

## **Resources for Internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions in India (RISHII)**

### **Local Workshop on Strategic Line I and II Recordings Summary**

The local workshop strategic line-I, & II was organised on the theme “Internationalization of Curriculum -Why and What for?” and “Profiles of Global Professionals and Citizens?” by Dr. Netra Bhandari & Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Khare, respectively. It was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022, from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm on the Microsoft Teams online platform.

Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Khare, Director, International Centre, SPPU and Project In charge & Co-ordinator, Resources for Internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions in India (RISHII) welcomed the speaker and participants for the two-day online workshop on Internationalisation of Higher Education. The RISHII project aims to facilitate the modernisation of Indian Higher Education by equipping these institutions with procedures, tools and human resources. It also facilitates the Curriculum Internationalisation and development of professional skills among human resources leading to cultures of Internationalisation among institutions at various levels.

Along with Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, there are nine other Indian higher educational institutes and five European partners in this project namely, University of Delhi, Delhi; Goa University, Goa; Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi; University of Calcutta, Kolkata; G D Goenka University, Gurgaon; Jagran Lakecity University, Bhopal; Adamas University, Kolkata; Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal; Vinobha Bhave University, Hazaribagh; The IIS University Trust, Jaipur; MIT Art Design and Technology, Pune; St. Aloysius College, Mangalore; Ramaiah College of Law, Bangalore. The five European Partners are University of Deusto, Spain; University of Groningen, Netherlands; University of Porto, Portugal; University of Pisa, Pisa and Dresden University of Technology, Dresden.

Resources for Internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions in India (RISHII) is a project funded by the European Union. The project aims to develop a strategy for internationalisation of higher education in order to design the learning outcome of higher education which shall be complementing Indian and European curriculum and creating human resources that will have skills to compete at global level. The three workshops on strategic lines are designed to discuss Internationalisation of curriculum: why and what for?; Strategic Partnership in internationalisation of higher education; Internationalisation Offices and Academic Services.

Savitribai Phule Pune University plays a key strategic role in internationalisation of higher education project. Several faculties and students have got a chance to learn through intercultural exchange program under the internationalisation of higher education. In the present time exchanging ideas and sharing knowledge is a soft power strategy. Today, in the first session the idea is to take an overview of the need and objectives of Internationalisation of curriculum. The objective is to explain the need for students to learn the skills essential to become global citizens. The idea is to promote competence based on central principal of giving them practical as well as theoretical knowledge. The curriculum will include both class room hours as well as field visit hours. The syllabus for Indian classrooms lacks field knowledge. The academic and educational institutions in India are in transitional process where teachers had authority in imparting knowledge. The project aims at making the teachers becoming facilitators in the field of knowledge creation. It will expect the change in the teacher-student role and relation.

The Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) and Göttingen University, Germany are partners since the last ten years. Dr. Netra Bhandari is the Director India Office & Regional Coordinator (South, Southeast, Central Asia & Middle East), The University of Göttingen, Germany. Dr. Netra Bhandari was trained in Forestry and Anthropology and since 2010 has been working in the areas of International Cooperation in different administrative positions. The students, faculty and administrative resource exchange programs across different regions in the world have helped to bring state of the art practices in international cooperation in Higher Education. The idea of designing curriculum with the Learning Outcome Program under Tuning India program will help to make higher education more reflexive to social needs in the current time.

The current global trends in higher education especially after the pandemic have affected every aspect of life. In globalisation, higher education cannot be a part limited only to one nation or isolated society. In the present time, internationalisation is not seen as an objective but as means or instrument or cross cutting component. There is a trend of joint/dual or multiple degree and this is another level of internationalisation. Tuning India project is also expecting to achieve the credit transfer in learning abilities. In last ten years, enrolment of students for higher education is increasing while, on the other hand, the number of scholarships or funding are becoming more difficult. The field of higher education is becoming competitive. The establishment of private players in higher education has its own pros and cons. Privatisation of higher education has high

fees but it creates a debate around the quantity versus quality issues as a greater number of such institutions don't ensure the increasing quality of higher education. There is a need to ensure that the quality of human resource is also objective.

In the post pandemic period, there has been an increase in the number of virtual universities and wider acceptance for distance education. The idea of transnational education like bi-national or multi-national education institutions or Hybrid or Blended learning is the current trend.

### **Internationalisation**

It is the process of integrating an international, intercultural and global dimension into purpose, objectives, functions and services delivery. It happens not only at the individual level but also at institutional level. The main objective of international mobility, the outgoing and incoming mobility is equally important. The students coming to our university also bring international experience with them.

Strengthening international/ intercultural curricula can be achieved through joint classrooms or blended learning and transnational education. The trend is increasing for joint/dual and multiple degrees. The recruitment of students and faculties from other countries will also help to bring in diversity and development of courses, catering to the need of intercultural societies.

International association of universities conducted its global survey on internationalisation of higher education. Among 907 universities that participated in this study, around 70 percent universities have internationalisation as highest priority. Why do the universities go for internationalisation? It is to prepare their students for a global world, which is their highest priority. Who are the key drivers of internationalisation at the institutional level? The Board/ Central Management of university level and heads of international offices like Vice Chancellors and Directors of International Centres who play a key role. The mid-level administrative and teaching human resources like faculties are also important resources but as their focus is scattered to various limited aspects, their role is not highlighted in the study.

There are many pros and cons of internationalisation. There is increased awareness about internationalisation. There is increased intercultural competence. There is increased academic

capabilities. The shared or collaborated efforts of teachers and scientists can produce better academic, quality work. Accordingly, it will increase institutional infrastructure and facilities along with diversification of income and revenue generation from international research projects.

The risk or challenges are over commercialisation of academic offers that influence the quality of education in the long run and academic colonisation. The top universities have been opening their offshore campuses. In the long turn it might have undesirable effects. The risk is that there will be foreign degree mills, producing low quality foreign programs. The brain drain is also one of the major risks wherein, through scholarships the developed countries might retain the trained human resources of developing especially in African countries.

The question and answers also highlighted the points related to the affordability of education for middle income group in foreign countries and what effect internationalisation of higher education will have in order to address the disparities among the developed and developing countries. Germany has private universities which are government funded to make the fee structure affordable. Private universities in the field of engineering or business would be around 1500 Euros which is 6 times higher than public universities. The government has better resources. Irrespective of private or public universities, the quality of education will be one of the keys deciding factors. There can be joint funding schemes. The internationalisation of higher education will help capacity building where the advancement of research or professional courses can be learnt in developing countries.

The nature of strategic partnership can be understood at individual, department and institutional level. An individual cooperation in internationalisation is very scattered. This is something we do when we attend conferences or seminars, present research papers or students conducting the field visit to different countries or institutions for library or research work. It's output is very limited, reflecting to smaller areas. The cooperation among department level is relatively more organised where there can be specific outcomes and exchange of ideas which can have better impact than individual level but still that can have limited outcome. At the university level, different departments within different universities can think in terms of long-term projects. The formal alliance between two or more institutions across different countries can have more wider and long-term impact.

Internationalisation can create more knowledge and ideas that can provide win -win partnership. If there are many networks coming together for learning and adopting best practices from others, it will help in producing strategic partnership. It can be shaped further through identifying number of projects where student exchange and the shared knowledge production process can be made more accessible and impactful through training human resources competent to become global citizens.

### **Workshop Video Summary for local workshop strategic line- III**

Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Khare, Director, International Centre, SPPU and Project In charge & Co-ordinator, RISHII welcomed the speaker and participants for the second day online workshop on Internationalisation of Higher Education. The Savitribai Phule Pune University, International Centre and Vinoba Bhave University jointly organised the workshop on the theme “International Offices and Academic Services.” The speakers were Prof (Dr) Vijay Khare, Mrs Bharati Kokil & Dr. Ganga Nanda Singh. It was held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022, from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Prof. Dr. Vijay Khare welcomed the speakers and participants for the second day online workshop on Internationalisation of Higher Education. The International Centre, Savitribai Phule Pune University discussed its efforts related to internationalization of higher education. It has attracted students from more than 100 countries for higher education. The Savitribai Phule Pune University has the largest footprints of international students. The International Centre believes in creating interface between administration and students which will provide transparency and credibility. It has achieved this through the facilities like single window and online admission procedure. Single Window system where at one desk all the procedures like inquiry and documents verification, admission and hostel, scholarship is catered to. The services provided are competitive and affordable to the students coming from developing as well as developed countries.

The International Centre has introduced a buddy system which helps the newly arrived international students to get assistance from the moment they land in Pune. The students also get assistance to adjust with the new culture and environment. The International Centre has International Transit House (Girls’ hostel) and International Hostel for Boys with well-equipped infrastructure and recreation facilities like wifi, basketball court, etc. The students can get refreshments in Cafeteria which are spread out on campus. A medical centre is available on campus. Students are insured for a year. The International Centre has facility of student counselling providing information and assistance in choosing and sequencing the courses to be pursued. Besides that, it also helps students to develop familiarity with the city of Pune, its culture, people and historic sites. One-on-one sessions are offered for logistical assistance, as well as support is given in dealing with personal issues. An annual journal named “Strategic Foresight” is published every year wherein students can share their experiences about their stay in India, their country, among other things. Post office and bank facilities are also available on campus.

To study in the university, a student must have a valid student's visa endorsed to the University. Students should report and register with Foreigner's Registration Office (FRO) within 14 days of their arrival. Students are issued a Registration Permit on basis of the duration of the course, on producing a Bonafide Certificate from their respective college/department/ institute. Students must have their Registration Permit updated 14 days before its expiry.

The International Centre understanding the need of the hour, has been networking through joint collaborations and signing Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with global institutions and educational entities to achieve internationalisation in higher education helping to establish two-way mobility for scholars of all disciplines. The objectives are to provide educational opportunities of global standards; to develop and nurture academic and cultural collaborations between Savitribai Phule Pune University and overseas partners and entities and also facilitate mobility and transfer of knowledge in the teaching-learning process thereby facilitating student and faculty exchange programs as well as joint research projects. It provides a network of strategic partnership with peer institutions for sharing vital resources and providing cross cultural experiences for students. The International Centre, SPPU participates in exchange programs like Erasmus Mundus. Under these collaborations, scholarships are made available to Indian students, as well as academic and non-academic staff of the University, for undergraduates, post graduates, doctoral and post-doctoral studies.

The International Centre believes in shaping these students to become global citizens and ambassadors for world peace. These students who have got the opportunity to enter the higher education will be representing not only their countries in the world but also as alma maters of Savitribai Phule University. They will spread the motto of the university "Where Actions Prove Knowledge." And the mission of International Centre CREATE (C - Credibility, R - Responsibility, E - Efficiency, A-Accountability, T- Transparency, E-Excellence).

### **Academic Services:**

Mrs. Bharati Kokil, Coordinator of the International Centre delivered the talk on Academic Services.

There are several international students who face difficulties in English. Considering this need, the International Centre conducts English Language Intensive Course for International Students

(ELICIS), English Language and Study in India (ELSI) and Remedial English Course. These are courses specialize in reading, writing, listening and speaking skills with the help of a language lab. It has been specially created to cater to the diverse needs of the students to acquire specialized skills with regards to speaking English fluently before joining their educational courses.

In order to facilitate the overall personality development, besides educational training, the centre regularly conducts interactive programs and competitions among international students. The International Youth Festival is organised to encourage cross cultural awareness amongst the international students. The International Youth Festival includes Sports Events, Food Festival and Cultural Festival. The Youth festival is organised around January -February every year where the students boys and girls, both participates in Football matches where there are six women football team and eleven men football teams have played with each other. It helps them to come out of their regular routines and mingle with other students. The Food festival in unique endeavour where the students prepare the cuisine of their respective countries and showcase their culinary skills. In cultural festival all these students perform traditional dances of their respective countries as well as on theme dances along with a few Bollywood dances. Over the years these extra-curricular activities have helped them to develop team spirit, leadership or organisation qualities as all these events are organised, designed and executed with the help of student coordinators and staff of the International Centre.

In addition, the International Centre organizes Graduation Certificate Ceremony, Diwali Festival, Christmas Festival, etc. to encourage cross cultural awareness and to make them feel home. As a result, many students consider International Centre and SPPU as their second home.