

Some Reminiscences of my years in M.B.M. Engineering College

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**(i) WE OWE IT TO THEM !
WE SALUTE THEM !**

It was in the year 1972 that the Computer Center in the Engineering Faculty/University could be established with the encouragement, guidance and support of Prof. S. C. Goyal, the then Dean, Faculty of Engineering. We owe it to Late Prof. V.V. John the then V.C. and Late Prof. D.S. Kothari the then Chairman, UGC who approved and sanctioned the necessary funds to the tune of Rs. 20.00 lakhs for the project. An indigenous TDC-12 Computer from M/s. ECIL, Hyderabad was installed under my supervision as the founder In-charge of Computer Centre. Later in the year 1973 Prof. S. Divakaran, Dept. of Structural Engg. was appointed the first Head of the Computer Centre. Again in the year 1979 Prof. S.P. Gupta who was then the Head, Computer Centre persuaded me to take over as Head, Computer Centre as he was proceeding on long leave. Though the UGC was insisting to sanction funds only to upgrade TDC-12 to TDC-16, I could prevail on UGC and Prof. P.G. Reddy of IIT, Delhi, Chairman of the UGC expert committee to sanction an imported Computer System to this University. Perhaps we were the lone exception for an imported system in that range. Thanks to Prof. P.G. Reddy, TDC-12 was retired and replaced with the imported VAX-11/730.

Though the efforts to setup a separate Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering were on since about 1971 with the incessant support of Prof. S.C. Goyal the then Dean, Prof. KS Gupta Department of Mechanical Engineering and Prof. D.S. Bhandari Department of Electrical Engineering, it could be established only in the year 1982 with the support of Prof. S. Divakaran, the then Dean and Late Prof. M.M. Mehta, the then Vice Chancellor. We are indebted to Hon'ble Shri K.D. Sharma, the then Chancellor of the University for signing the necessary statute for the purpose. I was appointed the Head of the newly created Department. We submitted proposals to MHRD under "Areas of Weakness...", "Modernization..." and "Thrust Area" to receive funds to equip and establish this newly created Department. Thanks to MHRD, Govt. of India and Govt. of Rajasthan for appropriate sanctions, which enabled us to set up an excellent Department. Thanks to the support of Prof. P.S. Tiwari and other colleagues in the Department.

In the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering numbers of new courses were proposed to the University which were later approved by it. The year wise list to approval of the new courses is given below :

S.No.	Name of the course	Year
1.	M.E. (Electronics and Communication Engineering) (Part-time)	1982-83
2.	P.G. Diploma in Computer Technology & Application	1984-85

3. M.C.A. (Masters in Computer 1987-88
Application)
4. P.G. Diploma in Consumer 1988-89
Electronics & T.V. Technology

DOE/UGC/State Govt. sanctioned the necessary funds and staff for the above courses except the first one, which was taken up as a voluntary effort by the senior faculty for sanction and funding in future. The Department thus got the status of a post Graduate Department. Thanks to the colleagues in the Department.

It was in the year 1986 that an Audio Visual Research Centre (AVRC) was established with the financial support from UGC. We owe it to Mrs. Vijay Mullay, Consultant UGC and Shri S.S. Swaney, Jt. Secretary, UGC; members of the UGC expert committee. Thanks are also due to Prof. P.S. Tiwari and Prof. Shamsheer Singh for supporting the move.

AVRC was upgraded to Educational Media Research Centre (EMRC) in the year 1991 on the basis of its competitive performance on all India basis. We owe it Prof. M.L. Mathur the then Vice Chancellor and Padmashri Komal Kothari for their continuous guidance and support. Thanks are also due to Prof. S.R. Bhansali, the then Dean, Faculty of Law for the kind support. On the basis of the performance of AVRC/EMRC, Centre for Educational Technology "CET" was also sanctioned by MHRD in the year 1988, which was continued to be supported by AICTE. I was the founder Chief-coordinator of the project. Our thanks are due to Prof. S.K. Khanna, the then Chairman of the AICTE.

Thanks to the support of Prof. K.S. Gupta, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Prof. S.P. Gupta, Dept. of Structural Engineering and Prof. D.S. Bhandari, Dept. of Electrical Engineering that separate Departments of Computer Science and Engineering and Production and Industrial Engineering could be established in the year 1992. I became the founder Head of the new Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

Despite my best efforts I could recall and remember only the above few prominent names from the memory lane. There are many more who have been left out in the above enumeration, I take this opportunity to thank and salute all those unnamed dignitaries, intellectuals, groups, colleagues and friends who helped, guided, advised and supported the effort in creativity.

We owe it to them !

We Salute them !

(ii) IN ONE STROKE

It was the February of 1994, perhaps 7th or 8th February, when I (then Dean) learnt that the entire 1st Year class has gone on mass cut. The students had the audacity to notify their intent on the black boards to return only after Holi holidays i.e. on March the 8th that year. I was cut apart at this act of theirs particularly because I, painstakingly, emphasized the need to refrain from the menace of mass cuts in the congregation of I BE students and their guardians on the opening day. Immediately I called an emergent meeting of all HODs and incharges to discuss this misadventure of the I BE students. I was informed that this is more of a practice in the faculty for the past several years than an exception this year. In the meeting we resolved, therefore, to deal with this ugly situation firmly so that the mass cuts are completely eliminated

in the faculty. The mass cuts were the one single major reason for the postponement of exams, resulting in the extension of the session every year for the four years which cumulatively delayed the passing out by one or more years delaying their recruitment by as much as two years or more, causing hardship to both the guardians and the students.

As a follow up of the meeting of the HODs on this issue, a telegram was promptly dispatched to the guardians of all I BE students asking them to ensure that their wards report in the faculty within three days else their admission will stand cancelled. But as in the past it had no effect except of course a couple of local students turned up. It was quite clear that the students had become immune to any action like this over the years.

Having taken the colleagues in confidence another telegram was sent out informing the guardians that the admission of their wards is cancelled as they failed to turn up by the stipulated date and time. This was most unusual and unexpected action. Since we were determined to root out this menace forever, come what may, an action plan was prepared. According to which another letter was to be sent out to all guardians with the following conditions :

that all the students will be re-admitted, provided further :

- a) that they pay a penalty of Rs. 250/- inclusive of the re-admission fee.
- b) that they pay a refundable security deposit of Rs. 750/- which will be refunded when the students pass out.
- c) the student offered an unconditional letter of apology in the enclosed proforma, Briefly the contents of the proforma were :

that such an act will not be repeated in future and as a mark the student will sign the document to be counter signed by the guardian as a guarantor in front of an officially designated HOD

I took the faculty members, the incharges, the HODs and the Vice-President and Secretary of the faculty student union in confidence with regard to the action plan. All of them heartily agreed with the plan. The student representative of the faculty requested that the security deposit be reduced from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 500/- to which we agreed. The letters were promptly sent to all the guardians enclosing the appology proforma keeping the last day for re-admission perhaps the 18th February.

When the President of the student union of the University (PSU) learnt about this action he approached me to withdraw it. I refused to oblige. As a consequence he threatened to give a strike call in the Engineering faculty as other classes in the faculty were going on. The PSU started his campaign to call the strike in the faculty campus. He along with his small band of office bearer and some students from other faculties attempted to disturb the classes by trying to enter in the classrooms when the classes were going on. At this point I intervened and sternly asked him to refrain from disturbing the classes. However, I agreed that those who wished to join the strike will not be stopped. The PSU and his group did not stop at this. He entered into a heated argument with me. At this point, a senior student of mining was passing by who asked this group to behave properly with "Our Dean". Some more students of the faculty came about and the strike call fizzled out.

Then came the last date of admission, the I Year students had collected around the bank counter to pay the requisite fee, penalty, security deposit and sign the apology letter but every one was waiting for some one to take the lead and the girls did take the lead. They collected outside my office, requesting me to accept the cash, as they dare not go to the counter where the I BE boys had gathered. I accepted the cash. I, went to the bank counter and announced that I have already received fee from a number of students. I further ordered that counter will be closed exactly at 1:30 P.M. Those who did not pay the fee by then may leave the premises as their admission is cancelled. Only a few minutes were remaining from the dead line and, just then, the student queued up to pay the fees. Some of them requested me to extend the closing time of the counter till all those present could deposit the fees. I extended the closing time.

The next day the parents/guardians presented themselves with due receipt to the assigned HOD alongwith their ward and signed the requisite apology letter. Most of the parents expressed their gratitutde for making a serious effort to emancipate the faculty from the mass cut. They were willing to pay extra amount for the cause. Every HOD exhorted the parents to ensure that their ward refrained from the mass cut in future and counselled the students not to indulge in mass-cuts as it only harms them the most. Thus came the end of mass cuts or mass bunking in the faculty after a gap of several years. I am indebted to all my colleagues who stood firmly with me.

I understand from my successors that since that day the menace of mass cut has never recurred. I am glad and so should every one be that the mass cuts have been completely annihilated from the faculty in ONE STROKE.

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