural comparative research on the effects of this method of teaching on students in India and US. This was worth appreciating and accepting.

Recommendations

1. Out of the box thinking like using films in classroom teaching

The last session was by Prof Sanjiv Oza, VC, Ayurveda University, Jamnagar. His University is having and others should follow the concept of School of continuing education for passed out professionals in order to stay updated and at the same time relevant to the society. His idea of sending the administrative staff compulsorily for training at SPIPA twice a year was a welcome step which other institutes should also implement.

Summing up the session Prof Yadav put forward a very valid and strong recommendation for having a scientific teacher training centres for Higher education institutes.

Technical Session -4 (Will Universities vanish in the next 10 years?)

Session Chair: Prof P.K. Dashora, VC, Kota University, Rajasthan

Co- Panelists

1. Prof Parag Sanghani, VC, PP Savani University, Surat
2. Dr Arknath Chaudhari, VC, Somnath Sanskrit University

3. Prof Y.K.Vijay, VC, V.G University, Jaipur

All the speakers unanimously were of the opinion that the university will definitely exist in the coming decade though their reasoning for the same and concerns were different.

The session was started by Prof Sanghani who emphasised on the fact that the existence of any university will depend on its pace of adaptability. He also said that the role of University will not be knowledge dissemination in future but will only be knowledge creation and application of that knowledge. His recommendation was that every VC should take up at least 1 course through MOOC and make sure Universities should develop such courses as that is a very practical and feasible solution to reach out to the masses in India. The Future Universities should use 3H i.e Hand, Heart and Head in their education.

Recommendations

1. Every vc should get training in technology.
2. Every Vc must study at least one course through moocs.

Dr Chaudhari pointed out a different concern which was still not raised in the house and that was of inculcating human values in students. He said “Satyam Gyanam Ananta Brahma” the quest for true knowledge is infinite and so as far as the humans will seek knowledge the Universities will continue to exist.

Recommendations

1. Inculcate human values among students

Prof Y.K.Vijay emphasised on making of in house scientific instruments which will inculcate the culture of innovation in the students.

Recommendations

1. Make in-house scientific instruments to develop culture of innovation

Summing up the session Prof Dashora said that University is where Universalization of education happens and this will go on in times to come.

Prof. A. K. Singh, VC, AURO University, Surat and Prof. Rakesh Basant, Prof. IIMA , both were down with viral fever, and Apple leadership team missed its flight, so could not reach. Except these there were no issues.

Valedictory Session

Prof. Yadav thanked all Vice-Chancellors for being present in the West Zone VC meet hosted by IITE. Prof. Yadav emphasized on the innovative reforms in higher education considering the future generation in mind.

Prof Furqan Qamar, Secretary General, AIU appreciated the reforms implemented by IITE in higher education. He also expressed his concern regarding the impact of technological advancement in the employment of the graduate and post-graduate students. He also emphasized on the need of the change in the higher education system along with the change in technology.

He appreciated IITE for the wonderful arrangements made for the West Zone VC meet. He congratulated Prof. Yadav for organizing such a wonderful and successful VC meet at IITE.

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