

**ROLE OF UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES IN RESEARCH,
CONSULTANCY AND EXTENSION FOR STUDENTS PERSONALITY
DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY.**

ASHOK YAKKALDEVI

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology,
A.R. Burla Mahila Varishtha Mahavidyalaya, Solapur.

Abstract:

The progress of a country is possible only when its citizens are dynamic, enterprising and responsible. Higher educational institutes contribute to the growth of nation by providing specialized knowledge and skilled man power. Higher education or university education has played a major role for the improving environment, preserving natural resources and making an economic as well as social impact. The universities and colleges performing role in higher education have several functions. The students of 21st century era are really well awarded, well informed and their energy needs to be channelized in the right direction to achieve quality and better personality development. The research is therefore having become an important component of every academic institution at higher education level. Research, consultancy and extension parameter is more effectively in operation at our college. Due to the components of this parameter, the students are getting benefited. They are acquiring skills of research, developing leadership as well as involving social activities for the benefit of mankind. The promising facts of research, consultancy and extension are summarized in the text .

Keywords: Consultancy and Extension ,Students Personality Development.

Introduction

The progress of a country is possible only when it's citizens are dynamic, enterprising and responsible. Without such citizens, a country cannot archive progress in any field. The education is the most important tool to create such type of citizens. The development of a nation mostly depends upon the growth of education in the society. In the development of any country primary education helps in creation base while higher education is important for providing the cutting edge. Higher educational institutes contribute to the growth of nation by providing specialized knowledge and skilled man power. These higher education institutes viz colleges, universities, IITS, IIMS, can provide the necessary trained and educated manpower required for development and implementation of various programmes needed for national development. (Singh and Ahmad, 2011).

Education is a social process. The form and content of education of any age and society is a product of society-education, dialectics. Higher education mainly starts after +12 level. Higher education imparts in depth knowledge and understanding so as to advance the students to new frontiers of knowledge in different works of life. It broadens the intellectual power of the individual and also gives him/her, a wider perspective of the world around (Benjamin, 2011)

According to the Barnett (1992) there are four predominant concept of higher education, firstly higher education as the production of qualified human resources; secondly , is training for research career; thirdly ,as efficient management of teaching provision and fourth higher education as a matter of extending life chances. All these four concepts are integrated and give overall picture of “higher”, in the higher education system.

After independence, the education has spread over to the rural masses. In 2010-2011 the number of Universities have reached the figure over 500, over **24000** colleges and million students and above 5,00,000 teachers, are in the process of higher education, in India. The women students enrollment is also significantly increased. It is because of awareness about higher education and its impact on service sector. As education has become an essential tool for achieving sustainability and personality development (Ugra, 2010).

Higher education or university education has played a major role for the improving environment, preserving natural resources and making an economic as well as social impact. The universities and colleges performing role in higher education have several functions. Two of them are considered as most important, vital and essential namely knowledge dissemination and research knowledge generation. The core mission of higher education is to educate, train, undertake research and provide services to community.

The students and the teachers are the backbone of every educational institutes. The students of 21st century era are really well awarded, well informed and their energy needs to be channel in the right direction to achieve quality and better personality development. The research is therefore have become an important component of every academic institutions at higher education level.

Research And Research Culture

Research is a scientific process whether ideas of basic problems are converted into a fruitful answers. Research is often referred as ‘Scientific inquiry’ or ‘Scientific investigation’ into a specific problems or situation. It is a pre-condition for decision making, planning and strategy formations. Unless we have enough, authentic, up date information about particular issue or problems we can not develop alternatives for solving the problem (Bhosale, 2009).

Science is a domain, which encompasses most factes of life. Man is a social animal. He has developed an ability to distinguish between right and wrong. Therefore, socio-psycho change in the behavior could be influenced by right approach towards the implementation by any research programme having science-society value (Soni et.al 2011).

The idea of research and development was initiated in India along with university system. It has proved excellent background for scientific innovation and had produced brilliant minds and some Nobel Laureates out of the system. Even now research results of the universities

dominate the publication as compared to enmarked research conducted by state funded organizations. The teachers in higher education should create and experiment with the knowledge while teaching their students in colleges (Chalam, 2012).

Young (2002) states that the higher education systems are performing new roles and responsibilities in teaching and learning by means of LCT as well as by improving research.

The growth of our economy, the health of our people and security of country depend upon scientific and technological competence. This is well understood and reflected in the substantial support that the government gives to scientific research. The professional development of rural youth is one of the sensitive issues to be developed with an integrated and interdisciplinary approach. The higher education institutes have to play a key role for solving increasing employability and economic development of rural people (Akhtar and Hazarika, 2012).

Naac And Research, Consultancy And Extension

University is a vital link in the chain of teaching and research. The universities in India have traditional source of research. Creation of new knowledge should go hand in hand with the dissemination of that newly generated knowledge for betterment of the society. The university must encourage the faculty to undertake research with interdisciplinary approach, research in groups and with other national institutes.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is a constituent body of University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi established in 1994. NAAC is playing a key role in the assessment of quality of higher education particularly in college as well as in universities within India. This institution- NAAC had laid down certain norms of quality and standards for assessing the performance of citadel of higher education through different parameters such as 1,2,3,4,5,6,7.

Research consultancy and extension is 3rd important parameter for the assessment of institutions. This parameter covers research culture, research work, novel publication etc produced by the faculties. The consultancy and extension activities are also observed by NAAC Peer Team during their visit. The research, consultancy, extension parameter acts as mirror of the colleges where college students and faculties are directly linked with the society and social problems.

Research, Consultancy And Extension Case Study

Excellence in higher education is not an accident. It is a team work of government, Management, University, Faculty and stake holder students. Thus, excellence in higher education is the combined effect of individual participation as well as co-operative efforts of all above mentioned components.

Padmabhushan Dr. Vasantraodada Patil Mahavidyalya, Tasgaon Dist - Sangli (Maharashtra) was established in the year June 1962 by Shikshan Maharshi Dr. Babuji Salunkhe

under the management of Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha, Kolhapur with their motto, “*Dnyan, Vidnyan ani Susanskar Yasathi Shikshan Prasar.*”

This is the only multifaculty college with post graduate departments in the Tasgaon, Tahsil. The college has put their efforts in bringing out social, cultural, academic and economic transformation of this tahsil. Our college was accredited in Janaury,2004 and was re-accredited in March 2009 with ‘B’ Grade. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) is actively involved for better functioning of our college to promote still better education in this area, particularly, students over all personality development of students to meet the challenges of global era.

Research, Consultancy and Extension parameter is more effectively in operation at our college. Due to the components of this parameter, the students are getting benefited. They are acquiring skills of research, developing leadership as well as involving social activities for the benefit of mankind. The promising facts of research, consultancy and extension are summarized as below.----

a) Research

The college is with good research minded faculty. There are 13 Ph.D, 20 M.Phil, and 06 faculty with NET/SET qualifications. These faculty members conducts major as well as minor research projects funded by U.G.C. New Delhi. The department of Chemistry and Hindi are recognized research centers for M.Phil and Ph.D courses of Shivaji University Kolhapur.

To promote research attitude among the students we have taken following steps-

i)New Horizons 2012

Research paper poster presentation competition was held during last year (2011) for Science students. The students from M.Sc. Chemistry (22), B.Sc. III Chemistry (52), B.Sc. III Zoology (10), B.Sc. II Botany (10) were participated New Horizons 2012 programme.

The students prepared research paper posters on the different topics like Organic Synthesis, Analysis of Drugs, Analysis of Soil, Analysis of Cement, Analysis of Metal, Biodiversity of Fishes, Biodiversity of Birds, Biodiversity of Plants, etc. They used modern research instruments like UV-Visible Spectrophotometer, FT-IR, Flame Photometer, Research Microscopes etc. for their analysis.

They collected data on relevant topics using Internet and recent references from library. Thus, they are able to present their work in front of expert examiners. The winners were awarded with cash prizes for motivation.

Impact - 02students of our college have achieved first prize at university level and participated state level “Avishkar” competition.

ii)Know Your Medicinal Plants.

During this year (2012) B.Sc II Botany (100) students are involved in this activity. They are preparing a chart on a selected plants. For this purpose they are collecting information using Internet, library and from their teachers. They will present their work in exhibition which will be arranged by the college in January 2013

b) **Consultancy**

The college faculties are involved in consultancy services. The college has purchased sophisticated instruments like FT – IR, LCR Meter, Flame Photometer etc. through UGC Special Assistance of Rs 25 lacks. Chemistry department and physics department are giving their consultancy services to teachers and students by using FT – IR, LCR Meter, Flame Photometer instruments.

The teachers of Botany, Zoology, Mathematics and Statistics are giving guidance to school teachers for Inspire Award Scheme free of cost.

Impact :- Through consultancy services we are generating some amount for college Development.

It gives us pleasure of providing such facility to our student and teachers, researchers in such rural place.

c) **Extension**

Extension activities are mainly carried out through National Services Scheme (NSS). During last 5 years we have planted about 500 trees at Swami Ramanand Bharti Sahakari Soot Girini Campus, Tasgaon. This activity was appreciated by NAAC Peer Team. During last year (2011) we have planted about 100 trees on the campus. They are cared by college NSS students.

During this year (2012) we have launched **Green Campus Project** for campus development. Every student from Science faculty has to plant a tree on campus. The after care is also taken by concerned students. In this programme we have planted so far 500 plants of different species like Neem, Mango, Gulbhendi, Bakul, Saptaparni, Boganvel, Chikku, Bamboo, Palms etc. More than 500 students have participated in this activity.

Impact :- It has created a social awareness about the environment. The students are able know about local plant diversity.

Conclusion :-

From the above discussion and presented data, it can be concluded that research consultancy and extension activities are of more importance. The students will get benefited by developing their self confidence and personality. The students developed through such good practices will be good citizens of India.

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ASHOK YAKKALDEVI

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology, A.R. Burla Mahila Varishtha Mahavidyalaya, Solapur.