Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, with its headquarters situated at Lonere is now a statutory State Technical University established by Government of Maharashtra through special Maharashtra Acts Nos. XXII of 1989 and XXIX of 2014. The university has been accorded the status of an 'affiliating' university of the entire State of Maharashtra from March 2, 2016 by the Act No. XXIX of 2014.

1. Implementation of Institutional Projects

As envisaged in IDP, following activities have been carried out till-date:

- The curricula were revamped in the year 2010-11. It is worth mentioning that we introduced choice-based credit system from academic year 2010-11.

- Academic systems such as credit-based continuous assessment system, non-negotiable academic calendar, transparency in evaluation, etc. have been put in place.

- Twenty nine (29) full-time doctoral students were admitted in various disciplines by giving them TEQIP assistantship.

- Two-fold increase in enrolment of M.Tech. programmes has been achieved due to grant of assistant-ship to non-GATE M.Tech. students.

- Large-scale involvement of UG students in the research work with a view to motivate them for career in research and innovation

- Large number of need-based training and continuing education programmes in subject domains have been conducted for the benefit of internal as well as teachers from outside.

- Need-based training programmes in pedagogy (basic module and advanced module) have been conducted. Workshops on outcome-based education have been conducted.

- Several need-based training programmes and workshops have been conducted for technical and supporting staff so as to boost their morale and enhance the level of their motivation.

- Finishing school activity for SC/ST/OBC and academically weak students were conducted so as to improve their transition rate, pass rate, skills and employability.

- Several research labs, library and learning resources have been augmented and strengthened thanks to TEQIP support.

- Industry-institute meet has been organized and decisions have been taken to carry out collaborative activities.

2. Implementation of Institutional Reforms

Large number of academic, administrative and financial reforms have beeen carried out during TEQIP-II. To name a few, following are some of them:

- Strategic Planning: The university has prepared an elaborate 'Strategic Plan' which gives a detailed roadmap for the long-term development and growth of the university as envisaged in the University Act. The implementation of this strategic plan in letter and spirit will enable this university to achieve its goals.

- The curricula were revamped in the year 2010-11. It is worth mentioning that we introduced choice-based credit system from academic year 2010-11.

- Academic systems such as credit-based continuous assessment system, non-negotiable academic calendar, transparency in evaluation, etc. have been put in place.

- Quality Assurance: An "Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)" has been put in place. This cell monitors quality of all academic and administrative activities in a regular basis so as to achieve continuous quality improvement. This cell also ensures that each department conducts periodical academic audit as per UGC guidelines. In addition, the university has designed formats and processes for carrying out rigorous academic audit of its affiliated colleges.

- In addition, each academic department has 'Departmental Committee' comprising of HoD, all faculty members, representatives of non-teaching staff and students' representatives (UG/PG/PhD). The department functions through this committee and through its 12 different sub-committees responsible for effective administration. Further, as a new initiative, each academic department has an 'Advisory Committee' of HoD, one senior professor, three senior professors from other reputed institutes and three experts from industry. Thus, the department follows participative and objective approach in taking decisions useful for the department.

- Extensive Usage if ICT in Administration, Governance and Academic Activities: Now-a-days, the use of ICT has become inevitable for enhancement of productivity and quality of education. Maximum possible use of ICT in administration, governance and academic activities would not be possible unless there is there is a full-fledged and full-time expert in the top management who will look after this activity. In view of this, a post of Director (ICT) will be created as shown the organizational chart. An ERP system for this purpose is being developed. In the meantime, the university has already put in place an online attendance system and **an unique and first-of-its-kind online admission and monitoring system for Ph.D. candidates**.

- In a recent JBVC meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of universities in Maharashtra, it has been decided to deploy the PMSS system of TEQIP, after due customization, for regular procurement activities of the university. The minutes of this JBVC meeting are awaited. Once the minutes of JBVC meeting are received, steps will be taken for its implementation.

- Transparency and Accountability: The university strongly believes in transparency and accountability as the corner-stones of good governance. Towards this end, the university has decided to make all important documents available in public domain through its website. The documents such as Strategic Plan, Self-Assessment Report, Audit Reports, Annual Reports, Evaluation Reports of regulatory bodies like NBA/NAAC, minutes of meetings of various authorities/committees, etc. will be uploaded on the university portal from time to time. In the month of March every year, the university prepares an elaborate 'annual report' and submits it to the State Government; which is later placed in the monsoon assembly of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. Further, 'whistle blowing mechanism', grievance reddressal mechanism and an 'ombudsman' are also being put in place.

3. <u>Administrative, Financial and Managerial Efficiency Improvements</u>

As a result of implementation of various reforms mentioned above, the efficiency of various academic, administrative and financial activities has been found to have improved. For most of the reforms, detailed manuals have been prepared and circulated. Due to these reforms, the processes have become user-friendly and hassle-free. For instance, as a result of **online admission and monitoring system for Ph.D. candidates, which is unique and first-of-its-kind in the country,** the PhD admissions and monitoring the progress of PhD candidates till the award of the PhD degree has become fool-proof and efficient.

4. <u>Qualitative Improvements related to Education and Research</u>

- Due to implementation of academic reforms as mentioned above, the teaching-learning process has undergone significant improvement.

- Learning beyond the class-room: We have provided funding support to technical festivals and professional chapter activities of the students so that they learn many new things on their own. For instance, last year the students from mechanical engineering have been able to participate in the final round of the national SAE-BAJA competition held at Indore. Motivated by this success, other departments have also started professional chapter activities in their departments. The positive outcome of this initiative will be visible soon.

- Through TEQIP, we took a policy decision to provide liberal financial support for procurement of consumables and minor equipment required for research-oriented projects of final year UG students. As a result, the number of UG research projects has significantly risen. Moreover, due to the excitement of doing research projects, some of these UG students have joined Masters' programs and PhD programs. This is what is required to happen since enhancement of PG education and research is the main focus of sub-component 1.2 of TEQIP-II.

- In our PhD rules, we have made it mandatory for every PhD student to publish at least one research paper in reputed international journal having impact factor of at least 1.0. This mandate has resulted in significant improvement in the quality of their research work. Moreover, it has brought in a change in the research culture in the university.

- We have conducted several workshops on 'Research Methodology' for the benefit of PhD/MTech students and given them guidelines for doing good research work and writing good research papers. These workshops have paid rich dividends.

- Several of our faculty members are being invited by outside institutes to deliver expert talks in their subject domains and also on topics like OBS, pedagogy, research methodology, etc.

- MoUs have been signed with reputed industries like BOSCH and GESKON (Norway) for conduct of training programmes for industry personnel.

5. <u>Performance in Institutional Governance</u>

The University believes that 'good governance' is the key in achieving its goals. In view of this, the university has made several reforms gradually in governance practices in consonance with the guidelines given in various TEQIP documents.

The following are some of the 'Best Governance Practices' that the university has put already in practice and several others are in the process of implementation.

- The university has well-structured governing mechanisms as provided in the University Act No. XXIX of 2014. The governance and administration of the university is carried out through various committees. To name a few, the following are the main committees of the University:
  - ➢ Executive Council
  - ➢ Academic Council
  - ➢ Planning & Monitoring (Evaluation) Board
  - ➢ Finance Committee
  - ➢ Board of Examinations
  - ➢ Boards of Studies
  - ➢ Library Committee
  - ➢ Infrastructure Development & Building & Works Committee
  - ➢ Purchase & Sales Committee
  - ➢ Grievance Committee
  - ➢ Library Committee
  - ➢ Standing Committee for Administration

In order to achieve inclusive governance and all round growth of the University, the above committees have appropriate representation of various stake holders, i.e. faculty, staff, students, alumni and industry.

For each of these Committees, a manual has been prepared listing the statutory composition, details of the members indicating their qualifications for being on the Committee and their interest, powers and responsibilities of committee and its members, the mechanism of the conduct of the meetings and methodologies of maintaining the documentation of the related papers. It has been decided to make minutes to be available for all stake-holders of the University on the intranet.

The documentations have been made for composition of every statutory committee of the University, the functions and qualifications of the officers of the University and their selection processes, their powers and responsibilities. The University is keen to openness in its Governance.

- Organizational Structure of the University is as per the chart given below.
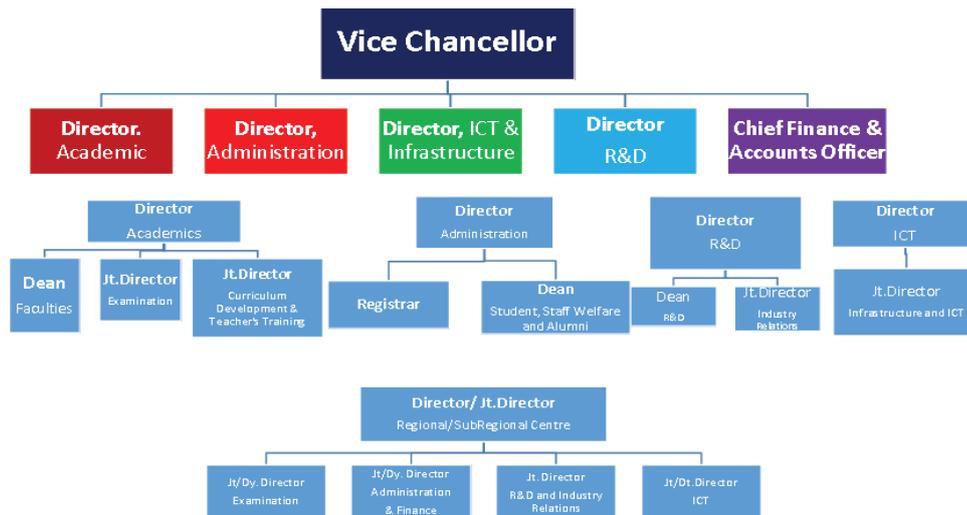
Since the Centres are located at different regions, for effective coordination. The Main Centre of the University and Centres shall work through e-Governance system and MIS with State-of-the-Art ICT infrastructure and Robust IT Systems

As shown in the organizational chart, the university is laying special emphasis on training of teachers and curriculum development by having a dedicated "Centre for Curriculum Development and Teachers' Training" along with its Regional Sub-centres. It is envisaged that each newly appointed teacher in the university or its affiliated colleges will have to mandatorily undergo intensive 'pedagogical and motivational training' right at the beginning of his teaching career. Further, adequate delegation of authority and empowerment of the officers of the university are given due importance.

The University is setting up its regional and sub-regional centres which will be autonomous in their administration, with decentralized functioning.

- As elucidated in Section-2 above, following are the other reforms:
    - Revised strategic plan has been framed with a clear-cut roadmap for long-term development of the university.
    - Each academic department has its own Departmental Committee with 12 sub-committees and Advisory Committee. The advisory committee will have 6 external experts from academia and industry.
    - Steps have been taken to put in place ICT systems and ERP-based system for administrative and academic functions.
    - An "Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)" has been put in place for the purpose of quality assurance.
    - Several steps have been implemented to bring in transparency and accountability in administrative and academic functions.

6. <u>Support to Weak Students</u>

- Several finishing school activities and soft-skill development programmes were conducted for SC/ST/OBC and academically weak students so as to improve their transition rate, pass rate, skills and employability.

- In the last 5 years, remedial coaching classes are being conducted on a regular basis for the benefit of weak students in each semester.

- A specially designed 'diagnostic test' is being conducted during September 21-23, 2016 so as to identify weaknesses in each of the students. Accordingly, suitable measures can be taken in future to help the students to address these weaknesses and improve their academic performance and personality.

<u>To Conclude</u> ...

As articulated in its mission statement, the university is committed to provide quality technical education, research and development to meet the needs of industry, business, service sector and the society and the innovation for economic development. TEQIP-II is helping us in a big way in accomplishing this mission.

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