



Community College: Bridging Gap Between Education and Industry.

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ABSTRACT

In India, lack of employment is a very big problem and this is increasing day by day. This is result of lack of industries, education, and adequate training and some people say growing population. On the other hand, lack of skilled people for employment is also a big reason of unemployment. There is a very big gap between demand and supply as the economic system needs skilled workforce. The situation also darkens in terms of quality of products. According to the studies of FICCI and NASSCOM only 25% of the graduates passing out of the technical institutions are employable. Our educational institutions are disconnected with the requirements of the industries. To solve this problem, the government has decided to focus on the job oriented education and has taken several initiatives to implement skill based education. One of the most important initiatives is establishment of community colleges. This has proved a successful initiative and helping the youth to get better employment and also catering the needs of the industries and service sector.

KEYWORDS

History and concept of community colleges: Actually community colleges are American invention. Its beginning goes nearly hundred years ago with Joliet Junior College. From the vary time, community colleges have been inclusive institutions that provides education to all who want to learn, regardless of age, wealth, heritage, or previous academic experiences. From the USA, this concept spread to other countries, like Canada, Australia, India etc. and community colleges are being established there.

Definitions of the community college :

1. A college providing further and higher education for people living in a particular area.
2. A secondary school whose educational and recreational facilities are available to adults in the local community.
3. A secondary school that is open to adults from the local community as well as to its own students.
4. A college that is mainly for students from the local community and that offers programmes that are two years long, including programmes in practical skills.
5. A school that you go to after high school: a school that offers courses leading to an associate degree.

Actually Community colleges are centers of educational opportunity. These colleges offer a different learning environment, and have smaller class sizes, more individualized attention and a supportive atmosphere.

The Indian context :

In India, 157 community colleges are recognized by the University Grants Commission up to yet.. These colleges are spread in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Vision of the community college : The vision of the community college is to promote and to reach to the underprivileged and unreached youth population and empower them with job oriented, skill and value based as well as life coping education and training for better employment and prepare them for their role in the development of the nation.

courses offered:

The courses offered by these colleges are BCA, B Sc., Biochemistry, B Sc. Visual Communication, B. Voc., D. Voc., diplomas; advance diplomas, PG diploma and certificate

courses. The duration of these courses are following:

Courses	Duration
BCA, B Sc., B Sc., B. Voc., D. Voc., Diplomas, Advance Diplomas, PG Diploma.	3 years.
Certificate Courses	1 year.
	6 months.

The above courses are being offered in different fields like Paramedical, IT, Computer Applications, Management, Multimedia, Spoken English, Pre School Education, Medical Lab Technology, Childhood Care and Education, Counseling, Journalism, Sanitation, Tourism, Nutrition, Accounting, Insurance, Food Safety, Bio-Chemistry, Fashion Designing, Carpentry, Dentistry, Jewellery Designing, Seri Culture, Horticulture, Fishery, Agriculture, Tea Plantation, Tailoring, Banking, E-governance, E-services, Textile Technology, Pharmacology, Dietics, Mobile Technology, Automobile Technology, Pulp and Paper Technology, Industrial Pollution, Sugar Technology, Beauty and Wellness, Printing Technology, Welding, Electrician, Ready-made Garments, Fabrication, Office Automation, Animation, Civil Construction, Theatre and Entertainment, Crèche Management, Interior Decoration & House Keeping, Pneumatic & Hydraulic Machine Engineering, Rubber Technology, Dairy Sciences, Farming, Electrical and Electronics, Waste Water Treatment, Cast Iron Foundry Technology, Drip Technology, Diploma in Farm Equipment and Machinery, Graphic Arts, Fitting, Fruit and Vegetable Technology, Radio graphics & Imaging, Cardiac Lab Technology, Operation Theatre Technology, Green House Technology, Organic Farming, Stock Market & Trading Operations , Building Technology, Interior Design, Mushroom Cultivation, Renewable Energy Solar Systems, Machining etc.

Features of community college: Community colleges have a lot of features. Some of them are following:-

1. Development of workforce and skills training.
2. Affordable – Community colleges offer courses affordable fee in comparison to other institutions.
3. Relevant – New sectors, like emerging green technologies, waste water treatment, E- governance, E-services need workers trained in new way. Community provides this facility.
4. Partnership with Industry – To provide students flexible, affordable and relevant training programs community colleges work in co-ordination with the industrial institutions. This results better employment opportunity for the students.
5. Personality development – Community colleges facilitates

students' opportunities to develop their personality and problem solving capacity.

6. lifelong learning – It is said that learning takes place from cradle to deathbed. Community college proves it because it provides opportunities to learn for every age group.

Aims and objectives of community college :

The motto of community college is inclusion of the excluded and giving best at the least. In general the aim of the community college is to provide job oriented education for individuals from the neighboring areas. Community college are committed to the following objectives :

1. Capacity building in youth specially underprivileged and women.
2. Fostering knowledge, moral values and emotional balance.
3. Emphasizing life skill teaching and training for better communication.
4. To increase employment opportunities.
5. Decrease the burden on higher education
6. Serving the community as a community-based institution of higher education.

Infrastructure of community colleges: Generally the infrastructure of the parent colleges is being used to run the courses with some changes. In addition to this, required equipments and facilities are also purchased to meet the necessities of the courses. A separate library is also established for this purpose.

The requirement of faculty is being fulfilled by the parent college. Some of these are permanent teachers of the college and some are guests as well as visiting teachers. They are being paid according to the norms of the UGC. In addition to this, there are other staff also like accountant, technicians, peons, sweepers, computer operators There is also a course coordinator to look after and proper running of the courses.

The entire required amount for the payment of staff, infrastructure development and maintenance is being funded by the University Grants Commission.

So, it is clear that community colleges are better centers of learning which provide job oriented education and training as well as develops the personality of the students The courses provided in these colleges are comparatively cheap, affordable and flexible. As a result the students are getting employment and catering the needs of the economy.

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