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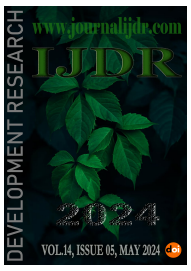

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

E-GOVERNANCE AND ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FOR QUALITYENHANCEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

In today's world every moment, changes are occurring in almost all fields of life. Currently, Higher Education is performing multi-tasks for the development of a nation. It prepares and trains the workforce for the 21st century. Higher education has broadened the fields of knowledge due to which different changes are occurring in every field of life as well as in the field of higher education and invites academic leaders to integrate these changes and innovations for effective working in the global age. These changes have created many challenges for academic leaders, now academic leaders are responsible for tracing these changes and adding them for excellence in higher education. In some situations, academic leaders feel pressure as E-governance is necessary for advancement, while on the other hand, local and cultural norms create some hurdles for them. It is up to academic leaders to motivate faculty members to accept these changes for the improvement of the standards of higher education and also prepare the faculty members to integrate these changes. The objectives of the present study were to know the opinion of the faculty members about the E-governance and role of academic leadershipin accepting this change and implementingit for the betterment of higher education. The sample for the study was faculty members of higher education institutions taken from different Government colleges in the Ganjam district. It is found that Integration of change is necessary for improvement in the quality of higher education and it is the responsibility of the academic leaders.

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INTRODUCTION

The role of higher education is unique for the development of a nation. Leadership is everyone's responsibility.It is responsible for providing skilled and trained manpower for industry and preparing top management for civil society. Higher education provides opportunities to generate new knowledge and train individuals to incorporate this new knowledge to improve the standards. Education is indeed the only means that can bring the desired changes in human beings which can be utilized at present as well as inthe future. Over time, old knowledge geared new knowledge and also provided new horizons to think; now the meaning of education is beyond reading and writing. There is a race of "the best", behind this race education is working as the catalyst and every nation is trying to defeat a competitor in the field of education. Quality in higher education is a key element for higher education institutions. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have opened new perspectives for higher education.Higher education institutions must accept the changes occurring in any part of the world and incorporate these changes in their models for successful working in higher education institutions. Leaders of higher education institutions are responsible for hunting the new knowledge and the changes that occur due to this knowledge and inserting this phenomenon into their academic courses. Academic leaders must have the spirit of academic excellence.In Higher Education institutions, the leader is referred to as an academic leader and it is the task of the academic leaders to motivate the staff members to prepare themselves according to the needs of the time and groom the students in the line of future demands. In Odisha, the situation of higher education is far better compared to the last three decades. Higher education in Odisha is facing great challenges and difficulties related to students, staffing, financing, poor infrastructure, poor research environment, and the employability of graduates.

Principal Secretary of Higher Education has taken crucial steps for quality assurance in higher education for excellence and equity through the World Bank fund. Motivation for research, training of faculty members and leaders on well-established patterns, more financial assistance, and university-industry partnerships are some landmarks of higher education. Academic leaders were encouraged to visit foreign countries and bring new ideas and innovations in the higher education sector with them and made arrangements for incorporating these ideas in higher education for working with international communities.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Management of higher must start from an awareness of the entire academic community based on their academic capacity. The role of higher education is not limited to fostering the economic development of nations and providing opportunities for individuals, it extends the promotion of cultural diversity, political democracy, and trade (Rena, 2010). It is a source of generating new knowledge and industry provides an opportunity to shape this knowledge in the form of a product. Quality is the most important factor in higher education. Quality in Higher Education has become a primary agenda of the countries worldwide (Rena, 2010). The quality of higher education is extremely important for the development of societies intending to prepare knowledge and skill-based human resources. There is general recognition around the world that successful development requires high-quality education and that the benchmarks for quality are, whether we like it or not. The World Bank report (2002) about higher education says the: "emerging role of knowledge as the major driver of economic development", and draws attention to the importance of higher education as: "Tertiary education is necessary for the effective creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge and for building technical and professional capacity".

QUALITY ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Leadership and management have been proposed as two different necessary qualities of academic governance and those roles influence the culture, learning, and teaching in distinct ways.Individuals with management responsibilities focus on administrative rules, tasks, and functions to ensure the managerial goals of the institutions are met effectively.E-governance can facilitate improving transparency,and participation providing speedy information,and dissemination,and improving administrative efficiency and public services in all aspects of education. E-Governance is flexible enough to adapt to the changing educational environment efficiently, quickly, and effectively.In India /Odisha, quality in higher education is an issue, there are many challenges to higher education but higher education is trying to minimize these problems by introducing reforms through the World Bank Fund OHEPEE and international standards. Illiteracy, huge population, lack of resources, inefficient management system, and financial constraints are some of the problems and issues for higher education. The Higher Education department has implemented some initiatives to overcome these issues.

- Infrastructure development is necessary for institutional development.
- Skill development programs are necessary for the all-round development of higher education institutions.

E-governance and academic leadership are instrumental quality concerns for higher educational institutions.

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP, E-GOVERNANCE AND EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

The unification of e-governance and efficient academic leadership is essential for enhancing the quality of higher educational institutions and necessary for a competitive global landscape: A leader is a person who can drive others keeping in view the benefits of the organization as well as the self-respect of the followers. Leaders must have some clear vision and work for the betterment of the Institution and society. Academic leaders must give priority to academic excellence. The success of an academic leader is measured by the effectiveness. An academic leader has a broader vision and has the power to bring changes in Institutions and society. He/she must have communication power to motivate his/her colleagues to change as needed. An academic leader must embrace change for the benefit of his/her institution beyond his/her likes or dislikes. He/she knows what the need of the market is and how it may be approached. Academic leaders are the responsible dignitaries for bringing such changes which are needed at the time. In the higher education field, Academic leaders' work style, level of acceptability, and change are the most important factors that set the credibility of higher educational institutions. In the current era of a knowledge-based economy, there is pressure on higher education institutions to ensure that the graduates meet the demands of industry and society. E-Governance in the field of the educational sector has changed the way of administration. Academic leaders are flexible enough to adapt to the changing educational environment efficiently, quickly, and effectively.

Objective of the Study

1. Find the opinion of the faculty members about the E-Governance and Academic Leadership.
2. Find the opinion of faculty about the role of academic leaders to accept Academic Leadership and implement this E-Governance for the sake of quality in higher education.

Sl no	Statement	SA	A	UNC	DA	SDA	X^2
Accept Change							
1	Changes are occurring in every field and change in the teaching-learning process is the need of the time.	48	102	0	0	0	273.6
2	Change through research can assure quality in higher education.	59	91	0	0	0	242.1
3	Academic leadership must have an eye on the change in the field.	52	98	0	0	0	260.3
4	Academic leadership should manage comparisons with international trends and bring changes for quality in higher education.	41	109	0	0	0	302.1
5	From time to time change is needed for working in E-Governance in Higher education institutions.	45	98	7	0	0	239.3
Implementation of change							
6	Academic leadership must collect opinions from faculty members about change.	74	60	16	0	0	161.1
7	Academic leadership must prepare faculty members for the implementation of change in teaching teaching-learning process.	42	108	0	0	0	297.6
8	Academic leadership is responsible for designing new approaches and implementing these approaches to enhance quality in higher education for better E-Governance.	58	90	2	0	0	232.3
9	Academic leadership is responsible for training faculty members according to the new changes for improvement of quality in higher education with the help of E-Governance.	80	70	0	0	0	226.7
10	Academic leadership must facilitate and motivate faculty members to bring excellence in Academic leadership and E-Governance.	54	96	0	0	0	254.4

df=4 table value of x^2at 0.05=9.488

- Modification of the curriculum is necessary.
- Creative thinking and communication skillsare necessary for the development of stakeholders.
- Leveraging technology is required to enhance learning styles.

INSTRUMENT

A self-developed questionnaire (on a point Likert scale) was used to know the opinion of the faculty members of higher education institutions about the E-Governance and role of academic leadership

in quality in higher education. Two aspects, (accept change and implementation of change) were covered in the questionnaire about which the respondents were asked and there were five statements about each aspect.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The questionnaire was delivered to faculty members of Higher education institutions. The selected faculty members were called through mobile phones as well as approached. Out of 200 questionnaires, a total of 150 questionnaires were collected back. Each statement of the questionnaire was tested by applying the chi-square technique on a significance level of 0.05.

DISCUSSION

New knowledge is generated all around the world and affects the entire world's equality. This phenomenon has created many changes in almost all fields of life and it becomes necessary for higher education institutions to accept these changes for working in higher education institutions. In the current scenario, higher education is responsible for many tasks; research in higher education is bringing new changes that are facilitating human beings as well as creating new challenges. The respondents of the study agreed that change in teaching teaching-learning process is the need of the time. Higher education institutions bring many changes after ensuringquality in higher education. The respondents also opined that academic leaders must have an eye on the changes and must make a comparison of educational standards with international changes for the improvement of quality in higher education. The respondents agreed that academic leaders must collect opinions from faculty members from time to time about the change and must prepare the faculty members to accept changes in teaching teaching-learning process. The respondents must thinkto train academic leaders and faculty members to accept change for the improvement of Educational Administration and Academic Leadership and encourage them to adopt change.

SUGGESTIONS

- Visionary leadership is necessary to inspire all stakeholders.
- Fix time-bound SMART goals for academic excellence.
- Leadership development skills must be available for all academicians in higher education institutions.
- All academicians have also a moral responsibility to cultivate civility in the workplace, foster inclusive cultures, and mentor colleagues and students.
- Collaborative engagement between all academicians to develop academic leadership qualities and success pathways of teaching and learning developments.

FINDINGS

- Integration of change is necessary for the improvement of quality in higher education.
- Research can increase the level of quality in higher education.
- Academic leadership is responsible for investigating the new change and making comparisons with international changes for improvement in the quality of higher education.
- Academic leadership must know the opinions of faculty members about change to prepare faculty members for accepting change.
- Academic leadership is responsible for training and motivating the faculty members to accept change.

CONCLUSION

In today's landscape of competitive higher education e-governance and academic leadership,both are essential tools for achieving quality enhancement. Higher education Institutions require academic leaders with must have the spirit of academic excellence and are selected from the academics that have leadership ability skills, and communication skills. Leadership is everyone's responsibility and is the current need for Higher education institutions. A model of leadership is required to promote learning and teaching and to articulate incentives, rewards, and performance-based expectations for promotion and tenure. Here cultural changes will require courageous academic leadership by academicians to value quality in teaching, and a governance process to recognize and reward teaching. Such changes have the potential to improve the opportunities, satisfaction, and outcomes for current and future generations of academicians and students in Higher Education.

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