SECOND DAY OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S CONFERENCE ON 20.12.2019 AT RAJ BHAVAN, UDHAGAI.

On the second day of the Vice-Chancellor's Conference various sessions on improving higher education scenario took place. Mr.Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM, Trichy gave a small recap of the earlier sessions with a gist of the take-home messages derived from those sessions.

Mr.Richard Rekhy, Former CEO of KPMG conducted the session on "Leveraging Technology in Higher Education". Mr.Rekhy, in his session insisted that we need to keep updating ourselves with the upgradation in technologies. Given the digital presence, in future Data is going to be the new Oil which will impact the economy. He also emphasized that we need to create entrepreneurial mindset right at the college level which will create jobs rather than depending on others for job.

This was followed by a session on "Lifelong Learning & Employability" conducted by Shri P.Dwarkanath, Chairman, GSK Consumer Healthcare. Mr.Dwarkanath advised the Vice-Chancellors to create their own benchmark instead of following other existing benchmarks. He shared views on employability and skill gaps of students compared with industrial standards. He insisted on building team players not just academic toppers and stressed the importance of continuous learning and innovation. Mr.Dwarkanath also came up with certain focus areas for both institutes and corporates.

During the fourth session for the day, Dr. Bhimaraya Metri – Director, IIM Trichy deliberated on the topic "Governance, Management and the Academic Leadership in the Era of Industry 4.0". He said that 200 years ago, the Universities used to adopt "Republic of Scholars" model OF Governance & Management, which used to give full freedom to Universities all over the world. This model was prevalent during the King's rulings. When

the European countries started setting up colonies in different part of the world to meet the manpower needs, they started establishing Universities with financial support. Thus the era of "Control System" started. So, this controlled system became a model for most of the Universities in the world which remained till recent times. This system promoted political & government interference in the universities system. Consequent to this, Universities started losing their standards.

During 1990's some of the European countries, United States, Korea, Singapore, Australia etc.. came forward to improve the standards of universities. They also realized that standards can only be improved by giving autonomy (Academic / Administrative / Financial) to the universities. As a result of this, "Autonomy with Accountability" model of Governance & Management came in to picture. Today, all the top notch Universities in the world are following this model and maintaining their global standards. In India too, IIMs, IITs, ICSSRs' etc… are working with the "Autonomy with Accountability" model. That is how, they are standing up as premier institutes not only in India, but also globally.

Today, digital technology is changing faster than ever. In this disruptive VUCA digital world, it is necessary for the universities to go for digital design. "Digital Universities" are successful only when we empower the people in the Universities and thus, the current Academic Leadership style does not work in digital environment, which demands collaborative, contextual leadership i.e. fluid leadership in era of Industry 4.0. Due to disruptive digital world in the era of Industry 4.0, future is fluid, future workforce is fluid, future strategy is fluid strategy and thus in future, successful universities are those who provide fluid leadership.

Professor K. Ramachandran started his session "Internationalization of University and Roadmap for Chancellor's Vision 2030" with analyzing the current standards and the importance of going global. In his speech, he has demonstrated several initiatives for promoting student mobility, faculty mobility, programme mobility and institutional mobility. He also insisted on getting back the research scholars who are successful abroad, back to India by giving attractive incentives in order to improve our standards. He also mentioned that with the current scenario we have very few universities to attract global students. This has to increase in coming decades with fixed target from Chancellor.

All these can be possible only when the Vice-Chancellors' are given autonomy with accountability. He also discussed about the roadmap to achieve the Chancellor's Vision based on the exercise done by the Vice-chancellors.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22   Sd/-

Date : 20.12.2019   Addl. Director (PR)