

ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING BEYOND 2000

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In an open market economy Universities can be considered as commercial institutions, which produce marketable products known as graduates. The market value for the product is governed by the general rule of supply and demand situation like other commodities. Before analyzing the supply it is important to see what the demand for the product is. Major portion of the demand for the product come from the industries. Therefore it is a very important to see the interests of these industries.

The outlook and behavior of today's industries are very much different from the industries in last century. In the past there were a very few large organizations to carry out the engineering tasks. In such organizations there were specialized engineers for different fields. But today's organizations are small in size and have very few engineers to carry out tasks in different fields. Therefore it is obvious that the present requirements for engineers are much more different than in the past. Present day engineers are involved in Design, fabrication, erecting, commissioning, research and development, service sector, consulting, marketing and administration. Then the challenge to the university is to produce engineers to suit the today's market. One might say that it is impossible to cater this whole spectrum of requirements but only cover the basic knowledge on all these aspects while following the engineering subjects.

When we focus our discussion only to the field of mechanical engineering some of the points can be more elaborated. Learning only the basic mechanical engineering subjects will make young engineers life little bit difficult since all new engineering creations involve lot of electronics and computer technology. Therefore it is a must to have basic knowledge of these fields to survive in the job. As an example consider an internal combustion engines. Twenty years ago there were no electronic parts associated with these engines. But today's engines are 100% controlled by electronic devices. In my undergraduate period I didn't have any opportunity to learn these things but we were forced to learn after graduation to earn my bread and butter. When I saw the draft curriculum I felt to become an undergraduate once again because all these things are included.

Though the new graduates are good engineers if they cannot communicate in English and cannot do good presentations it will be a draw back to market value of engineers. If these two can be emphasized in skill development process I am sure you can market your engineers to

the industry with a guaranty that "if he or she is not suitable to the industry we will take them back."

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