

Upliftment of Rural Masses through Technical Education

India is a predominantly rural economy with 70 percent of the population living in the villages and not having enough awareness and opportunities as regards to professional education. Keeping this in view GNDEC which was established in 1956 envisaged a need to uplift the brilliant students from rural background to become technocrats. In the process it was decided to reserve 70 percent of the total seats in engineering programmes for students with rural background. This was a unique initiative with no parallel in pan India search. These rural students had some basic issues as regards to communication skills, understanding of English language and also a fear of the city people. The college atmosphere was so created so as to enable the rural folk to come to the level of their city counterparts in terms of their professional expertise. Special attention was paid to developing communication skills through personalized contact of students with the faculty under the mentorship system. In this mentorship system a student was assigned a faculty mentor right at the time of admission to the institute who would be monitoring his/her performance over the total tenure of his/her degree till its completion. In addition to that English language classes were arranged to bring the language skills at par with the urban counterparts. This proficiency was achieved through continuous practice sessions in the English laboratory, delivery of seminars as a part of the curriculum. To build the confidence in the students from rural background various societies and their chapters were established in the college as the likes of Students' Chapter Institution of Engineers(India), Indian Society for Technical Education, Society for Automotive Engineers etc. These societies were primarily focused on organizing various activities including debates, declamations, quizzes, paper presentation, extempore etc. The events under these societies were supposed to be organized by the students under the guidance of faculty advisor. These societies necessitated the appointment of student office bearers who were supposed to be elected by the member students. These selected office bearers were supposed to plan and execute the holding of various events under the banner of respective societies. In addition to these activities being organized on monthly weekly basis within the college, the member students were encouraged to participate in such activities being organized at other institutes/universities. To promote this culture special marks were dedicated under general fitness category which is a due component of the curriculum. This exercise not only removed the fear of stage but also instilled necessary public speaking skills thereby making the students graduating from the college highly acceptable to the market and society as a whole. All these unique efforts stated above have been able to create an overall personality development of the students in addition to their academic learning. This has resulted in creation of successful role models for the institute in terms of extraordinary career profiles of the alumnus of this institute. Many of the students could be located on the world wide map

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