Institutional training and universities

As pointed out by Dasannacharya[1,2], the BARC Training School so thoughtfully established by the founder fathers of the atomic energy programme in 1957, had served a useful purpose to provide the scientific manpower needed for the DAE for the last half a century. The Argonne International School of Nuclear Science and Engineering (1955) and Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology (1950) in USA served as the models. Many from BARC had attended these schools.

How far the transformation of this venture into a university (HBNI) will be relevant remains to be seen. Eventually it will be dictated by the trend and requirements in the area of nuclear science and technology. No doubt, it will continue to meet the original objective of the BARC Training School in providing and furthering manpower to BARC, with the difference that the graduates will have the satisfaction of having a degree with limited impact on the general academia.

The need today is to get integrated with the university structure and encourage, help and prod to involve it in training and R&D in nuclear sciences and achieve 'a horizontal interaction of BARC with universities and IITs'[3], rather than insulating it from the mainstream. One of the factors for the great progress achieved by USA is the traditional tie-up of the universities with the industry. The industry benefits from the human resource in the universities and in turn is sustained by the industry. Apart from the nuclear industry, such a tie-up is required if we have to build a strong industrial base for the country. That objective must be achieved, rather than diluting it.

Understandably, the stress in the HBNI will be on applied sciences and it is unlikely basic sciences will attract importance, similar to what happens in the universities at large in the country today. Even in the inception stage, some traditional science applications are placed under engineering faculty. The pattern of HRD growth in the area of nuclear science and technology is also indicative of this trend. Further, it may not be out of place to add that there is a need to promote human resources from within the discipline concerned in preference to a generalist science management.

1. Dasannacharya, B. A., *Curr. Sci*., 2008, **94**, 525–527.
2. Dasannacharya, B. A., *Curr. Sci*., 2008, **94**, 1236.
3. Upadhyaya, G. S., *Curr. Sci*., 2008, **94**, 1236.

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