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Professionalism in Professional Higher Education & Academic Institutes

S N Oak* and R Gopal**

"If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves", said Thomas Alva Edison. How true this saying is in terms of professionalism in higher education. There is lot desired and yet to be achieved at. Sociologists interested in professional work have differentiated professionalism as a distinctive and special way of controlling and organizing work of workers, with real advantages for both practitioners, stakeholders and clients. In this interpretation professionalism is interpreted as an attribute of an 'occupational value'. But professionalism is evolving. Globalization has led to significant impact on its outreach and penetration. This article explains professionalism in higher education and its impact value in occupations. Some of the possible consequences of the redefinition of professionalism will lead to changes in the education itself, institutes and universities and teacher—student relations, and in the control of work priorities and processes.

India's higher education system is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China. The main governing body at the tertiary level is the University Grants Commission, which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between the center and the state. The Indian higher education system has expanded at a fast pace. As on 2012 -13, there are a total number of 700 degree granting institutions (viz. universities) and 35,000 affiliated colleges with more than 20 million students. It is estimated that around 37% of the students are studying in Arts, 19% of the students are studying in Science and 18% of the students in Commerce and Management and another 18% of the students in Engineering and Technology.

Some institutions of India, such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institute of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), International Institute of Information Technology (IIITH), Jawaharlal Nehru University and other such institutions have been globally acclaimed for their high standards of education.

The word Profession normally describes a job type and which is usually recognized for specific careers e.g. doctors, lawyers, engineers, architects etc. and institutions which run these programs are called as professional institutions. Linked with professional institutions is another term called as professionalism. Professionalism on the other hand represents the proper or accepted behaviors and attitudes and attributes. It includes from the mundane quality like showing respect, coming for a meeting on time to dressing appropriately for a meeting to higher level behavior pattern like showing empathy for others. Professionalism in

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