

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

## Greetings!

Education is an important means of modernization and acting as a vehicle for sustained economic development. In India the education market is generally regarded as the only market towards which Indians are not price-sensitive because it has helped them to reach their present standard of living and promises better earnings and prospects for their children. Education has long been receiving the major wallet share of the Indian middle class.

The Indian education sector has been recognized as a booming sector for investment in the recent past as there is a huge demand for upgradation of education since India is expected to have a surplus of 47 million people in the working age group by 2020. Higher education sector offers one of the most attractive and highly complex markets for the private/foreign players. Though there are some regulatory hurdles but still it is an attractive sector for an overseas education provider. The Planning Commission in its approach paper to 12th Five Year Plan had suggested that the current “not-for-profit” approach in the education sector should be re-examined in a pragmatic manner so as to ensure quality without losing focus on equity.

The dominance of state subsidies is an outstanding feature of most education systems. Education, including higher education, is heavily subsidized by the state. Even in those cases, where education is not publicly provided, it is subsidized by the state. Now the question may arise whether the education subsidy should be provided to all. Generally subsidy is provided to secure the right to education for those people who are financially weak.

Effective Performance Management systems in higher education depends on the attitude of the policy makers and the institute itself. Performance Management leads to improvement in performance of education system. A higher education institution is required to pay attention to the multiple stakeholders. These stakeholders are students, faculties, staff members, alumni, parents, government, community etc.

## Basic parameters for performance evaluation of Higher Education

- Location of the Institute

- Governing body (govt/semi govt/private/autonomous body)
- No. of branches (specialization in UG and PG)
- Provision for studying interdisciplinary courses
- Physical infrastructure including classrooms, labs, seminar hall, auditorium, play ground
- Library facilities
- E-learning facilities
- Faculty quality
- Quality of students
- Administration
- Professional growth opportunities
- Scope for Entertainment
- Living expenses (food and lodging in hostels)
- Extent of medical facility
- Student evaluation system
- Faculty evaluation system
- Fee structure
- Training and Placement
- Research and Development work done by the faculties
- Entry standards
- Teaching assessments
- Faculty-Student ratio
- Faculty spending
- Student results
- Grant and donation received
- Alumni association
- Industry-Institute linkage

CMAA can play an important role in performance evaluation, allocation and distribution of resources and funds, regulatory aspects and governance, obtaining cost efficiency and optimum utilization of resources, etc. of educational institutes as well as the whole system.

This issue presents a good number of articles and interviews by distinguished experts and authors on the ‘Cost Management in Education Sector’, the cover story theme of this issue. The new section, ‘Letters to the Editor’ that started a few issues ago, continues. We look forward to constructive feedback from our readers on the articles and overall development of the journal under this section. Please send your mails at [editor@icmai.in](mailto:editor@icmai.in). We thank all the contributors to this important issue and hope our readers enjoy the articles.