



ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY INTERFACE

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Abstract

The scenario of higher education and the landscape of the industrial domain have been rapidly changing for the past few decades. The assimilation of computer technology and telecommunication in educational institutions has brought them closer to the workforce needs of the industrial domain. Educational institutions have always tried to provide a highly desirable and skilful workforce to industries and in doing so have embraced new ways of teaching techniques and novel ideas of integrating industry relevant courses. The aim of pioneering educational institutes is not only to impart knowledge to its students, but also to provide them with skills to sustain the highly competitive atmosphere of the industry.

Introduction

According to Cameron Fincher "Learning can be defined as a process of progressive change from ignorance to knowledge, from inability to competence, and from indifference to understanding". The extremely dynamic business world and the rapidly developing knowledge based service economy have put in an increased demand for highly skilled professionals. India, as a rapidly developing nation, is also in the forefront of the market expansion race. In India, before the 60's, industry oriented education was offered in a select few cities. Companies then had to specifically train fresh graduates to be able to make them efficient employees. These trainings provided to the

graduates were in fact a huge investment cost for the companies and were aimed at creating a knowledge worker who can work at the cutting edge of technology, add value to the bottom-line, and provide competitive advantage to industry. In India, business and technical education formally started gaining importance with the establishment of premier institutions like the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). After that there has been a relatively slow but steady growth in number of schools and popularity of industry oriented education in India. This number took a massive upsurge after 1991, when India was liberalized and opened to the global world. Indian economy was being integrated into the world economy. Many multinationals entered India bringing with them increased demand for professionals. Professional education now moved beyond the domains of government control with establishment of many private institutions.

Objectives

As mentioned earlier, both the academia and the industry benefit from their mutual interaction. Below are the objectives that they try to achieve through the various modes of interface between them.

- To assured placements for students, thus improving the reputation of the educational institution, and in turn increasing the number of students competing for admission in the following years.
- To gain an understanding of the latest industry trends and standards. Internships and co-ops make students employable and industry-ready.
- To develop complementary and mutually beneficial capabilities and skill sets.

Need for academia-industry interface

Academia-Industry interface could be defined as interactive and collaborative arrangement between academic institutions and business corporations for the achievement of