

## **STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHEME**

In order to increase the employability of the students pursuing higher education, a concept note was presented in the conference of the State Education Ministers held in February, 2012. The concept to integrate skills in higher education was unanimously accepted and a group of State Education Ministers was constituted to suggest the ways and means to achieve this objective. The report of the Committee on “Concept and Framework of Community College Scheme” was presented by the Chairperson of the Committee in the conference of the State Education Ministers held in June, 2012, which accepted the report and endorsed the recommendation to operationalise 200 community colleges on pilot basis from the academic year 2013-14 from the existing colleges/polytechnics, on the patterns of community colleges working in various parts of the world.

2. Based on the Concept and the Framework of the Community College Scheme as suggested by the Committee of State Education Ministers, Government of India decided to establish 200 community colleges on pilot basis from the academic session 2013 [Annexure-I]. This was communicated to the States/UTs Education Ministers vide letter dated 3.7.2012 of the Human Resource Development Minister, Government of India with a request for a time bound action inter-alia with regard to identification of Nodal Officer in the States/UTs, identification of host institutions i.e. colleges/polytechnics, identification of industry/trade/vocations/activities etc. preparation of curriculum, training of teachers/trainers, constitution of states/UTs monitoring committee.

3. With a view to make the skill acquired by the learners acceptable nationally, the curricula and system of certification has to be done against a national standard. In order to facilitate offering of nationally standardized skill related programmes, the Government of India (Ministry of Human Resource Development) has already notified the National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) on 3rd September 2012 (F.No. 1-4/2011- VE) which is available at [http://mhrd.gov.in.voc\\_eduu](http://mhrd.gov.in.voc_eduu). It is a nationally integrated education and competency-based skill framework that will provide for multiple pathways, both within vocational education and between general and vocational education, to link one level of learning to another higher level and enable learners to progress to higher levels from any starting point in the education and / or skill system. It will permit individuals to accumulate their knowledge and skills, and convert them through testing and certification by the competent authorities, into higher level of certification, which could be a certificate or diploma or advanced diploma or PG diploma or a degree in common parlance.

4. The Concept and Framework of Community Colleges scheme was also discussed in the conference of Vice Chancellors of Central Universities held on 22.6.2012 and subsequently in the Retreat of Vice Chancellors in Chandigarh on 5-6, August, 2012 with regard to flexible education system wherein amongst others offering of choice -based vocational courses from academic session 2013 at all levels with flexibility to exit and re-entry to the students, linking of NVEQF to programmes offered within the university

system, integration of skills with general higher education courses by offering short duration skills oriented courses etc. were discussed and unanimously endorsed. Proposals to this effect have been sought for from the Central Universities.

5. A number of national and regional level seminars/workshops were held in New Delhi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Itanagar and Guwahati to sensitize the stakeholders who would ultimately play key role in the implementation of the Community Colleges Scheme. In pursuance of this capacity building exercise, a two-day international conference was also organized in New Delhi on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 to provide an opportunity to learn from the experiences of the Managers of the CCs across the world, to identify areas of collaboration and forge partnership for national and international collaboration.

6. In this conference, the Managers of the Community Colleges (CCs) and high officials of the relevant industries from Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, UK and USA as well as from our own country participated. In all approx. 500 participants attended the Conference of which 90 were foreign delegates.

7. The conference, inter-alia, discussed issues on demand-supply mismatch of the skilled manpower, requirement of skilled work force by the industry, design of model courses with multiple entry and exit options to the learners in different vocations based on the needs of the community, thrust on 'hands-on' practical training and training of trainers/teachers. It also provided opportunity for networking between the foreign Community Colleges/institutions and their Indian counterparts with a view to identify areas for national and international collaboration.

8. Based on the information furnished by Indian and Foreign participants, the networking information has been compiled country-wise (who participated in the conference-USA, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Germany) [**Form A & Form B**]. The compiled information gives the details about the proposals of the community colleges, names of course and possible areas of collaboration/networking with the community colleges of USA, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Germany. The above details of collaboration have already been shared with the concerned High Commission/Embassy of the above mentioned 6 foreign countries and all Principal Secretaries of the concerned States/UTs. Ministry of Human Resource Development is vigorously following the development in this regard.

9. The Government of India (MHRD) and the Government of UK have also signed a MoU on a framework for development of Community Colleges under UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). The duration of MoU will be w.e.f. 20.02.2013 to 31.3.2016. One of the activities mentioned in the MoU is developing community colleges. This activity will facilitate development of links between selected community colleges of India and those in the UK. A maximum of 25 partnerships will be supported over the duration of this MoU by the UKIERI.

10. The model scheme on community colleges as conceptualized by MHRD has been shared with UGC and AICTE for funding them to make them functional from the current academic session 2013-14. UGC would fund the community colleges hosted in a college while AICTE would fund the polytechnics hosting the community college.

11. 140 financial proposals (82 polytechnics and 58 colleges) from 27 States/UTs have been received in the Ministry, so far. They have been forwarded to UGC and AICTE respectively for their consideration to release financial assistance to enable them to implement the Scheme from this current academic year.

12. Latest reminder to all other States/UTs including Vice-Chancellors of the Central Universities who have not so far submitted their financial proposals have also been issued on 16.05.2013.