

All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organizations (AIFUCTO)

XXXI Academic Conference - Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu

23 - 25, November 2018

Resolutions

This XXXI academic conference of AIFUCTO was held at Kanyakumari on November 23 to 25, 2018, notes with deep concern the:

- i. Aggressive pursuit of reforms dictated by Neo-liberal policies of the central government across all sectors including education in general, and Higher Education in particular;
- ii. Deepening of privatization and commercialization starting with self financing Institutions, autonomous colleges, private Universities and special education zones, most recent being regulations on Graded Autonomy and the Institutions of Eminence;
- iii. Adverse impact of "Performance Based" funding by RUSA instead of need-based funding by UGC on the right to higher education of weaker sections - girl students, SC, ST and OBC, rural persons, jeopardizing principle of equity and inclusive education. Expansion of education is also curbed due to stipulation that only universities with A+ grade can offer education by Distance Mode;
- iv. Public funded Institutions, especially colleges, are deprived of crucial infrastructure funds from RUSA, as NAAC accreditation is mandatory - only Rs.2233 crores (43% of sanctioned Central share) was distributed by RUSA, at the end of 12th plan;
- v. Serious attempt to shift from "Grants" to 'Loans' is seen in the establishment of HEFA - effort to give the final blow by dismantling UGC and replacing with HECI was thwarted by the intervention of democratic forces;
- vi. Cutting down the central assistance to 50% for 39 months instead of 80% for 60 months has adversely affected uniform and simultaneous implementation of 7th Pay revision in all the states;
- vii. Slashing of funding is also affecting quality education due to non recruitment of regular teachers - nearly 50% of the posts in the higher education Institutions (HEIs) are vacant;
- viii. The vacant posts are mostly filled with Adhoc teachers working as contractual / part-time / guest teachers on hourly basis, with very meagre remuneration - in fact below minimum wages;
- ix. Working condition of teachers in self financing Institutions is equally deplorable due to violation of all service conditions and non-payment of regular salary;
- x. Teaching-learning process in HEIs is scuttled due to thrusting of semester pattern and CBCS;
- xi. Various regulations introduced hurriedly are adversely affecting research in multiple ways - also violating the spirit of concurrent status of Higher Education and violating the autonomy of state universities and state legislatures;
- xii. Democratic, secular, egalitarian and scientific education is under attack. This is manifestation of wider design under WTO-GATS to convert education, a public good, into a tradable commodity;

In the light of the above, this conference resolves to build a strong democratic movement of teachers for demanding the following:

- a. 10% of the GDP should be allocated for education in view of the expansion of Higher Education in the country and for strengthening the public funded education system. That should not be any kind of cut in the budgetary allocation for education.
- b. The centre must provide 100% assistance to the states for uniform and the simultaneous implementation of 7th UGC pay scales across the country.
- c. The Ad-hoc / part time / contractual / block grant teachers should be given pay scales on regular basis with service conditions on the basis of the principle of equal pay for equal work as per the judgements of the apex court.
- d. The new pension scheme should be rejected and the old pension scheme should be implemented to provide social security to the Employees after retirement.
- e. All the vacant posts should be filled on regular basis. The contractualization of Higher Education must stop.
- f. Governments at the Centre and states should introduce strict regulations for Regular payment of salary in self-financing institutions.
- g. HEFA and Graded Autonomy must be withdrawn as it will lead to privatization and commercialization of Higher Education.
- h. Government should start dialogue with all stakeholders for developing a new education policy based on the principles of democracy, secularism, equity and scientific temper.

The conference resolves to widen and strengthen the joint forum for movement on education (JFME) to:

- i. Strengthen public funded education system of the country
- ii. Promote scientific rational and constitutional values at all levels of education
- iii. Reverse communalization in education by promoting secular values at all levels of education
- iv. Defeat the design of neo-liberal policy in the field of education.

The conference further resolves to mobilize all stakeholders from kg to PG to participate in a huge "Peoples March" on 19th February, 2019 at New Delhi.

The Conference also resolves to offer moral and active support to the nationwide strike called by the All India Trade Unions Joint Action Committee (TUJAC) on January 8 - 9, 2019 throughout the country.

Prof. Arun Kumar

General Secretary, AIFUCTO.