Higher Education: Challenges and Responsibilities of Stakeholders

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Responsibilities of a Higher Education Institution towards Stakeholders and Community: A Study

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ABSTRACT

A higher education institution works with the support of various stakeholders viz. Government, Management, Teachers, Students, Parents, NGO's, etc. Many a times we often see that only three stakeholders are given lot of importance and the remaining are not given due weightage. The three stakeholders who have been considered to be the most important are Students, Teachers and Parents. The three stakeholders are to like the three sides of a triangle of a Higher Education Institution. Many a times it has been noticed that the other stakeholders are not taken into consideration and due to which a Higher Education Institution is not able to link to Community and as a result there is a possibility that the student of the Higher Education Institution is not aware about the things which are happening in the locality. The student is prepared for global competition and in the run to prepare the student for global competition we often forget that the student should be prepared also for working with stakeholders of the Society. In this paper an attempt is made to present the responsibilities of a Higher Education Institution towards the stakeholders. The paper outlines the responsibilities of the Higher Education institutions towards Government, Community, NGO's and local industry. The paper concludes that the interaction with the all stakeholders by the Higher Education Institution will go a long way in increasing the quality of Higher Education in India. The paper suggests that the role of a Higher Education Institution is very important for development of the Community which in turn will help the students and all other stakeholders of the Higher Education Institution.

Keywords: Responsibility, Higher Education Institution, Stakeholder, Community, Responsible Citizen

Introduction

Higher Education Institution is considered to be an institution which focuses on the holistic development of the students. The institution is entrusted with a responsibility of imparting education which will create a student who will be able to a responsible citizen of the society and work with the Community for development of the locality and betterment of the Society. Many a times a Higher Education Institution is ranked on based on the result, campus placement, MOU's signed by the Higher Education Institution, Short –Term Courses, Training for Competitive Exams etc. Along with all the above points there is a need to rank a Higher Education Institution on the basis of its responsibility towards the community.

Any Higher Education Institution requires support of the Government, NGO's and corporate houses and other stakeholders like people from the locality, businesspersons from local industry, local self bodies, etc. The Higher Education Institution runs with the support of the management and the teachers responsible for execution of the vision and mission of the Higher Education Institution and creating an environment of learning for the students. During the teaching–learning process parents as a stakeholder are providing their valuable inputs to a Higher Education Institution. In many Higher Education Institutions the education imparted is in consultation of the, Management and Parents. The syllabus is often being taught to the students and through the teaching –learning process the students are made industry ready. In many of the reputed Higher Education Institution in India academics progress is the top priority and it should be the top

priority for a Higher Education Institution.

The Higher Education Institution along with academic progress of the student should not ignore its responsibility towards the community. The Higher Education Institution should remember that it has a role to play in community development. The role is equally important to academic development of the students. The Higher Education Institution should not be an island which is isolated from the community and society. The role and responsibilities may not be defined formally by any statutory authority. But it is binding to every Higher Education Institution which is working in the country for promotion of quality education. The role and responsibilities of Higher Education Institution towards stakeholders and community are explained as follows

Responsibilities of Higher Education Institution towards Government

Every Higher Education Institution should make efforts to create awareness about the policies decisions and initiatives of the Central and State Government. Higher Education Institution has to play an important role in acting as a link between Governments. It is the duty of the Higher Education Institution to perform the following responsibilities

- Make the students aware about the policy decisions of the Central and State Government.
- To organise programs and workshops for creating awareness about various schemes of the Government.
- To collaborate with the local self bodies and organize programs on issues such as health awareness, garbage management, etc.
- To undertake a project of studying and presenting to the Government a report about socio-economic parameters of the people for the locality.
- To maintain a record of number of spending that is done for the institution by the Government and also explain the students and teachers to role of Government in supporting Higher Education Institution.
- To make available information to the students and teachers about the skill development initiatives and research funding and support available from the central and State Government.

Responsibilities of Higher Education Institution towards Community

The Higher Education Institution should work with the community, the non-government organisations (NGO's) from a major part of the community. It is the responsibility of Higher Education Institution to work for community development. Many a times it is often seen that the teaching-learning process is limited to the classroom. Occasionally, once or twice in a year the students get an opportunity to interact with the community and members of the NGO. This interaction must be held frequently. The Higher Education Institution has an important responsibility of acting as a link between the students and community. It is the duty of the Higher Education Institution to perform the following responsibilities

- To organise workshops, seminars and programs on issues on public importance and create awareness.
- To sensitive the members of the community on issues such as environmental protection and water conservation.
- To organise blood donation camps, health check-up camps for the members of the community.
- To help the members of community to in development work of the locality where the Higher Education Institution is located.
- To collaborate with NGO's and work for issues which are of national importance.

Responsibilities of Higher Education Institution towards local industry

The Higher Education Institution has to also develop a strong industry-academia interface. It is very much required in order to understand the type of human capital and the skills that the local industry requires. The interaction with local industry is also another responsibility of the Higher Education Institution. It is the duty of the Higher Education Institution to perform the following

responsibilities

- To sign MOU with the local industry so that the students get an opportunity to interact with the board members of the industry.
- The members of the industry are invited at the Higher Education Institution to deliver lectures and guide and motivate the students.
- The courses of the institutions are designed in such a way that the students can be employed by the local industry.
- The Higher Education Institution can also request for funds to the local industry in order to identify and solve the problems faced by the industry.
- The Higher Education Institution has also a responsibility to guide and update the local entrepreneurs about the recent developments in the field of business.

Benefits of the HEI of shouldering responsibility towards Stakeholders

The Higher Education Institution which works on shouldering the responsibility towards the various stakeholders benefit accordingly

- A strong rapport with the Government agencies is created by the Higher Education Institution, which in future can help the Higher Education Institution to get more assistance from the government.
- The Higher Education Institution develops a connect with local self body which helps the Higher Education Institution get support and co-operation from the concerned local self body.
- The Higher Education Institution find it very easy to get information about the job opportunities in local market as there is connect with local entrepreneurs.
- Indirectly a positive image of the Higher Education Institution is built in the eyes of the people from the village and which has a positive impact on the intake of the Higher Education Institution
- The community develops connect with the Higher Education Institution and as a result many programs for betterment of the students and general public can be organised.
- If the Higher Education Institution works with the community the students get an opportunity to understand the difficulties of the community and the same can be discussed and solution can be presented to the community.
- Interaction with the community is an important step in improving the quality of the Higher Education Institution. It is a way ahead where involvement of community can make the teaching-learning process more meaningful.

Conclusion

The Higher Education Institution has to play many roles and deal with lot many number of stakeholders. The responsibility of Higher Education Institution is very difficult to handle. Teaching-learning and evaluation is only a part of Higher Education Institution. The three important stakeholders viz., Teachers, Students and Parents are integral part of the Higher Education Institution, but along with the three important stakeholders the responsibility of Higher Education Institution towards the community, government and non-government organisations is also equally important.

The aim of any Higher Education Institution is to create a student who is a responsible person of the society. Business ethics and moral values are to be imparted in every student as a part of quality education. The competition for seeking a job in the market should be faced with lot of preparation. The student has to prepare himself but along with the students the Higher Education Institution also needs to prepare itself so that maximum students benefit from the interaction of stakeholders and Higher Education Institution.

The change in mind set of the students, teachers, parents and management of the Higher Education Institution is a need of the hour. Higher Education cannot be completed without support of community and stakeholders support. The aim of the Higher Education Institution

should be create a citizen who is aware about the locality and community. We should encourage the students to develop an interaction with community.

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