University Administration & the Status of Autonomy to university departments & Colleges in the State Universities in Maharashtra and Central University, IIT, IIM & B-Schools: A Comparative Study

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Introduction:-

University administration lacks the transparency and it is observed that even the role and function of statutory officers in the state university varies from university to university despite common Act. This is because of the fact that university are autonomous body and they have their own statute and ordinances of their own, which are prepared by the university itself taking into consideration the need of the region in particular.

With the autonomy to the schools on the campus there will be a parallel system to the main system in terms of Ad-hoc Board, Academic Board, and Management Board & Finance Board etc. There is big apprehension in the minds of the authorities of the university and teachers about the consequences of autonomy and whether the new system will survive or not.

It is also a bitter truth that students are reluctant to take admission in the state university because of the fact that these universities are not performing at par with that of Central University, IIT’s, IIM and B-School in India. The fact of the matter for the better performance of Central University, IIT and B-Schools is in its good administration in general, management in particular and autonomy to the individual departments. The academic flexibility in up-grading the syllabus in the autonomous system lies with the individual teacher of the concerned department.

The study on administration of state university, as a common policy matter, in general and management in particular was not done earlier.

There is major difference between administration and management. Management enhances working capacity of the employee and there is specific mission for which employee works. In management protocol of heir chary is properly maintained and followed in its strict sense while in administration there is total mismanagement of this protocol. In management higher authority is accountable for its decision, and once the decision is taken by the higher authority, lower authority follows it in its true sense, while in administration most of the time the decision taken by the highest authority are reversed by the lower authority. In management each and every employee sticks to its work and does not cross its boundary, while in administration even most of the employee cross their domain of work. In management power and function of each and every individual staff is well defined. And therefore most of the time the functions and powers of all the sections in the university, as mentioned above, does not match with that of the other section in the same university and if further varies from university to university and there is total mismatch. The total impact of this ill management of the academic administration in the university set up is seen in the form of no work or less work and more money culture.

It is to be noted that even the revision of ‘Maharashtra University Act – 1994 is also under consideration to improve the standard of the higher education in the state. Now, the draft of the new
Maharashtra Public University Act-2011 is ready. It could be implemented anytime in the coming academic year. The Act suggests many good reforms. Hopefully, this will raise the standard of the higher education in the state.

The study revealed the impact of autonomy, better management skills, and better administrative set up on the output of the institute

The comparative study between big educational institutes and state university is carried out with the following objectives in mind.

Objectives:-


b. Draft of common guidelines for better administration.

c. Find out Impact of ‘Autonomy’ on Higher Educational Institutes.

d. Needs of New Quality Education Institutes in remote Area

Methodology:-

1. Actual visits to non agriculture university / IIT / IIM / Central University / B School were carried out in 5-6 phases. In all we visited 30 different higher education institutes across the entire India.

2. Personnel interviews of the administrators in these different organizations were taken. We interviewed 18 different cadres of 77 officers.

3. Statistical data is collected.

4. Study of University ordinances, stature and Maharashtra University Act, central University Act & guidelines of UGC, NAAC & National Knowledge Commission is carried out. We collected & referred 25 different types of ordinances, statutes, and reports. The preparation of common guidelines is under process.

Major Research Findings:-

The study carried out describes the changing & evolving roles and identities of existing professional administrative staff (Statutory Officer) in Maharashtra (India) higher education. The study exemplifies that identity movements of professional administrative staff in higher education cannot be captured exclusively in terms of a shift from 'administration' to 'management' in the system of higher education i.e. a process of professionalization of higher education system. The idea about the ‘fluidity of identity’ is used to theories the observed data, and in turn to develop a theoretical framework in higher education system that describes identities by means of three categories of bounded, cross-boundary, and unbounded professionals. This framework demonstrates that professional staff, who have better higher education qualification, are not only interpreting their given roles more actively, but that they are also moving laterally across functional and higher education institutional boundaries to create new professional higher education spaces, higher education knowledge, higher education relationships and better academic development than the officers who do not have any background of higher education. The roles or functions of the ‘Statutory Officers’ in different universities in Maharashtra, though governed by the same ‘Maharashtra University Act-1994’, varies from university to university. The roles (functions) and identities of professional administrative staff (Statutory Officers) are more complex and dynamic than higher education charts or work descriptions in the university set-up might suggest. It is suggested, therefore, that the roles or functions of all the ‘Statutory Officers’, who can now be called as ‘professional management staff’ than ‘statutory officers’, from the university be well defined and that due weightage must be given to the ‘higher education qualification’ than any other factor for the better development of Higher Education in this part of the world.

This was the interpretation of the work carried out till Mid-term Review. After the Mid-term review the visits were made to ‘Central Universities’, ‘IIT’, ‘IIM’, etc. The data was collected.
The preliminary interpretation done on this data reveals that the VC of State Universities and Central Universities are almost are of the same level. However, it is observed that the other ‘Statutory Officers’ do not show the similarity with regards to ‘Education reforms’, etc.

We intend to prepare the graphs of these and come out with a publication. We are planning to publish this data in ‘IISTE’ (An International Journal). We also plan to prepare one more paper out of the collected data. The same will be sent for presentation and publication in ‘International Seminar’. Once the papers are published the same will be sent to UGC.

References


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