

Paradigm Shift in Pedagogical Practices – Quality Enhancement in Higher Education

A Panel Discussion was organized on a grand scale by the National College here on 24.08.2019. **Dr.Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, Dr.Priya Narayanan, Assistant Advisor, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Vice Chancellors Dr.P.Manisankar (Bharathidasan University), Dr.M.K.Surappa (Anna University), Dr.N.Rajendran (Alagappa University), Dr. M.Krishnan (Madurai Kamaraj University) Dr. K.Parthasarathy (Tamil Nadu Open University) and Shri. Vinod Karuvarakundu, Member, National Monitoring Committee on Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India,** were the prominent participants.

Inaugurating a panel discussion on quality enhancement in higher education, Mr. Karuvarakundu said there could be no place for a stereotyped system of education, which was being followed for several years, as it did not fulfill the need of youths to face the competitive environment. There was a need for structural adjustments to meet contemporary requirements. The country was badly in need of addressing the challenges being faced by the young minds of the country personally, nationally and internationally. There was a need to ensure their all-round personality development, he said, while outlining the focus of the framing of the national education policy. He maintained that the Centre was adopting a transparent approach in framing the new education policy. The ministry received innumerable suggestions, memorandums and notes from people across the country. It was in the process of collecting valid and competent points from academicians, teachers and students. The views and aspirations of them would be given due space while finalising the policy.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda, Mr. Karuvarakundu said **that** education was “man making and character building.” It was nothing but shaping of the minds and character of the students. It should shape them with impeccable integrity and honesty. The teaching and

learning process, syllabus and examination reform, which were being discussed at different levels as part of the new draft education policy, would be aimed at addressing the core issues of character building.

Under the current education system, more importance was being given to foreign language than native languages. Teaching and learning process would be much easier and effective if they were delivered in native languages. The Chola dynasty was known for education, administrative reforms, arts, culture and architecture. But this was not given due space in school and college syllabus. These kinds of issues would be addressed in the new education policy. It would bring about a paradigm shift in the education system. The changes would augur well for addressing all issues and challenges of the school and higher education system across the country, he said.

The vice chancellors and other higher education administrators spoke about the achievements of their institutions and the difference they could make in the lives of their students. All the same, they argued, how we had to remain alert to the challenges and the aspirations of millions of students who enroll in our institutions. Dr. D.E.Benet, Vice-Principal, moderated the panel discussion.

