Chapter I

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1.1. INTRODUCTION

The word education is derived from the Latin word educare, which means "to bring up". There is yet another Latin word 'educere', which means to bring forth. Education, therefore, means both to bring forth as well as bring up. It was the Latin author Varro who said "Educit obstetrix. educate. nutrix. institute, pedagogus. docet. magister" which means, "the mid-wife brings forth. the nurse brings up. the tutor trains. and the master teaches". Accordingly education does not merely means the acquisition of knowledge or experience but it means the development of habits, attitudes and skills which help a man to lead a full and worthwhile life.

"Education is an attempt on the part of the adult members of the human society to shape the development of the coming generation in accordance with its own ideals of life".

Plato points out, that "true education, whatever that may be, will have the greatest tendency to civilize and humanize them in their relation to one another and to those who are under their protection".
Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan quoted "I help the students to think rightly, make them feel nobly, let them do rightly, above all let them possess the spirit of compassion, universal love and brotherhood so that we can live together in global village as brothers and sisters."

Turning to the Indian approach, it becomes necessary to include the spiritual aspect also because it is accepted as a part of the development by education. In fact, Indian thinkers have placed special emphasis upon this. Yajnavalkya opined that only that is education which gives a sterling character to an individual and renders him useful for the world.

1.2. WHAT ARE COMMUNITY COLLEGES?

Community colleges are two-year institutions, which award the associates degree, Associate of Arts (A.A) or the Associate of Science (A.S), upon successful completion of a specific academic program. In addition, community colleges offer practical programs and career training in specific areas. Most of the community colleges in California are very academic and prepare students to transfer to four-year colleges or universities for a bachelor's degree. Community College in India is of recent origin. In the span of nine years there are 111 Community Colleges spread all over the country in 12 states of India. (Valea, EJ2003) 65 percent of Indian children do not go beyond VIII.
1.3. ADVANTAGES OF ATTENDING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

One major advantage is that most community colleges offer general education courses that can be transferred to four-year colleges or universities at a very affordable cost.

With the inexpensive, high-quality and varied programmes that community colleges offer, students are not only afforded the opportunity to enroll in many courses, but they also have the opportunity to participate in business and industry internships and community service activities as well. Because of the colleges open access policy; students of all ages can enroll at institutions across the United States.

In foreign countries Community colleges offer the opportunity for students to earn an associate degree during a two-year course of study. A student may then transfer to the final two years of a four-year college or university to complete the bachelor's degree.

A student may also enroll at a community college for their myriad vocational programmes, ranging from nursing to auto mechanics, or for continuing education courses. But whatever a person's reason for choosing a community college, the outcomes can be rather exciting.
1.4. FUNCTIONING OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The community colleges are functioning based on need analysis of the employment opportunities of the local area prior to the starting of the colleges. This alternative and effective educational system is expected to create a revolution in the history of Indian Educational system. The goal of the community colleges is to prepare the skilled youth for the job, thereby facilitating the upliftment of society and promotion of harmony.

During 1998-1999, twelve courses were conducted in the five community colleges in MSU region. 235 students of this first batch wrote university examination in June 1999 and 230 students succeeded, many with high credits. A good percentage of them have managed to find employments. This year 35 community colleges are functioning with seventeen different courses including courses for self-employment. Nine of the existing community colleges have applied for starting new courses during 2000-2001. Twenty-two managements have applied for fresh approval to start community colleges during 2000-2001 and they have got approval. These details inform us that the concept of community college is finding favour with the takers of the courses as well as facilitating establishments, the reason being the impact of the results.

Many students enrolled at community colleges today exemplify similarly inspiring stories of personal sacrifice and perseverance in their determination to further their higher education. Whatever the reason for enrolling at a community college, the few alumn highlighted here illustrate that anything is
possible with a community college education as a foundation. A popular theme succinctly characterizes the community college experience.

1.4.1. BASIC SKILLED DEVELOPMENT

Since community colleges "the people's colleges" were designed to help the local student succeed, who might not have completed successfully for admission to some four-year institutions, all community colleges offer enhanced opportunities for strengthening the basic skills necessary for success in collegiate studies. These same opportunities more fully assure the success of the international students as well. If stronger foundations in mathematics are needed; if more successful strategies for learning are desired; if greater competence in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in English are necessary all may be acquired in the community college. Moreover, many community colleges provide Intensive English or English as a Second Language programs and the services of an office of international students to help their non-native students succeed.

1.4.2. CONTINUING EDUCATION

The American Council on International Intercultural Education (ACIIE) is an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), with membership comprised of more than one hundred colleges involved in international and intercultural education. ACIIE shares expertise and provides information on topics such as cultural diversity, multicultural relations, foreign student recruitment and exchanges, faculty exchanges, professional development programs, and funding opportunities for international activities. ACIIE helps
Community colleges cultivate educational. ACHE pursues this mission through annual conferences, a newsletter, website, teleconference, and other programs and activities which foster the dissemination of information and networking among members. ACHE's member institutions are located in 36 states and territories, and include international institutions from England, Canada, Japan and the Netherlands.

Community colleges offer an educational experience of exceptional quality at convenient times and locations. Outstanding faculty, including many practitioners in their fields, deliver instruction to small class, with ample opportunity for dialogue and individual attention. As they conduct research in the educational opportunities available in community colleges, perspective international students will see that these institutions have developed a sophisticated array of support services from them. Special advisers, housing assistance, instructional support services, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, student clubs and organisations and instruction in English as a second language are provided.

Community colleges have expanded their global education missions to provide study abroad programs for their students, international faculty development opportunities exchanges, and contractual training agreements with educational institutions and Governments abroad.

In delivering educational programs, community colleges recognize that individual student learning styles are different and require various methods of instruction. Therefore, instructional delivery is implemented through self-instructional programs, specialized curriculum materials and customized learning
modules utilizing multimedia resources for individualized instruction. The range of instructional media / materials includes workbooks, slides, films, audio and video tapes, computer assisted instructions and the use of the internet and world wide web.

Community colleges have much to offer the international student: Outstanding faculty, quality instruction in a vast array of disciplines, reasonable cost, and convenient location.

California community colleges are the largest higher education system in the world. They play an important role in ensuring that all California residents have access to quality higher education.

Community colleges offer low-cost high quality collegiate courses to all adults who can benefit from the instruction offered. Community colleges are located throughout the state, within easy community distance of 95% of the states population. The colleges prepare students to transfer to four-year universities. Community colleges offer Associate in Arts and Science degree and certificate programmes in arts and sciences and occupational and technical fields, which prepare students to enter the work force. And they offer remedial instructions and support services that help students succeed, adult non-credit education, and fee-based community services classes of interest to local residents.

Programmes are both of short duration, some certificate programmes require only one semester, and up to two or more years, depending on the needs and goals of the students.
1.4.3. NEED FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community colleges are comprehensive in nature, offering transfer programmes that parallel the first two years of bachelor's degree. Career training programmes for business and industry, and continuing education courses. Students can pursue the associate degree in arts, science and applied sciences, and at some colleges, the associate in occupational science. Community colleges also offer a host of certificate programmes designed to upgrade existing skills or retrain workers. Community colleges provide more than just the opportunity to enroll; they provide the tools to succeed in a supportive and safe environment.

Small classes, professors whose primary job is to teach, rather than to do research or publish, and creative innovations like week-end college, electronic classrooms and distance learning promote access to higher education and maximize flexibility for students. Students can find over 200 different career options at community colleges. Campus training facilities include dental clinics, technology facilities, automotive centres, science labs, computer centers and TV studios. Community colleges confer more than 27,000 associate degrees a year; many are in some of the most sought after professions in the modern work place.
1.4.4. JOB TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The courses offered by community college are technical, non-technical, allied health and computer based courses. Most of the community colleges offer diploma and certificate courses suited to the needs of the local employers. A few of them offer diplomas in job oriented courses as well as coaching for Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA), and degree courses offered through correspondence by universities. Another group of community college offer courses relevant to the social needs of the community college like integrated farming, nature, medicine, etc.

The degree and certificate programmes in the community colleges encompass the arts and sciences, humanities, social services, business, allied health, computer and information services, trade and technical skills, physical education, criminal justice and intercollegiate athletics.

In order to promote student success community colleges offer students a number of special services to help them meet their education and training goals.

STUDENT SERVICE PROGRAMMES

- Academic counseling
- Tutoring
- Financial aid
- Health services
- Disabled students programmes and services
Vocational education students of 24 years of age or younger who complete an associate degree or receive a certificate earn up to 40% more wages, after three years of employment than students who withdraw from college without completing any units, according to a recent study. Students whether academic or vocational who complete their study at a community college also experience an 89% gain in wages after three years on the job. All students regardless of age who complete their studies at a community college register a 47% gain in wages after three years.

1.5. OBJECTIVES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Following are the objectives of community colleges

i) To upgrade their job skills.

ii) To prepare for transfer to a university

iii) To obtain the skills necessary for a successful career.

iv) To obtain occupational licenses.

v) To learn to speak English or a foreign.
vi) For self-development and personal satisfaction.

vii) To learn citizenship skills.

1.6. ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Several programmes in engineering science technology may be found at community colleges located throughout the country.

Community colleges take pride in developing relationships with other entities based within their communities. Partnerships with local businesses and industries enable students to benefit from the expertise of professionals already working within the field.

There are several advantages for those seeking an education in community colleges to begin their college career. Affordability, employability, personalized attention, and transferability make earning an associates degree at a community college a smart choice for students interested in a solid education foundation, which can support academic and professional success in several fields.

Community colleges are close to home affordable and focus on the needs of the student. The same can be said of on line community college.

Community colleges offer a vast range of career options for both American and International students. Most of the 103 million students who are enrolled at America's community colleges know exactly why they are there. In
fact, the reasons students attend community colleges are often as varied as the backgrounds they represent.

A student may opt to enroll at a community college to obtain an associates degree. In this case, it is possible for that student to transfer the final two years of his or her education to four-year college or university to complete his or her education and receive a bachelor's degree. This may be the case with some one pursuing an engineering degree. Another option may be for that student to enter the professional world. For example, a person studying graphic arts may only require an associate's degree to enter the work force to earn a living.

In the case of occupational courses at community colleges, students enroll for the express purpose of obtaining a certificate, which would allow them to enter a specific career within the work force. Students enrolled in non-credit courses are doing so because of a need to further their skills in a certain area for either professional or personal reasons.

Personal guidance and counselling is especially necessary for international students, studying in another country can be, at best, an initially confusing experience, and at worst a very disturbing one. In addition to choosing a major, international students may encounter many other obstacles such as language barriers and managing cultural differences. Once these issues are addressed through guidance and counselling, a student will be able to concentrate on his or her academic goals. Community colleges provide smaller classrooms for students to interact with their peers and their instructions. Attention is given to students, as
courses are taught by an actual professor most of the time. In the university this task often falls upon a teacher's assistant.

International students may also benefit from the community service options offered by community colleges. Many colleges offer service learning opportunities, which allow students to work in business and organisations within the local community, so that they understand this type of course and interact with members of the local community as well as their fellow American students independently from the classroom environment.

While a community college is certainly not the right choice for all international students, it can provide many unique opportunities for a student who wishes to obtain a high quality education very inexpensively. And it allows him or her the chance to interact closely with fellow classmates and the community at large (contributed by Audree Chase, American Associates of Community Colleges).

Community colleges have a great deal to offer international students. Although the bias in many countries is toward attending a prestigious four-year college or university, international students should be aware of the many opportunities available to them at a community college.

Community colleges not only provide quality education to the students they serve they also work very closely with local business and industry, Government, civic and social groups, and other important community organisations. In many cases, multinational companies are drawn to certain areas
because of the specific education and training that community college is able to provide.

Community college provides quality education to a great number of people with diverse backgrounds. And it is because of these increasingly diverse communities that community colleges are adopting another pervasive philosophy on their campuses the importance of global understanding.

1.7. HELPING THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Community colleges have traditionally met the educational and vocational needs of local communities by maintaining the "open door policy". With low tuition costs and few entrance requirements, community colleges have offered many U.S. citizens as well as international students and professionals a chance to get a college education or enhance professional skills.

Community colleges have also been called "two-year" colleges or junior colleges, but the preferred name is community college.

Community colleges also provide basic skills courses for students who need help with English as a second language, reading, writing or math. These students may need special preparation for their jobs, or in order to continue their education.

Many people also attend community colleges to enroll in special interest classes, which may be for recreation or hobbies, such as dancing, music or art. Community colleges by definition serve the community with the kinds of
programs that the citizens want and need. Community college education is available
to adults of any age or educational background.

Community colleges have a unique place in the educational system. They bring higher education to millions of people who might not otherwise have a chance to go to college. The fastest growing segment of higher education community colleges now enroll more students than any institution, making high quality education convenient and affordable to everyone. For international students coming to the United States from other countries, community colleges offer some distinct advantages over other institutions. First of all, community colleges usually have an easy, open admission process: evidence of high school completion, adequate English Proficiency, and financed ability are generally sufficient.

Second, community colleges generally have lower tuition costs than four-year colleges and universities, and students can save money during the first two years of their undergraduate studies. They can then transfer to any four-year institution to complete the bachelor's degree. Community colleges are generally fully accredited institutions, and credits earned may be transferred to any other institution. Most universities welcome students who transfer from community colleges.

The third main advantage of community colleges is that students will find a receptive, supportive learning environment. Classes are generally smaller and professors are devoted entirely to teaching. There are special programs to assist students who need extra help with English or Maths or any other subject.
Community colleges are in the business of helping people realize their education dreams.

Finally, community colleges offer international students a realistic view of American Society. They will meet fellow students who are also struggling to reach their goals. Through some of the traditional features of a college campus, such as on-campus accommodation, are missing there are many reasons why the community college experience has become the cornerstone of education in a democratic society.

High School (4 years)

Community College
(2 years)
Associate Degree
College or University

College or University

Lower Division
(2 years)

Upper Division
2 years
Bachelors Degree
1.8. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY COURSES

1. Admission is generally easier. Although TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and academic requirements are usually lower for admission for community colleges than for four-year institutions, community colleges offer strong academic and personal support systems to help students succeed. Many community colleges also offer English as a second language programs for students whose TOEFL score is too low. Two years at a community college can help an international student improve language skills and grow accustomed to the U.S. educational system and way of life.

2. Costs are less. Tuition at community colleges can be as much as 20% to 80% less than at four-year colleges and universities, particularly if the four-year school is private. It is highly cost effective to study two years at a community college before transferring to a university.

3. Community colleges are often smaller than four-year institutions. Classes are smaller to teachers and advisors are able to provide personal attention to students. Any U.S. and international students say that attending smaller schools for the first two years helps them make a good transition into larger four-year schools for the final two years.

4. Since classes are smaller in community colleges, they are generally less competitive than introductory classes at public four-year colleges or universities.
5. Instructors able to give personal attention to students. These students are working at community colleges because they choose to teach instead of conducting research and publishing articles. Some instructors at universities are mostly interested in research.

1.9. COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY AREA

In the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University area, there are 35 community colleges. They are situated in three districts namely Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and Thoothukudi Districts. They are self-financing colleges which are approved by Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. In Tamil Nadu, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University is the first one which has started community colleges. Variety of job-oriented courses have been introduced and the completed students are getting jobs in various sectors.

1.10. CONCLUSION

Rarely, studies have been conducted in this area. Community college is a new concept, which is followed by foreign countries. The investigator is interested and selected the present research work.

The next chapter deals with review of related literature.