



Research Article

প্রতিধ্বনি the Echo

A journal of Humanities & Social Science

Published by: Dept. of Bengali

Karimganj College, Karimganj, Assam, India

Website: www.thecho.in

STUDENTS: THE STARTING POINT TO INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING

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Abstract

"All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today"-Indian proverb (flickr.com)

India is flattering as a global hub for educational actions and a catalyst for all kinds of worldwide man-power condition. There is a mounting stipulation for, and also apprehension more of concern to, endowed with eminence education with standard curriculum and globally acceptable arrangement of education. It is based in the key of optimal utilization of the resources available in the school and the community and for this we need to have plan. Planning is having a unique importance in every walk of life. Wherever we are, whatever we do a certain amount of planning is required and educational capsule is one of them which is having different essence to it. Institutional planning is one of them which framed and executed on the basis of felt needs along with available resources. It starts with grass root level which consists of broad policy which makes it a two way process. As we are in 21st century, the present paper focuses on the qualities of the students and the opulent relationship of the student and the institution. Since the author belongs to teaching fraternity, explores role of students which should be the initial position of the institutional planning along with the institutional

strategies which are required to achieve academic success as well as goals of the institution.

Key Words: Student Qualities, Relationship, Student's role, Institutional strategies

INTRODUCTION

Planning is thinking before-hand over a problem, a topic or an issue. If planning is well done, then there are no complications. One goes on accordingly and ultimately comes out with all satisfaction and happiness. Planning is needed in teaching, in organization, in administration, in business etc. in short at each and every step of our lives. In educational set-up planning for the institution and by the institution plays as prudent key for the future (US Department of Education 2007, 13).

“Institutional planning is a milestone in the journey towards the improvement of education”

E. W. Esanklin (Naik 1968, 5) For the comprehensive instigate of any institution, the things planned will decide the future in terms of the success and failure of that institution. Management board of any institution plays a pivotal role as the board provides resources which cater to the varied requirements, needs and necessities of the institute besides staff and students. On the similar platform principal, teachers and non-teaching staff perform their different roles very dedicatedly and give their immaculate efforts

for the growth and development of the institution. With the fast and modern time it is clear that the crucial participation of the students has become a necessity for the institutional planning. Involving students in the institutional planning highlights and encourages their self-confidence as well as potential which could not be ignored. Though students are small and immature but they have enough energy and competence to perform duties with responsibility. This energy could be used as a source which helps the institution to mount greater heights. Student's management quality should be nurtured at school as well as higher educational level with the package of skills, techniques and vigour which enhances to the fullest as to have required output.

STUDENTS AND THEIR QUALITIES : Today's students are tomorrow's leaders of a country and the qualities of the student clearly determine the students' bright future and carrier path. Historically, the term 'student' referred anyone who learns something. However, the recent definition of a “student” is anyone who attends school, college, or university. Based on

personal experience and research, few qualities have been listed down (Dash & Dash 2008,32 &Naik 1965,21).

- **Energetic and Enthusiastic Attitude:** A good student possesses the ability and willingness to learn new subjects even the subjects are not interesting.
- **Academic skills:** Acquiring academic skills is the most important quality of a good student. Ability to read comprehensively, to write effectively, to speak fluently, and to communicate clearly are the key areas in which a good student must be proficient. Having a good handle in all these areas will make a student to shine in a class.
- **Ability:** A good student has the ability to apply the results of his or her learning in to a creative way and achieve the goals.
- **Perceptiveness:** How well a student can interpret and perceive meanings from a conversation greatly determines the quality of a good. A good student always perceives right meaning from conversations, but an average student often misunderstands the original thoughts of a speaker or writer and derives a wrong conclusion.
- **Self-Discipline:** Discipline in managing the time is an important factor that every good student must possess. Often times, delaying the tasks, such as writing assignments, reading text books, etc., may negatively impact the ability of a student to achieve the goals.
- **Understanding rather than memorizing concepts:** A lot of surveys suggest students must understand the concepts rather than just memorizing them. The memorized facts and theories will stay in students' memory until they leave school, college, or university. Once out of school, the students will totally forget the core concepts that they learned. Therefore, it is essential a good student understand the concepts.
- **Dress Code-**A student should adhere to dress code prescribed by her/his school in decent manner. Students should seek out information from their schools regarding what they are allowed to wear.
- **Curious and Keen-**Student should be curious and keen to learn more and more with interest and vigour.
- **Updated-**In today's techno-savvy world, students should be updated with current

techniques as well as technologies.

- **Respect for others**-A good student treats others the way he wants to be treated. He has deep respect for others.
- **Initiative**- A good student starts doing things without being told. He not only follows the instructions but looks for the opportunities to discover new things and try new ideas.
- **Critical bent of mind**- Education is more acquisition of knowledge which includes the ability to acquire new information and to crucially analyze the new ideas and facts.
- **Objectively**-Education enables the student to set his ego aside and evaluate and interpret the facts objectively.
- **Humility**-However much one knows, one must realize that there is much more to be learnt but knowing the limitations and errors which leads him to humility road rather than over-confidence (US Department of Education, US Government Accountability Office 2007, 7).

STUDENT AND INSTITUTION: Education is the fulcrum of life, for peace, progress and development. It provides seedlings for culture and

civilization. It is a passport for freedom and liberty and a higher calling in life. It has the grain of a rich ancient heritage to achieve the highest standards in education and research and to contribute to onward march of mankind to peace and progress (Aggarwal & Aggarwal 1992, 34 & Buch 1969,6). The student is of utmost importance in any educational system. The whole system of education revolves around him. No school, college or university. No school, college or university can exist without the student. Students are the nation builder and future of the country. Institution is as good an educational agency as is the home. An institution is any structure or mechanism of social order and cooperation governing the behavior of a set of individuals within a given human community. Institutions are identified with a social purpose and permanence, transcending individual human lives and intentions, and with the making and enforcing of rules governing cooperative human behavior (Cabrini.edu). The interdependence or the relationship between students and the institution has been always on priority list of any country (Sachdeva, Kumar & Kumar 2008, 10 & Sted 1945, 8).

ROLE OF STUDENTS IN INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING



“Student success” can be defined in many ways, depending on the type of institution, its nature and mission, its student population, and the needs of its students. Each institution's definition of student success should be at the center of their strategic planning process and should guide every effort or intervention

(Wikipedia.com). Keeping these things in mind the authors tried to jot down the role of students at two altitudes ,one is at school level and the other one is higher education level which are as follows:

At school level:

1. **Assembly duties**-Assembly duties like maintaining discipline, prayer chanting ,instrument playing ,news reader, speaker on any theme, monitoring rows, report about late-comers ,or any other activity can be assigned weekly or daily to different group of students (Mangal 2007,25).
2. **House duties**-can make different house to involve students in different activities of school for a week as cleanliness of school campus, availability of chalk, duster at every room, write the notice board, news board, leave board etc. Checking discipline duty at the recess time. Organizing activity or programme following in their week (days or themes).Discipline duty at any activity time of programme is running.
3. **Student clubs**-Clubs should be made like quiz club, dance club, dramatic club, library club, eco clubs etc. to maintain discipline and organized different activity related to these clubs at school premises.
4. **Student organizations**-Student organization is a new concept in schools in India. But European countries adopted it and call it as necessity for the development of student welfare and for good leadership in healthy way which leads to the path of institutional planning .on the other hand this concept could give varied output in India due to varied school set-up, educational patterns, mixed attitudes etc.
5. **Class monitor**-monitor should be or can be changed weekly or monthly. Monitoring should be done in terms of attendance record, cleanliness, availability of chalk ,dusters, control the class at the time when teacher is on leave and other work related to class and other teachers.
6. **Organizing different competitions** by group of students who are willing to organize various activities related to sports, NSS, NCC, social work etc.
7. **Feedback by students**-It should be a regular activity of an institution to know its strong as well as weak points. It could be on monthly basis or yearly basis collected with the help of

feedback Performa or form (Verma 2007, 31).

At Higher Education Level:

- 1. Student Union**-Student union or student organization for the welfare of students and to support the institution .In higher education, the student union is often accorded its own building on the campus, dedicated to social and organizational activities of the student body. Pillars of this student movement are representativeness, openness, democracy, independence. The student voice could be heard through media, online presence and branding (Kochhar 2007,45).
- 2. Consultation**-Consultation of higher education institutions with students. Consultation with and for students should be in the horizons of curriculum, feedback, evaluation methods etc. Student engagement in curriculum transformation views curriculum not as a thing but as a symbolic, material, and human environment that is on-going reconstructed. Provision should be made for students' consultation during the institutional quality assurance process and should have access to appropriate research and study facilities both on and off campus.
- 3. Evaluation**-Evaluation which is crucial and important part of education system should involve the suggestions and ideas of the students. It could be used as a tool which enhances the relationship of

teacher, student and institution for the opulent success of education in any field (US Government Accountability Office 2007, 15-17 & Vasquez 2006, 33).

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE STUDENT SUCCESS

Student success and retention strategies need to respond to the realities and nature of both students and institutions. Moreover, interventions need to reflect the particularities of the student population at each institution. Student interventions refer to activities directly related with students: advising, freshmen orientation, tutoring, individual success plans, mentoring, and financial guidance (Laden 2004,17). Institutional and student interventions are the set of strategies that implemented together have the potential to increase student retention and completion. Institutional interventions focus on planning and staff related activities: creation of retention committees, establishment of student success goals, student tracking, staff training, and faculty development among others (Naik 1965,4). Following are the few strategies to achieve targeted goals by institution to achieve the main objective i.e. student success.

- Identify and address particular learning needs of students.

- Create supportive and competitive learning environments.
- Have bilingual and culturally sensitive staff and faculty.
- Design interventions to improve basic skills, such as supplemental instruction opportunities.
- Take advantage of learning communities programs.
- Establish academic advising and assessment centers.
- Enhance faculty's understanding of the students' realities.
- Integrate technology wisely to student success interventions.
- Create opportunities for growth outside the classroom and close to the real world.
- Shift counseling and tutoring from the student services side to the academic affairs area (John 2007,4-6).
- Few other strategies include peer counseling, summer skills programs, experiential learning seminars, peer advisement, planning resources, freshman orientation, and sophomore re-orientation. This is all further strengthened by faculty development, learning communities, and technology enhancement efforts

(Aggarwal & Aggarwal 1992, 27-29 & Naik 1965, 23).

CONCLUSION

In the entire education system, students are like the nucleus of the education system and educators are like the electrons of that atomic system of education. This nucleus should be and could be utilized and given due importance for the effective planning of an institution. The whole system is constructed for the students. Students are the backbone of the entire education system and opportunities should be given to them so as to help them exhibit their new and innovative ideas for the success of the entire system. Students and the institution should collaborate and work as a team for the joint venture of the excellence of the system of education by effective institutional planning. Meaningful students' engagement and involvement that emphasize their roles as creators of original knowledge and designers of effective curriculum must be given prominence. The institution should allocate resources for ensuring superior product from its quality processing. The ultimate goal of the whole system is to create positive and pleasant environment so that the students can grow to their highest potentialities.

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