

Editorial....

Globalisation which is a very common word in today's world refers to increasing contacts between people across national boundaries - in economy, in technology, in culture and in governance. It is expected that globalisation will lead to advancement of human civilization as a whole. However, in the present scenario, it appears to be not an unmixed blessing. Today's threat to the weaker nations from the powerful ones is not only from weapons of wars but also from domination through trade and commerce. Therefore, development of one's own technical strength is of supreme importance. In a developing country like ours it is imperative that we nurture the scientific temper and improve perceptions about science and technology for which the science content in education at all levels and in all faculties needs be increased significantly.

Since quality of technical manpower of a country is directly related to its technical education system, revitalisation of the system is of primary importance. In technical education, emphasis should be given not only on technical aspects and information but also on care and concern for the society and environment. Moreover, future technical personnel must be familiar with the real life situation existing in the industries during their days in academic institutions. A strong linkage between technical institutions and industries is, therefore, a natural corollary. There is also a need for assessment of students' skills and aptitude and the knowledge requirements by the industries. The technical course curricula of the institutions should be restructured accordingly.

That research and development activities in higher technical institutions have a big role to play in the rapid techno-economic development of the country needs hardly be overemphasized. While higher allocation in research and development is essential, the institutions must also have a clear focus on the relevance and effectiveness of such activities in respect of technology development. The focus, needless to say, should always remain on the betterment of the people of the country. But, the time to act is now so that the human resource in engineering and technology produced in the institutions could meet the present and future requirements and help build a prosperous India using indigenous developments in science and technology.

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