

## Evaluation of RadhaKrishnan Commission

It was the first commission in the field of education in India which sought ideas from persons related to education through a questionnaire and gave them a due place in its report. The utility of its suggestions is thus obvious. The Government implemented some of its suggestions in a time bound manner and got good results too. But in the context of the present scenario some of its suggestions are absurd. They may be regarded as the demerits of this commission.

### Merits of the Commission

The following recommendations of the commission were of much importance and significance—

**1. University Education in the Concurrent List**—The commission suggested to place the university education in the Concurrent List and to make its organisation a joint responsibility of the Central as well as the Provincial Governments. Higher education in any country is regarded as the education of national importance, therefore the Central Government should have a significant role in its organisation. The Government accepted this proposal of Radhakrishnan Commission as late as in 1976. Had this proposal been accepted by the Government earlier, the condition of higher education would have been much better.

**2. Formation of the University Grants Commission**—To maintain the standard of university education and to provide necessary grants to the universities and colleges, the commission suggested to form the University Grants Commission. In 1953 the Government converted the University Grant Committee into University Grants Commission and through an amendment, in 1956, it was given an autonomous status. This organisation has succeeded greatly in the upliftment of higher education.

**3. Control over the Universities and Affiliated Colleges**—This commission fixed the minimum working days of the universities and their affiliated colleges to be

180 days excluding the examination days and also fixed the minimum age (18 years) and qualification (intermediate passed) for admission in the universities or colleges. It also suggested to give admission to the able students only. Further, it fixed the maximum strength of students in a university to be 3000 and in a college to be 1500. This suggestion is of great significance because, it is the increasing number of students which is the root cause of all the problems in higher education.

**4. Three Years Degree Course and Compulsory General Education**—The suggestion to make 3 years degree curriculum was first given by the Indian University Commission, but to make the general education compulsory at this level, in any stream—arts, science and vocational subjects, was first given by this Commission. Its implementation would have benefitted in two ways—first the preparation of scholars with varied knowledge in the society and second, correlation between different subjects would have been established. But instead, most of the universities implemented it in their own ways, some made the education of language compulsory while others made something else compulsory.

**5. Reform in the Teaching Standard**—To improve the condition of the universities and their affiliated colleges this commission suggested the following—appointment of able teachers, admission of able students, increase in the working days of the universities and colleges, implementation of tutorial system and organisation of seminars. It is obvious that all these could definitely improve the teaching standards.

**6. Reform in the Pay Scales and Service Conditions of Teachers**—The commission suggested to increase the pay-scales and to improve the service conditions of the teachers to attract the able persons to this profession.

**7. Preference to Ability and Research Work in Promotion**—Till then, seniority was the basis for the promotion of teachers in the universities. This commission suggested to consider ability and research work besides seniority as the basis for promotion. But the Government failed to do so otherwise the teachers in higher education would have developed their competence and research ability.

**8. Welfare Programmes for Students**—This commission gave varied suggestions to organize various student welfare programmes like—formation of Student Welfare Board; appointment of the Director of Physical Education for the proper organisation of physical education, games and sports; appointment of the Dean of Student Welfare to solve students problems; arrangement of subsidized mid-day meals and provision of hostels for students. All these helped secure students' welfare.

**9. Proper Direction to Different Vocational and Technical Education**—This commission gave appropriate suggestions to reform different types of vocational and technical education like—agriculture, commerce, engineering, medical, law, teachers' training etc. However, the most significant suggestion of this commission was to encourage research work in all the fields.

**10. Creative Suggestions to Reform University Examinations**—This commission had suggested to reform the university essay type examinations as early as 1949, and to introduce objective type examinations. Had we tried honestly in this direction, the university examinations could have long been made useful, valid and reliable.