Gujarat Technological University

Centre for Technology Education, Public Policy and Universities of the 21st Century

(GTU-CeTEPU-21)

Report: A Roundtable conclave on 'Higher Education in India', on 5th December, 2015 at GTU, Chandkheda, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Background:

GTU’s Centre for Technology Education, Public Policy and Universities of the 21st Century (GTU-CeTEPU-21), in pursuance of the national objectives of maintaining excellence in education, strives to improve the quality of education through teaching, research and leadership with the help of technology. CTE works in innovative ways to promote high quality teaching and learning by which then ultimately transform GTU into a “World Class Technological University. It also studies the policy issues at all levels for regulation of technological and higher education by an array of All India and provincial regulators and administrators.

Under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Dr. Akshai K. Aggarwal, Vice chancellor, GTU-Centre for Technology Education, Public Policy and Universities of the 21st Century (GTU-CeTEPU-21) has successfully organized the Roundtable Conclave on 'Higher Education in India', on 5th December, 2015, GTU, Chandkheda, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. More than 50 experienced Educators have attended this Conclave. Around 18 Vice Chancellors of Different Universities of India and 35 Deans, Directors and principles of GTU affiliated Institutes have participated in Roundtable Conclave on Higher Education in India.

The objective of this conclave is to bring together the Vice Chancellors of Indian Universities on a common platform and to have valuable insights and views of the Vice Chancellors on the issues and probable solutions in higher education policy. And to develop a document which suggests the required reforms that can be incorporated in the higher education policy.
Inaugural Session:

Mrs. Shakuntala Aggarwal and Dr. Rajul Gajjar welcomed all the Vice Chancellors of the different Universities on behalf of GTU by offering a bouquet and memento. Mrs. Krutika Raval acted as a master of ceremony for the conclave.
Dr. S.O. Junare, Dean GTU and Director of NICM, welcomed all the Vice Chancellors, Deans, Directors & Principals of GTU affiliated Institutes, media staff and GTU officers. He said that this conclave will bring New Policies and Issues of Higher Education. He further thanked Dr. Akshai Aggarwal, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, GTU for motivating university to organize various educational events.

Dr. Akshai Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Technological University, welcomed all the Vice Chancellor and Delegates at GTU. He began with the issues that GTU is facing in different areas, and we have been talking about Higher education since ages and we should think the ways to meet the challenges that are very crucial. The University conducts exams and it examines the students at class room, laboratories etc. Which describes whether the university has been successful or not. The University has to deal with learning systems, needs of industries, stakeholders and developing the syllabi, availability of faculties in order to execute the syllabi. A smaller type university may find difficulty in conduction of FDPs as there are very less takers of the FDPs. GTU’s ALCE (Active Learning and creating excitement) in Labs and Workshops; confluence project on designing good questions paper, changing quality of Question papers. He further avers that the frontiers of research have yet not been scaled by us and to attract good scholars, we should develop a system called as a 3-tier system i.e. connecting with professors of the states. Still the university has no way to attract scholars from India and to continue the process of churning in the university. He said that building structure is very easy but to keep it active is much more difficult, but the same thing can be taken care by principals, industrial experts and that is the reason all the Sankuls are not successful, some are good in one or the other thing so the principal has to remain active in order to keep the activities of Sankul active. He further said that a university is great when it has great scholars, professors and not only great libraries, buildings or connections with the world. GTU jointly with Deans is trying to build connectivity with other small universities. We have already changed the environment and today we have met to discuss and find a correct path because we are into the field which is ever new.

He finally thanked Dr. Rajul Gajjar, Director, GTU for taking initiative of this project, DSTU Core committee members and various delegates who had earlier participated and contributed to this particular study in the previous DSTU meetings. He urged that we want to learn from all the universities present here.
Dr. Rajul Gajjar, Director, Gujarat Technological University, welcomed all the Vice Chancellors, Deans & Directors of GTU affiliated institutes and talked about the DSTU Project. She talked about the various issues of higher education such as knowledge creation, lack of chances, teachers absenteeism, shortage of teachers, equitable access to quality education, teachers having potential of ICT. She further emphasized issues of unemployment prevailing in higher education system, mismatch between skills and job availability and Need of quality enhancement.

**Six Themes for discussion during the Round Table Conclave**

**Theme 1:** Governance Reforms for quality enhancement in higher education and improving the quality regulations

**Theme 2:** Integrating the skill development in higher education, Industry linkage, partnership with private sector and Students Support Systems

**Theme 3:** Role of State public Universities & Central Institutions in Education reforms, financing the higher education

**Theme 4:** Developing best teachers, Promoting research and innovations and Fostering new knowledge

**Theme 5:** Internationalization of higher Education, Ranking of institute and accreditation and addressing the regional disparity

**Theme 6:** Promoting online Courses, Opportunities for Technology enabled learning and linking higher Education to Society

**Theme 1. Governance Reforms for quality enhancement in higher education and improving the quality regulations**

Dr. M K Verma, Vice Chancellor, Chhatisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University suggested the Performance Evaluation measures should be flexibly framed for different university. He further said about the more power of state university, they should be free from state government and Internal Governance of University/Institute i.e. Procedural time bound charters should be prepared for different tasks. The teachers’ quality should be ensured Institution - Autonomy with accountability should be established.
Dr. S.S. Chahal, Vice Chancellor, Desh Bhagat University suggested radical changed in university system, sectoral government: Micro management by state university and interventions between higher education and regulatory bodies, weak quality assurance in university system, amendments in legislation, strong accountability and Institutional government: the position of vice chancellor, transparency of search committee, appointment of vice chancellors, robust mechanism of appointment of vice chancellor, need of reforms of board of governance (10 - 20 people) and Importance should be given to education.

Dr. Katta Narshima Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, talked about the Insufficient Resources and Infrastructure, low student enrolment ratio; outgone model of teaching ICT enabled education because of lack of funds and training to faculties. He further said that bigger geographical area and affiliated colleges, problems of hostel, autonomy and accountability of universities.

Theme 2: Integrating the skill development in higher education, Industry linkage, Partnership with private sector and Students Support Systems

Dr. B.V. Babu, Vice chancellors of Galgotia University, talked about involving skill based courses as electives, B.Voc to be encouraged with different specialisation in universities, Industry Linkages through Research Partnerships, Research Services, Shared Infrastructure, Academic Entrepreneurship, Human Resource, Training & Transfer, Commercialisation of Intellectual Property, Scientific Publications, Informal Interaction etc. and Need of Provision for slow learners & fast learners through well structural student support systems.

Dr. H.P Khincha, Former VC, Vishveswarya Technological University, said that policies should be made for future and what is the basis to frame policies for future, He further talked on biotechnology revolution, globalisation etc. He urged that the vision statement, act and statutes of the university should be
changed, there should be balance of skills courses and knowledge, and there are issues of price vs. cost of higher education and price vs. cost of individual institutions.

Dr. Babu Sebastian, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala briefed about the MGU universities and its activities. He further talked on national education policies mainly focuses on areas of higher education system i.e. quality, innovations, skill development and employability. The basic need is to bridging academia, Industry and Global Job Market. He further added that Inclusion of Aptitude test and communications skills of the students and empowering the teachers for teaching communications skills.

Dr. Ranjit Goswami, Vice Chancellor, R.K. University, talked about Engaging faculties, skill development centre, getting more faculty members from industry, be it in regulation or as faculty, irrespective of Ph.D, Develop faculty to understand industry engagement and Engage with SME’s, PSU’s should support it.

Theme 3: Role of State public Universities & Central Institutions in Education reforms, financing the higher education

Prof. Nupur Prakash, Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for women talked about hurdle faced by the university, university’s education reforms, inclusion of component of E-Learning, NPTEL Lectures, CourseEra, Edex, Courses on Disaster management, Business entrepreneur, process improvement technique, Human value and professional ethics. She then talked about the skewed gender ratio, placement activities, lack of University infrastructure and funding and financing the Higher Education. She talked about the financial autonomy and financial hurdles faced at university and included courses as per industry requirement and courses of renewable energy and shared their success stories of Industry which supported M.Tech Programmes and funding from various government agencies.
Dr. R. P. Bajpai, Chancellor, Veltech University talked about giving autonomy to the colleges and administering or monitoring through VC Office and powers of vice chancellors should be very well defined in advance and Leadership of VC should be implemented. Give importance to niche area while asking for grants or funds to the government.

Theme 4: Developing best teachers, Promoting research and innovations and Fostering new knowledge

Dr. S. H. Pawar, Vice Chancellor, D.Y. Patil University talked about the need of reforms in higher educations, the Innovative initiatives to be introduced in Higher Education system for promoting research and fostering new knowledge and Higher education system be restructured for intensive research to meet the global needs. He further said that the researchers to be encouraged to elevate their quality on par with Nobel Laureates. The Inter and Intra faculty interdisciplinary research with multi-national programmes be introduced and intensified.

Theme 5: Internationalization of higher Education, Ranking of institute and accreditation and addressing the regional disparity

Dr. D.P. Lokwani, Vice Chancellor, Madhya Pradesh Medical Sciences University, said that universities are struggling for funds and autonomy of designing fee structure and he said that a university needs to develop vocal skills programs to cater the local problems. He told that it is equally important to identify the institutions/universities which are just short of the world class ranking just like smart city policy; the universities should be liberally funded and given more autonomy, authority and liberal exchange programmes. He finally emphasised on the various points like brand making of Indian Education, identify emerging markets, role of certain recruiter agencies, making easier admission procedure for students, need of International Networking, focusing on teachers training program, good positive media coverage of university, migration from the public sector to the private sector.
Dr. A.K. Malik, Registrar, South Asia University, talked about the achievements and activities of South Asia University and suggested that we need to review our existing regulatory and policy framework for admission of foreign students and participation of teachers in academic program, the infrastructure has to be in place and there has to be policies and program for credit mechanism and provision of admissions without entrance examinations, need to identify the subjects of the areas in which the university awards the degree which can be offered to foreign students, need to continue the fellowship and scholarship to attract the foreign students, deciding upon the fee structure for the foreign students, allowing entry to the quality education providers for academic and research excellence and to meet the quality assurance standards, developing regional hubs in India, to set up quality institutions in India, to encourage innovations and thereby attract best students, need to frame policies and enhance the mobility of Higher education i.e. teachers, students and staff need to be encouraged in exchange programs preferably with the defined objectives.

Dr. S.S. Chahal, Vice Chancellor, Desh Bhagat University, started with the open access to higher education to all in specific institution in India, enabling and fostering internationalization between the international students and international community. Emphasis should be on more seminars, workshops, more exchange of students and MOUs. We need to strengthen more on quality and quantity in order to attract more number of students. The state universities are more dependent on state and they need to spare at least 20% on FDPs on Education International Education. He also raised a point that under RUSA, (Rashtriya Uchattar Siksha Abhiyan) the more funds are lying with central govt. and not being distributed at the state. He further suggested the synchronisation of courses to enhance capacity, efficiency and standard quality, the dual degree programs, the common courses should be collaborated with the foreign universities and frequent exchange of faculties and students should be conducted between Indian and foreign universities. We need to improve quality education particularly establishing a forum to understand Indian culture and evolving economy of the society among foreign universities. He suggested that the ranking of the institutions should be done at departmental level instead of institutional level, so that the students can see that which department is better and can opt for that department of university. The university has to address the regional disparity as India has vast regional disparity and students come from different strata, different background and find difficulty in adjusting in other universities. There is less movement of students and faculties from one university to other university and when the cross faculty of ideas do not occur from one place to other place, the higher education system will suffer.
Mr. Palak Sheth, Director, Pandit Deen Dayal Petroleum University (PDPU), put an emphasis on to build International office in every University and inclusion of internationalisation in National Education mission. He said that International exposure could be a training program, workshop, presenting a research paper or may be exchange. He also said that Accreditation to be more preferred method than ranking system and the Admission policy to be revamped to inculcate diversity.

**Theme 6: Promoting online Courses, Opportunities for Technology enabled learning and linking higher Education to Society**

Prof. K. Venkata Chalam, Telangana State Council for Higher Education talked about promotion of online courses, AICTE has announced that they will encourage the universities which will initiate such online programs and JNTU has been running correspondent courses in engineering and technology. He also said that the problem being faced by them after becoming a new state (telangana) as there are no regular vice chancellors. He talked about the Online certificate course related to subject like SPSS & Foreign Language and Webinar - Video Lectures by renowned academicians and industrialist.

At the end of the each theme, there was an open discussion for all. It was a very interactive and we have received valuable recommendation from all.

**Some other suggestions at the open discussion:**

- From beginning of the course, student must think over society related issues and try to resolve at least a problem before completion of course include in course.
- Increase relevant skills and lifelong learning opportunities.
- Include in the APIs marks for industry background and foreign background for recruitment as permanent faculty.
- Need to strengthen participatory educational governance, embed accountability mechanisms,
Higher Education should be not for profit. It should be primarily a responsibility of the state.

The horizons of these meetings and conclave must be broadened and the resolutions proposed must be followed so that we can review the results in next meeting just in the beginning.

To Create stable environment

Provision of funding to Private institutions beyond NAAC/NBA; based purely on students’ need and for faculty development/ research grant

For quality of Ph.D Programmes in interdisciplinary, Multi guide systems.

Concluding Remarks:

At the end there was a concluding remarks given by Dr. Rajul Gajjar, Director, GTU. She thanked all the Vice Chancellor for coming at GTU and sparing their valuable time. She also summarised all the points discussed at the conclave and said that all the recommendations received at the conclave for reforming the higher education shall be compiled in the form of draft report and submitted before the committee MHRD, Government of India.

Photo Gallery:
Press Converge:

YCs seek autonomy for state varsities
Suggest Indian Academic Service on lines of Indian Administrative Service to appoint and train academicians

SUGGESTIONS MADE
- Raise funds and raise scholarship for院长
- Recognize and recognize excellence in teachers
- Emphasize the need to attract experts
- Provide teachers with incentives and work environment
- Increase the academic infrastructure
- Provide more academic freedom
- Provide more academic freedom

Raju Venugopal, president of the Indian Academy of Science, said that the Indian Academy of Science would like to recognize the importance of higher education and the need for more academic freedom. He also emphasized the need for more scholarship and incentives for teachers.

M. N. Vora, vice chancellor of the Gujarati University, suggested that the Indian Academy of Science should be involved in the selection process of the Indian Administrative Service. He also proposed that the Indian Academy of Science should be involved in the selection process of the Indian Administrative Service.

The Indian Academy of Science also suggested that the Indian Administrative Service should be involved in the selection process of the Indian Administrative Service.
Universities demand autonomy with periodic assessment of VC's

Ahmedabad: Vice-Chancellors of Indian universities gathered at a round table conducted by the Gujarat University Association (GUA) to discuss the need for state governments to give more autonomy to the universities. The officials demanded a review of the existing system to ensure that the autonomy provided is not subject to political interference.

No politicians on DG

VCs of Delhi University, Jadavpur University, and the University of Mumbai strongly endorsed the idea that the Director-General of higher education should not be a politician, and the university should announce the name of a merit candidate for the position. They also demanded that the government should not interfere in the choice of the Director-General.

Competitive exams for VC

The officials demanded that the recruitment of VC's should be through a competitive examination. A central team was formed to organize such exams.

Knowledge and skill should be separated

Prof. R. G. Desai, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, said, "The university system should be concerned with the skill of the students and not their knowledge. The university system should be free from political pressure." He also demanded that the system should be adapted to cater to the needs of the students and not the politicians.

Teachers need training

Dr. B. K. Verma, VC of the University of Mumbai, said, "The university system should have a comprehensive training program for the teachers. The teachers should be made aware of the latest developments in their field."

For more details about the Centres' activities, visit:
http://gtupgcenters.edu.in/home.aspx?id=6

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