

# NATIONAL FORUM ON HIGHER EDUCATION





# CRITICAL THINKING



## ENABLERS:

- Growing entrepreneurial ecosystem
- Successful alumni as assets
- Industry professionals as visiting faculty
- Connectivity, accessibility & informing sharing
- Schools need to be part of the conversation since they play an important role in shaping mindsets



## DISABLERS:

- Less autonomy to educational institutions
- Lack of self-directed, blended & e-learning & other tools for support
- No feedback from students on what they're studying
- Delivery not interactive, lacks project work
- Assessment & evaluation (methods, terms & grades)
- Little connection with society – In isolation
- Lack of motivation in management and faculty
- Outdated text
- Lack of flexibility
- Disintegration at all levels
- Our system doesn't encourage critical thinking
- Curriculum burden doesn't allow enough time for such adventures

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO ?

- More choice to students to pick and choose their curriculum / learning journey
- Addition of Social Sciences & Liberal Thinking subjects
- Faculty development initiative to up their thinking and skills
- Entrepreneurial approaches at university – Celebrating failures
- Industry projects for students
- Work with VCs to develop their vision & equip them with approaches
- Initial semester of students to be about learning how to learning, thinking how to think and being more self aware
- Contextualized curriculum, related to national vision & priorities



# CREATIVITY



## ENABLERS

- Freedom from textbooks
- Have no boundaries for subjects
- Teacher can bring in experiential learning
- Field learning increase; classroom learning decrease
- Flexible time
- Continuous interaction with industry
- Appreciation
- Failures encouraged
- Increase ethical education
- Knowledge economy

## ENABLERS

- ▶ Work on development of curriculum. should be more connected with global changes and ground realities
- ▶ Lack of experienced faculty
- ▶ Field experience is important
- ▶ More opportunities
- ▶ Work on mindset(nurturing the child at every step)
- ▶ Criterion based promotions e.g. publications/experience
- ▶ Courses on creativity should be offered
- ▶ Provide a suitable environment
- ▶ Use movies, books, documentaries for exposure
- ▶ Ideas should be appreciated





## **DISABLERS**

- **Compartmentalization**
- **Outdated curriculum**
- **Disabled relationship with stakeholders**
- **Poor analysis**
- **Lack of vision and mission**
- **No authorship**
- **No need analysis based on area**
- **Restriction to optional studies**
- **Lack in practical implementation**
- **Monotonous lecture based methodology**
- **Time restriction**

## DISABLERS

- Restricted classrooms
- Lack of integration
- Lack of arts
- Examination system (fear of failing)
- Lack of risk taking
- Faculty is too specialized
- Lack of training
- Lack of appreciation/motivation in faculty and students
- Our cultural restraint in career boxes/choices
- Non-conducive environment

## BLUE SKY THINKING

- Improve rankings
- Revamp the curriculum
- Inculcate experiential learning
- Work on building efficiency
- Universities to define their own curriculum
- Universities should have more freedom to govern and have more power
- HEC to adopt a positive approach & stop being a disabler
- Democratic governance in HEC comprising of VC's/ specialists
- Increase use of internet & virtual faculty
- Real life projects
- Increase use of flip classrooms
- Build entrepreneurial skills



# COLLABORATION

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graph TD; CG[Common Goal] --- C[Collaboration]; IQ[Improving Quality] --- C; KS[Knowledge sharing] --- C; LFD[Learning from diversity] --- C;
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Common  
Goal

Improving  
Quality

**Collaboration**

Knowledge  
sharing

Learning  
from  
diversity

Resource  
Sharing

Supporting  
each other

**Collaboration**

Mutual  
independen  
ce

Dynamic  
Cross  
function



## **ENABLERS**

- Uniformity of Curriculum
- Technology Based Resources
- Student Exchange Programs
- Conferences
- Industry Academia Linkages
- Joint Research
- Activity based Teaching



## DISABLERS

- Incompetent Faculty
- Financial Constraints
- Bureaucracy
- Lack of Joint Degree
- Poor Governance
- Faculty not Graded on Right Criteria
- Institutional Politics
- Institutional Competition



## BLUE SKY THINKING

- ▶ Continuity of policy and Implementation
- ▶ Ensure accountability
- ▶ Criteria for funding
- ▶ Faculty hiring, development and promotion criteria
- ▶ Uniformity across both sectors



# CONTINUOUS LEARNING



## **BEST PRACTICES**

- Budget allocated for books
- Continuous professional development programs
- Recruiting young faculty members
- VCs teaching the students directly
- Universities should work with external stakeholders like the government, NGOs and industry partners
- Tracking graduates and staying in touch with their progress



## ENABLERS

- Participation of local community
- Media
- Facilities including infrastructure and resources
- Scholarships
- Foreign Trainings
- Turning classrooms into theatres, giving students the freedom to come and go as they please
- Problem-based and inquiry based learning
- Working with people smarter than you
- Fostering entrepreneurship



## DISABLERS


- Classroom culture and environment
- Lecturers' attitude and perception
- Influence of civil society; uneducated people impacting the institution
- Cannot recruit industry experts as professors due to system's limitations, have to stick to academicians
- Limited support from HEC to private institutes
- Security concerns



# CITIZENSHIP



## WHAT DOES CITIZENSHIP MEAN IN CONTEXT OF EDUCATION?

- Awareness of global issues
  - Education and character building should be combined
  - Social aspect should be included in technical/professional education subjects
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## ENABLERS

- Improvement in curriculum; ethics and values
- Teaching methodology; shift from taught based approach to student learning base
- All the Cs
- Awareness and training of all education stakeholders (parents, faculty, staff, administration, student body)
- Community development learning for students






## DISABLERS

- Rigid approach about nationalism and religion in the curriculum
- Student unions that promote extremist thinking
- Sub-cultural barriers
- Political interference
- Lack of professionalism and awareness
- Lack of freedom of discussion
- Quality of primary & Secondary schooling system



## **BLUE-SKY THINKING:**

- Improve the primary education system
  - Autonomy and accountability to the universities
  - Revising the curriculum
  - Revising the capacity building component
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# COMPASSION



## ENABLERS

- Exchange Programs
- Social Internships
- Incorporate elements of peace in the curriculum
- Faculty Workshops
- Faculty and students' openness towards each other
- Support from parents and the society at large
- Emphasis on core values such as tolerance and compassion



## ENABLERS

- Qualified Teachers
- Field Visits
- Sports
- Community Service activities
- More focus on literature
- More focus on communication skills
- Research projects in Social Sciences
- Compassion/Tolerance part of core values of the university.
- Relevant Courses



## DISABLERS

- Lack of Training
- Lack of Openness of both Faculty & Students
- Lack of family and society support
- Local Culture
- Political Interference
- Unawareness about rights and duties
- Focus is on craning
- Teaching method is not related to the industry requirements.



## DISABLERS

- External interference in appointment of teachers.
- Less motivated staff
- Variability in educational institutes
- Centralized system
- Breach of secrecy
- Absence of timely promotions of faculty