



Suggestions

Outline Of A Medical University

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A university opens up a universe to its members—the past and the future of mankind, and its members open up the present to the public. If any institution fails in delivering this primary good it loses its credibility and if a planned project as a highest seat of learning fails to incorporate this ultimate goal then this plan should be abandoned before much effort, time, money, and energy have been expended. Useless, lavish and flamboyant ideas do not be above hungry people. Each coin we spend should be spent thoughtfully and cautiously. Benefit should be more than the cost, otherwise our endeavours will lead us to further poverty.

A university as the highest seat of learning should be a nest of the most brilliant of its people from the respective disciplines and carriers. It should not be a hunting ground for fortune seekers and apple polishers. A university should have intelligent people, not clever people at its core. It is not a place for medicos. It is a place for seeking and culturing knowledge, enhancing a principles and generating information to be used for benevolence, personal gain is a minor factor here. It is a ground for those whose main fun is generation of knowledge.

A university is established for at least one cardinal reason—to sponsor, facilitate and patronize learned people so that knowledge to ease human life can be traded off with them in return. A university is also supposed to bring laurel and prestige for its sponsors from across a boundary. It is also supposed to turn over the best qualified people to run a society and nation. It is also supposed to turn over the best qualified people to run a society and nation. In this sense the level of intellect of the people in a nation will reflect the quality of its universities and vice versa.

In this country, unfortunately, mediocrity is the call of the day. We seem to be satisfied with the quality of our present performances and services. Seldom there is an effort to improve it. There is another side of this picture. Since cultivating know-

ledge is tedious for many clever, but otherwise efficient tricksters canvassing ability has been mastered by many as a highest form of reflection of personal ability and craft and they are gradually becoming cream of the present day society replacing genuinely efficient people. The result remains un-anticipated yet but the future outcome foreseeably is going to be bleak if this trend continues. So, in this context it will be awaited with interest to see as to who will be the vanguards and pioneers of this proposed medical university. Morning will show the day.

When real efficient people are difficult to find out and ad-hoc appointments are made initially in an interim period often times a vicious circle is created in this country under compulsion and then it perpetuates since a search to find the real people is then abandoned gradually or short circuited. These ad hoc appointees then become master manipulators and attain a role, achieve a position, permanently, which they never dreamt off or which they did not prepare themselves for in terms of efficiency.

One needs a solid base to build something on it. Unfortunately, either nobody seeks this out or nobody cares about the quality of education in this country any more. Also, one needs to be a gemologist to seek out a gem. How would you judge an applied physicist if the only expertise you have is to handle equipment in a bio-chemistry laboratory?

Those who think that establishing medical university is spoilation are however far from the truth. An efficient and brilliant university is an indispensable commodity and a prize possession for a society. Comfort in human life, improvisation of a society or a nation can only come when its universities are outstanding. The fact that this nation is intolerably indolent in its progress in the march of civilization and standard of life only reflects the deplorable atmosphere in its universities. So, a university which raises a glimpse of hope is always a welcome addition to this battered nation.

A university is capital in a business. Efficient manipulation of this will flourish the business and will keep the stakes rolling with handsome remuneration in the long run.

Some suggestions to ensure the efficiency of a teaching institution are in order:

1. Objectives and goals of establishing a medical university, for example, have to be outlined in clear, straight-forward and operational (achievable/tangible) terms.

2. Programmes have to be set according to the objectives so that the objectives are achieved after the implementation of these programme strategies.

3. A cost-effectiveness through an a priori system analysis is needed to choose the best of the alternative programmes.

4. Timely monitoring of the programmes during their operation and an evaluation of the programmes after their completion (operational research) are necessary to see if the stated objectives have been achieved or are being achieved. Further steps may ensue on the basis of this.

We do not know for sure the objectives of the proposed medical university but let us make an intelligent guess. These may be:

1. Teaching of and training on bio-medical sciences per excellence to increase the number and efficiency of bio-medical scientists which will improve the level of service provided to the society.

2. Time-honoured research works to generate new knowledge and information in bio-medical sciences; implementation of which on a large scale will benefit mankind through solving their bio-medical problems.

3. Printing and publication as a means of dissemination of knowledge in a scientific and well organized form.

To achieve these objectives setting of specific programme are needed. What could be the programmes in this regard? First of all, we have to delineate the topics, subjects or disciplines that are to be taught and also mark out those disciplines or subjects which should get the highest priority.

As a corollary we can easily assume that since it is going to be a public sector (as opposed to a private sector) project, public money is going to be spent on it. So its beneficiaries naturally should be the general mass. To serve the general mass we have to emphasize on subjects teaching or training of which will serve the best interest of the largest possible number of people instead of some privileged individuals. Taking money from the poor (80% of the population in this country is poor) and spending that on the rich will be an unpardonable sin. Likewise our research efforts should also take note of this fact.

Now, let us enlist the subjects or disciplines that should in our view, get the highest priority in the light of the above arguments.

1. Public Health: Public health administration (health economics, operational research etc. preventive medicine (vaccinology, vector control) epidemiology and biostatistics, health education, population dynamics, family planning, maternity and child health, entomology, tropical medicine (tropical aspects of virology, parasitology and bacteriology), environmental hygiene, community medicine (infectious and chronic disease primary healthcare), nutrition, international health, public health nursing, psychiatry and gerontology, sociology (anthropology and behavioural science) etc.

2. Curative medicine: Internal medicine, cardiology, pediatrics, endocrinology, gynaecology, obstetrics, toxicology, nephrology, ophthalmology, laryngo-rhinology, neurology, physio and rehabilitation therapy, osteology, dermatology, hospital management, etc.

3. Bio-medical sciences: Anatomy, physiology, pharmacy, pharmacology, pathology, bio-chemistry, immunology, microbiology, molecular biology, nuclear medicine etc.

4. Others: Dentistry, medical jurisprudence and postmortem, school health services, industrial health services etc.

(To be continued)