

18 Sept., 1972.

Dear Professor Madhava Rao,

sending

I am enclosing for your kind perusal a memorandum prepared by some educationists of W. Bengal (particularly, of the Midnapore District in which the IIT is situated) and submitted to the Govt. of W.B.. In the next ten years the growth in higher education in W.B. is likely to follow a trend similar to that shown in Tables 1 and 2 on p. 23 of the brochure. In the course of four years from 1967 to 1971 there has been a 48.2 % increase in higher education by stages (pre-u, graduate, postgraduate, etc.) and by types (Arts, Sc., Commerce, etc.). It is not unlikely that there will be a 100 % rise in the college population ten years hence. In the postgraduate and research depts of the Calcutta Univ. there are now over 8,000 students. There will be a commensurate increase in the number of students in ten years. In the city itself there are now over one lakh college going undergraduate students of whom nearly 20,000 are in courses like Law, Medicine, Commerce, and Engineering. This has been reported from time to time in the newspapers. It is clear that it is impossible for a single organization to handle so many students. Instead of having a few big universities in the city we should have a number of small universities distributed all over the State. The Education Commission of 1954-56 recommended that there should be strong emphasis in our Plans to remove regional imbalances in education and suggested that a district or a region should be adopted as a basic unit for educational planning and development. In W.B. there is need for the development of district towns and of having institutions of higher education in every town. You may consult for further information the Report of the Gajendra Gadkar Commission of 1971 on Univ. education in India.

There are a few well-established colleges under the Cal. Univ.. Such colleges will be in a position to arrange for and conduct examinations and declare results on behalf of the Univ.. In this work the Univ. might associate one or more persons per subject for scrutinizing question papers and sampling answer-scripts. Later ~~it~~ it may be possible to stop this practice and leave everything to the college concerned. The ultimate objective as it is envisaged now is that each college should conduct its own examinations. However, for achieving uniformity it is desirable that the results of all colleges be moderated by an external agency belonging to the Univ.. You may therefore recommend granting of autonomous status to all well-established colleges. and the introduction of amending legislature, if necessary, for the purpose.

The jurisdiction of Cal. Univ. should be restricted to the city of Calcutta only and the Univ. will be the guardian and coordinator of academic activities in all colleges within its jurisdiction. In conformity with the present practice the Univ. should concentrate its efforts on postgraduate teaching and research and should not dissipate its energies on undergraduate teaching. The best colleges of Calcutta, like the Presidency, St. Xavier's and the Scottish Church College should be entrusted with independent postgraduate teaching within the framework of a common curriculum and syllabus and should be provided with adequate research facilities.

These are my humble suggestions regarding the development and reorganization of the Cal. Univ.. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter and of the brochure ^{sent} in a separate cover by Book Post.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

Enclo: Original letter
from UGC to you.

S. Datta Majumdar
S. Datta Majumdar, I.I.T., P.O. Kharagpur Tech.
(W.Bengal)



