ABSTRACT

Industry-academia interface is a burning issue as interface is valued as a critical dimension to bring excellence in academic institutions, for development of industry, society and nation at large. Efforts of last few decades have not yielded desirable results as interests of industry and academia seem to be quite different. Technology changes minute by minute and business have gone global. Economies have seen serious drift and businesses have grown either multifold or affected badly. Quality, cost and service has become major business determinants. With privatization competitiveness has come into an educational field and institutes are to wake up today from this reality. To continue to enjoy long lasting sustainable business, industry-academia interface has to be viewed on serious note to have win-win situation.

The present work aims to develop a system based model for improving industry academia interface for mutual benefits and for making teaching learning process more effective and to pin down the existing gap between industrial needs and availability.

To develop this model first of all major stake holders of technical education were identified viz. industry, academia and student. Introspection of industry-academia interface was carried out to understand present status of their interaction and reasons for not taking a kick start in developing strong bond. Factor identification was done to recognize critical success factors responsible in strengthening this bond. Role of each stake holders was analyzed to understand how they can interact with each other. Avenues of interaction were explored through various interaction domains. An assessment of each
interaction domain was done through literature survey primarily to understand the importance of each domain, interaction barriers and amount of work done in each domain to bring them together. Based on literature survey, personal experience and feedback collected through consultation with industry, faculty and students, a survey tool (questionnaire) was developed to gather information from industry, academia and students about their views on ten different industry-academia interactions domains selected for present study viz.

- Industrial Training
- Student Placement
- Curriculum Development
- Student Evaluation
- Resource Sharing
- Seminars
- Research and Development
- Adjunct Faculty
- Collaborations
- Personality Development Programs

The feedback generated through survey in the areas of present industry-academia status, benefits of being together and other various issues related to education quality such as training selection procedure, structured/unstructured training, academic slot and effective duration of training, preference to rotational/non-rotational training, paid/unpaid training, student's seriousness, amount of stipend and its relation in generating interest, institute training monitoring system effectiveness, industrial participation in students
training evaluation, worthiness of trainees, reward to performer trainees, theory vs. practical/ workshop ratio in student curriculum, absorption of students after training, impact of industrial training on different attributes, weight age to different competencies for recruitment, frequency to revise curriculums, improvement in knowledge and career opportunities through joint curricula, feed back on learner's inventiveness, strength to comprehend fundamentals, visualization and analyzing power to carry forward research, proficiency to manage man power, knowledge on software applications, to get along with different people effectively, institutional weak areas, industry-academia ratio in joint evaluation, impact of industrial evaluation on student's learning, employability, getting live projects, extent of sharing of resources, impact of resource sharing in improving industry-academia relations, donation of industrial equipment, effectiveness and level of industrial staff involved in seminars, level of interaction during and post seminar, improvement in information on present and future industrial needs, academia participation in industrial research, research collaboration experience, barriers in research and development collaborations, industrial adjunct faculty, impact of adjunct faculty, benefits of collaboration, strategies for productive industry-academia relationships, personality development program a mandatory subject, apposite and number of semesters for personality development course, appropriate class strength, and impact of personality development program on students attributes etc was analyzed domain astute.

Based on this study a model has been developed with its implementation strategies through which stress has been laid to form certain governmental policies to make academia more responsive to industrial needs and industry to support education system to