

Karnataka Jnana Aayoga

Government of Karnataka

Fourth Quarterly Report for the Period Between 1st July and 30th September 2009

Focus of the Quarter

The First Set of Recommendations was submitted to Honourable Chief Minister in August. Subsequently the Commission held several interactions with concerned Departments to seek their feedback and collaboration in implementation. Following actions have been taken on their implementation.

RECOMMENDATION-5

To transform two of the existing Universities into Model Universities in order to make them trendsetters for others. The blue print for such process has to be prepared by a Committee of Eminent Experts. In this process, there is need for appropriate policy and legislation by the Government of Karnataka with regard to governance, affiliation, examination and funding.

Status: The Expert Committee visited and interacted with all the stakeholders of the two (Mysore and Karnatak) Universities and submitted a draft report to Commission on Model University.

RECOMMENDATION-6

To strengthen and empower DSERT, DIETs, BRCs and CRCs in the state of Karnataka for becoming decentralised lead resource institutions. These resource institutions need to be given necessary autonomy for catering to the unique needs of a district, block or cluster as the case may be.

Status: A decision to call for project proposals from DIETs was made in consultation with the Departments concerned with Primary and Secondary Education. An Expert Committee will be constituted to review the project proposals and best four would be rewarded with Rs. 25 lakh. (Annexure I)

RECOMMENDATION-7

To bring about reforms in pre-service and in-service teacher education by revising D.Ed. and B.Ed. curriculum; by upgradating elementary teacher education to degree level programmes and by increasing the number of graduate elementary teachers. Further, the DPI has to initiate effective measures to improve the quality of these institutions by better regulation of standards and norms.

Status: Working Group on Literacy and School Education submitted a note on revising D.Ed. and B.Ed. curriculum. Based on this note a series of consultations were held with educationist to obtain their views. A comprehensive study is in progress. (Annexure I)

RECOMMENDATION-8

To create an Autonomous Certification and Administrative Body in Karnataka to bring in more dynamism and contemporariness to the vocational education and training. This body could cover certain uncovered areas: bringing elements of quality, quantity and relevance on

an ongoing basis and knowledge plus skills and certification, which will have wider societal acceptance.

Status: Prof. M.H. Dhananjaya, Director (Technical), JSS Mahavidyapeetha, submitted a concept paper to Commission on creating an 'Autonomous Body for Implementing Vocational Education and Training in Karnataka.' Second draft with focus on operational mechanism is in progress. (Annexure II)

RECOMMENDATION-9

To develop and depute one mobile Internet Van in every district of Karnataka for the purposes of creating awareness and interest in online availability of knowledge resources. This mobile unit could visit all the Block Resource Centres (BRCs) of that district as per a fixed timetable, which will be disseminated to all people through mass media and others. This effort could also explore Public-Private partnership model.

Status: Working Group on Libraries and Knowledge Networks is preparing a proto type model of Internet Van in collaboration with Google India. In a preliminary meeting held on September 22, 2009 Google India agreed to extend their services in building an advanced mobile internet van.

RECOMMENDATION-12

Create Wikipedia type of portal in Kannada which will become the encyclopedia of all information in Kannada. The farmers, rural students, backward classes, homemakers (house wives) etc., will be the beneficiaries in addition to researchers and academicians.

Status: A Brainstorming session with Department of Kannada, Culture and Information, E-Governance, Kannada writers, Director and faculty members of IIIT-B, software engineers and students was held on August 5 to discuss on developing Wikipedia type of portal in Kannada. This was followed by series of consultation meetings with various experts and stakeholders including Department of Kannada, Culture & Information and Kannada Development Authority. Following suggestions were gathered for consideration during these meetings.

- ***To make it an authentic portal on different streams of knowledge available in Kannada***
- ***To make this portal a "whole new medium" to move towards joy of learning.***
- ***To create container to hold the existing content online.***
- ***To develop the portal in phasewise with quarterly targets, which would make the portal more organic and dynamic.***

The Portal will be tentatively launched in last week of October or first week of November 2009.

RECOMMENDATION-13

Establish 'Karnataka State Research and Innovation Fund' for encouraging colleges and Universities to pursue relevant research and also to build interface between state planning and research in Higher Education. A Standing Committee of Experts would invite proposals and extend support.

Status: An Expert Committee comprising Prof. H. P. Khincha, Prof. V. K. Aatre and Prof. H. A. Ranganath is constituted. The Committee submitted a draft concept note on establishment of Karnataka State Research and Innovation Fund.

RECOMMENDATION-14

To upgrade Indira Priyadarshini Children's library presently located in Cubbon Park, Bangalore into an invaluable resource center for the children of various schools of Karnataka in the fields such as Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Culture, History, Inventions, Innovations etc.

Status: The Commission had an interaction with the Dept. of Public Libraries. A request was made from the Commission to make the space exclusively available for children's library; to deploy mobile internet vans; and to train Library personnel. Department has initiated the process. (Annexure III)

RECOMMENDATION-17

To increase Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education from 11.6% to 15% by measures such as:

17.b. Increase the intake for UG courses in the existing colleges by permitting additional sections or shifts by making use of the existing infrastructure and teachers. All those colleges with a good track record of at least five years could be considered for this purpose.

Status: An order has been issued by the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education towards this effect.

RECOMMENDATION-18

To introduce uniform academic calendar with specific dates for all universities of Karnataka with regard to admission, examination, declaration of results, issue of marks card and convocation for all courses including UG, PG, M.Phil. and Ph.D.

Status: A Resolution to this effect is taken in the IUB Meeting. Commission is pursuing the issue with department of Higher Education to implement a uniform calendar from the coming academic year.

RECOMMENDATION-24

To make necessary amendments to the existing policy on Apprenticeship in Karnataka in order to make it to align with the changes in job market. The proposed amendments could include increased stipend to students, creation of an environment for private public partnership and adoption of open apprenticeship placement instead of 'designated trade.'

Status: Working Group on Vocational Education Chairman submitted a draft note on addressing these issues. Recommendation was sent to Department of Labour for their feedback. Department feedback is enclosed. (Annexure IV)

RECOMMENDATION-25

To impart skill training in retail business, communication skills, life skills, data entry operation, entrepreneurship etc. to the present students pursuing BA course on an experimental basis in two districts of Karnataka. This training could be imparted along with their course in their respective colleges at no extra cost to the students.

Status: Commission presented a blue print of the project to Karnataka Vocational Training & Skill Development Corporation Ltd., and Department of Collegiate Education. Subsequently series of consultation meetings were held with them to select districts; colleges; training modules; and trainers. Kolar and Bijapura districts have been chosen for the pilot project. Project will be launched in first week of November 2009. (Annexure V).

Working Group Meetings

I. Working Group on Health Sector held three meetings during this quarter under its Study Groups.

- a. **Study Group on Traditional Health Practices** held a brainstorm session on July 25, 2009 on eight ideas for Knowledge Initiations in traditional health sciences. (Annexure VI)
- b. **Study Group on Delivery of Health Services** held its second meeting on August 13, 2009. (Annexure VII)
- c. **Study Group on Medical Education & Practices** held its second meeting on August 17, 2009. The Group submitted the following suggestions:
 - ❑ Creation of a Health Cadre
 - ❑ Setting up of School of Public Health
 - ❑ Faculty Development Scheme
 - ❑ Increasing the number of PG seats and
 - ❑ Starting new medical colleges in only those districts, which currently do not have any medical college.

II. Working Group on Literacy and School Education Held a meeting on July 2, 2009 with Departments concerned with Primary and Secondary Education. Issues relating to strengthening of DIETs were discussed and a decision to study quality in states' Government schools was made. (Annexure I)

III. Working Group on Humanities, Social Sciences, Law and Management held a Meeting on July 10, 2009 and discussed about establishing Entrepreneurship Cells in PPP mode to equip the workforce of Karnataka with necessary entrepreneurial skills. And a decision to bring out a publication on status of Humanities and Social Sciences in the State was also made.

IV. Working Group on Library and Knowledge Networks held a meeting on September 26, and drew a road map for the next six months:

- ❑ To bring all the Recommendations falling under this Working Group under a Project Management approach and to submit a project report to Commission by March 2010.
- ❑ Study Group on Community Knowledge Centre to submit a concept paper on developing a model community knowledge centre by January 2010.

- To hold a consultation meeting with Library groups through Karnataka Library Association to discuss about the reforms in the filed of library by March 2010.
- To submit Group’s vision report with recommendations to Commission by March 2010.
- Study Group on Library in Higher Education held a meeting on July 20, 2009 and identified ten issues pertaining to libraries in Higher Education. (**Annexure VIII**)

Commission’s Meeting

Commission held its 7th Meeting on August 22, 2009 in Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore. Shri. Aravind Limbavali, Honourable Minister for Higher Education interacted with the Commission’ Members on issues relating to Higher Education. (**Annexure IX**). Prof. S.K. Saidapur, Vice-Chancellor, Karnatak University, Dharwar and Prof. Mulimani, Vice-Chancellor, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga submitted the Concept note to Commission on ‘State Board for Undergraduate Education.’ (**Annexure IXA**)

Stakeholder’s Consultations

- A brainstorming session on eight ideas for knowledge initiation in traditional health sciences was held on 25th July 2009 at Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) in partnership with RGUHS and Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Tradition (FRLHT). 50 experts across the state of Karnataka participated in this consultation meeting. (**Annexure VI**)
- A Brainstorming session on developing Wikipedia type of portal in Kannada was held on 5th August, 2009 in collaboration with Karnataka Development Authority. This was attended by representatives from the Department of Kannada, Culture and Information, E-Governance, Kannada writers, Director and faculty members of IIIT-B, software engineers and students. (**Annexure X**)

Way Forward

Commission acknowledges the cooperation and receptivity extended by Government Departments in implementing First Set of Recommendations. Of 26 Recommendations 12 are at different stages of implementation. Commission will continue to seek the cooperation and feedback from the concerned departments for implementing remaining Recommendations. An indepth study of the Recommendations, which requires policy changes has been initiated by the Commission.