

Way for Model Ordinance



performance in the class while constantly keeping the parents informed.

Incentives like scholarships and need-based loans for deserving students without hurting their self-respect were recommended together with the need to make the fee structures realistically affordable and income based and to raise the existing amounts of endowment funds.

It stressed on minimizing the political activities of students and teachers alike.

The third session of the seminar focused on curriculum in institutions of higher learning; what to learn, how to learn and how to access, more importantly. The session was divided into three sub themes; syllabus, pedagogy and evaluation during the compilation of recommendations. The report on this session was furnished by Dr Hafiz Muhammad Iqbal of the Institute of Education and Research.

It was agreed that curricula should be revised periodically as the existing status was far behind that of developed nations in terms of intellectual pursuits. The curriculum must

The rehearsal of the seminar was held for two consecutive days prior to the actual seminar in which the participants were made to go through an ordeal about what to say and what to avoid during the actual proceedings.

address the needs of stakeholders and the society at large, it maintained while adding that Higher Education Commission must provide guidelines regarding curricula of different courses and subjects. These guidelines should include general instructional objectives and rules for developing curriculum with the involvement of teachers. The resources available at respective universities should also be taken into account while laying down the policy guidelines, the report said.

The participants called for a central approach towards curriculum and proposed formal accreditation of courses. They

called for introduction of subject experts in the universities and a linkage with experts in and outside the country for the purpose.

Regarding the assessment system, the students were of the view that the curricula should be based on the concept of understanding and comprehension and not just on cramming of information. They maintained that delivery mechanism of the subject was as important as the contents of the subject. Whatever the system, it should be implemented in true letter and spirit, they demanded.

The last session was about making the environment in uni-

versities conducive to learning. The report of this session was compiled by Dr Zakariya Zakar of the Sociology Department of Punjab University.

It was noted that conducive environment in the University was strongly linked to various factors like curriculum, motivation and competence of teachers, and interaction of students as well as overall attitude of society towards knowledge.

The seminar emphasized on 'sharing of resources' instead of 'wastage of resources'. A participant stressed that there is difference between college and university education which lies in the nature of research work in the university. For the promotion of research, it was observed that there must be collaboration between university and industry. This would expand the university resources and help it to conduct applied research.

The participants viewed that universities were facing many problems of 'financial autonomy'. It was suggested to allot budgets to departments individually keeping in view their performance, research capabilities and academic strength. For resource mobilisation, participants thought that a healthy competitive environment in the universities was a must.

It was noted that the fundamental activity in the university should be to conduct research as it cannot be separated from teaching. The crux of the argument was that research activity in the university should be encouraged and bureaucratic bottlenecks removed. It was also suggested that university alumni ought to be engaged for generation of resources for research.

One participant suggested that university should generously reward research activities and provide international journals as well as conference papers/reports.

One participant observed that despite huge potential of resource generation, there is still need for grants and funding from the government. Research, especially in natural sciences, is an expensive enterprise and needs generous funding from state institutions. It was proposed that universities in Pakistan should take initiative to establish research centres which cater to the demands of the indigenous industry.

Commenting on the overall discussion during the seminar, senior journalist Irshad Ahmed Haqqani observed that the problem of higher education was rooted in the overall institutional decay of the society.

Governor Punjab Khalid Maqbool while at the end said that the reforms agenda had been taken up with a progressive approach. He said government was in the process of formulating a liberal road-map towards the reforms agenda.