CHAPTER XI

SUGGESTIONS
CHAPTER XI

SUGGESTIONS

11.1 Introduction
11.2 Jurisdictions of Universities
11.3 Liberal Education Colleges
11.4 Student-Teacher Ratio
11.5 Faculty Improvement Programmes
11.6 Post-graduate Centres
11.7 Library
11.8 Publications
11.9 Examination System
11.10 Medium of Instruction
11.11 Research
11.12 Hostels
11.13 Employment
11.1 INTRODUCTION

In view of the progress of University Education in its different aspects which have been fully traced, the researcher is inclined to make the following suggestions for the improvement of higher education.

11.2 JURISDICTIONS OF UNIVERSITIES

The present jurisdictions of universities in Gujarat except Sardar Patel and K.S. University of Baroda are large and wide. The number of colleges affiliated to these universities is very big with the result that the university is not able to wield its influence on them. The examination system has also been misused as big numbers appear at different centres for different examinations.

The Government of Gujarat has very recently given Bhavnagar a residential university even then Saurashtra University is going to remain very big. If Gujarat, Saurashtra and South Gujarat Universities retain their pattern of
affiliating universities, one would argue that instead of three only one big university, as used to be in the past would serve the same purpose and save a lot of expenditure on unnecessary duplication of efforts. The only good point about these universities is that they are slowly taking over post-graduate teaching by opening their own new departments.

The Government of Gujarat has recently appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Fatehali Palejwala to recommend changes necessary in the constitution of all different universities of Gujarat. A suggestion has been made to this Committee to make all universities partly affiliating by fresh demarcation of their jurisdiction to cover the surrounding area.

11.3 LIBERAL EDUCATION COLLEGES

Although almost all universities have stopped proliferation of Arts, Science and Commerce colleges their number is already too big. With the introduction of Higher Secondary pattern which took away the pre-university class from these colleges along with a big source of income, these colleges are now threatened with deficit and consequent closure. In fact technical courses should replace most of these liberal
education colleges which have outlived their existence.

11.4 STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO

The student-teacher ratio in liberal education colleges has been too big till 1975. Now in future it is likely to be reduced because of the loss of pre-university class. This ratio in fact should not be disturbed as it is the most desirable one. The staff should be trained to conduct tutorials, seminars and use of mass media of education instead of lecturing and dictation of notes.

11.5 FACULTY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

The U.G.C. has instituted CAUSSIP programme for the faculty improvement. In many university departments teacher-fellowships have been instituted so that college lecturers who want to read for M.Lit. or Ph.D. degree may be able to get leave on full salary from their teaching duties for two or three years and improve their qualifications. These are good programmes, but they are insufficient to cover all teachers. Regular evening or week-end in-service programmes should be made compulsory for all teachers. The university departments can provide the forum for organising such courses.
11.6 POST-GRADUATE CENTRES

In universities like Saurashtra and South Gujarat post-graduate centres which work part-time or conduct week-end classes are still in existence. They should be completely discontinued as has been done in Gujarat University, because they are not running regularly and satisfactorily. Secondly, instead of repeating the same courses in all different universities, each university should have distinct specializations in different subjects. Regional requirements like Marine Biology, Fisheries, Textile Chemistry, Petro-Chemicals etc. should be given the first priority in staffing new departments.

11.7 LIBRARY

Although the libraries of different universities in Gujarat are expanding, the stock of books that they possess is not still satisfactory. Micro-films, Micro-fisches of valuable documents are not available in most of the places. These modern facilities should be provided for post-graduate and doctoral education and research. The librarians and their assistants should be resourceful and enlightened so that they can guide the students in referring to and in locating books.
The use of journals should be encouraged in postgraduate education and research. Inter-library services should also be increased. Open shelf system should be introduced in all libraries. Reading rooms of the libraries should be vast and spacious to accommodate big number of students that flock there particularly during the examination season.

11.8 PUBLICATIONS

The publications made by different universities and also by the University Book Production Board are very few and most inadequate. Even abstracts of Ph.D. theses approved by these universities are not regularly published. The dissertations of Master's degrees are never abstracted and if one wants to make reference to them it is almost impossible. The abstracts should not only be published in Gujarati but also in English so that students of universities in other states can also take their advantage.

11.9 EXAMINATION SYSTEM

Many half-hearted efforts have been made to improve the examination system which goes deteriorating day by day. In small universities internal examination has been given
prominence while in bigger universities the external examination is the most important one. The real improvement will take place only when the person who is responsible to teach is also given responsibility to examine his own students. Perhaps in the beginning this may lead to very liberal results but ultimately it will improve the whole educational system. In all advanced countries the teacher who teaches also examines and gives grades and there is no reason why it should not be so in our country.

11.10 MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

In under-graduate courses and in some post-graduate courses also Gujarati is going to stay as the medium of instruction. English will remain the medium of instruction in Science and Technological courses like Engineering and Medicine. It is therefore, absolutely necessary that compulsory English be taught to all under-graduate students irrespective of their medium of instruction. This is the only way to make them read English books and journals. Otherwise the standard of education which has already started deteriorating will further go down.
11.11 RESEARCH

The output of research in our universities not only by the students but also by the staff has been too meagre. When good European and American Universities can boast of quite a few Nobelaureates our universities have yet to produce even one such researcher of high merit. This is because the atmosphere of research does not yet prevail in our universities. Every professor and reader of a university department should have his own research project in hand and he should enthuse his students to work with him and structure their own problems for master's or doctoral researches. Liberal grants should be given to them by the universities and facilities to conduct the research should be given to them. These researches should be published regularly first in mimio-graphed form and later in print.

11.12 HOSTELS

Hostel facilities are given to both under-graduate and post-graduate students in colleges and universities. However there is a great scope of improvement in conditions of the hostels. There is no full-time rector of the hostel who would guide the students in how to live and also in running
their mess. Sanitary facilities are also poor in most of the hostels. They are not properly cleaned and the hostellites have not formed a good habit to keep them clean. No body has thought over the social life of the inmates of the hostel. The result is that the most of the hostels are like hotels with least facilities. It is therefore recommended that a full-time rector should be appointed in each hostel. His duty should be to work as a guardian of the students and should look after the quality of food given in the mess. The best way to improve would be to make him take his meals in the dining hall with students. He should be assisted by some senior students for organising social events in the hostel.

11.13 EMPLOYMENT

The universities have miserably failed in providing employment to the outgoing students or in preparing them worthy of employment. Perhaps the nature of under-graduate courses largely will remain as it is, in future. However job-oriented courses of short duration may be introduced by the colleges more over each college should have an employment bureau which would have laison with the world of employment in the neighbourhood. This has been successfully tried out in
some places in Indian Universities and there is no reason why it would not be successful in all institutions, if the administration is properly carried out.