

REVAMP OF AICTE ENGINEERING SYLLABUS- GOOD OR BAD?



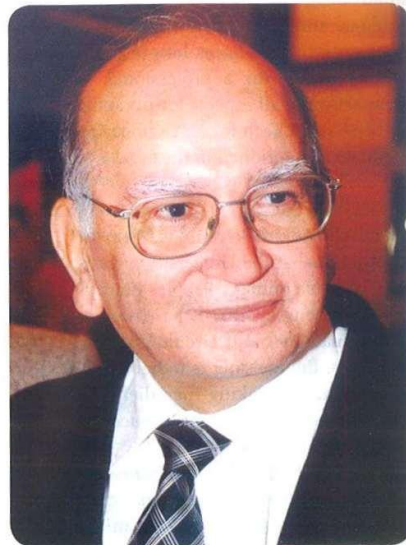
"We had invited vice-chancellors of all technical universities who had expressed their apprehensions about reducing credits but after we had discussions and deliberations with them in a full-day workshop, they have appreciated the change and have shown willingness to adopt this new curriculum. Each university is autonomous and they can make changes based on their requirements which may be based on regional and specialization demands. But, some basic elements must be carried from this model curriculum that AICTE has proposed. These changes have been discussed with eminent members from IITs and big corporations from respective disciplines, who assisted us to revise the curriculum. This was done in order to obtain the industry feedback for academia."

Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE

"There are many reports and anecdotes on the lack of appropriate skills in our graduating engineering professionals. The underlying reason is that the world has changed from a predictable well structured deterministic world to a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous ecosystem. The IITs were created in the early 1960s in collaboration with technologically advanced countries such as USA, UK, Germany and Soviet Union, and their graduates were ready to benefit from the challenges and opportunities of the third Industrial Age. But, their curriculum has become fossilized over last sixty years and out of sync with the rapid progress in the field.

The path to flourish in the fourth industrial age is not through existing academic knowledge, but is through the ability to be able to learn new things on your own. Even before AICTE implements the curriculum change, the student should learn the concepts from the abundant online resources including MOOCs and apps. So, becoming an autonomous self-directed lifelong learner is the need of the hour. This was also the advice given at the convocation to graduating students at IIT Chennai by Nandan Nilekani."

Prof M. M Pant, Former Pro-Vice Chancellor of IGNOU



"The revised curriculum for engineering courses, prepared by AICTE is an innovative approach towards implementing 'Make in India' concept. The reduction of subjects with less syllabus for students will really bring a change in the outlook of students towards understanding engineering fundamentals. It is good to introduce subjects like engineering mechanics and biology in the first year of engineering as suggested by the

curriculum reform. It will certainly improve the quality of engineering education in India. I want to make a note here that the curriculum prepared by chemical engineering board has not followed the latest AICTE guidelines such as each of the eight subjects were introduced in first and second semester.

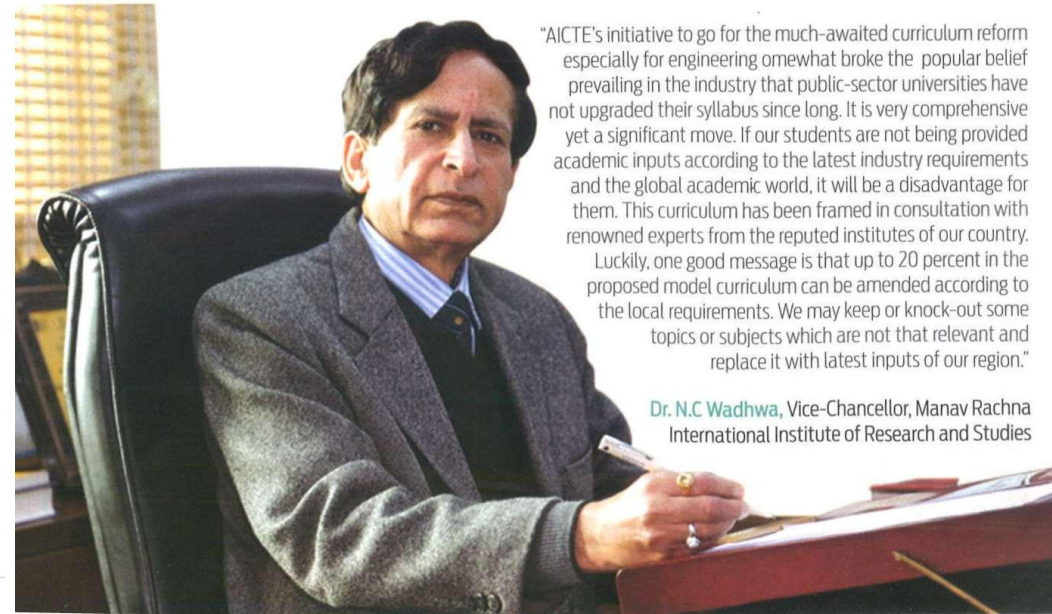
It is better to follow four subjects pattern each semester. Making effective technical communication necessary is a good move since written and oral skills in the course will improve report writing skills. More weightage is still required for laboratory courses, that's still lagging in revised curriculum. It has been observed that we want to get rid of the society related electives for the engineering students. It is better to start these kind of electives from the school level and discontinue it at the undergraduate level."

Prof. B. Sridhar Reddy, Principal, SRM Institute of Technology, Greater Hyderabad



"A great move by AICTE in the direction of making engineering education more vibrant and student centric. Fundamentally, it is enabling students to choose their specializations and also inculcate self-learning abilities to help them in becoming a lifelong learner. One major component in this effort is reduction of the credits from around 175 to 160 for award of degree. This effort is further strengthened by the fact that students would have more core courses along with open electives cutting across their domain which can go beyond conventional engineering subjects as well."

Dr. Sandeep Sanchetti, Vice Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai Campus



"AICTE's initiative to go for the much-awaited curriculum reform especially for engineering somewhat broke the popular belief prevailing in the industry that public-sector universities have not upgraded their syllabus since long. It is very comprehensive yet a significant move. If our students are not being provided academic inputs according to the latest industry requirements and the global academic world, it will be a disadvantage for them. This curriculum has been framed in consultation with renowned experts from the reputed institutes of our country. Luckily, one good message is that up to 20 percent in the proposed model curriculum can be amended according to the local requirements. We may keep or knock-out some topics or subjects which are not that relevant and replace it with latest inputs of our region."

Dr. N.C. Wadhwa, Vice-Chancellor, Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies