

BIMTEC Regional Cooperation and Accreditation, Ranking and Indexing

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In a fast changing economy, a nation battling alone global change would not be fruitful. A unity of a common denomination among nations would be imperative and necessary. Local, Regional as well as international efforts for cooperation may be moved to reach established objectives and goals.

Education plays a vital role in developing the economy of a nation. In order to have sustainable economic development requires investment in human capital. With investment of education, it raises its constituents in understanding of themselves and the world. It improves the quality of their lives and leads to broad social benefits for themselves as well as for the society they belong. Education raises people's productivity, creativity and would further lead to promote and develop entrepreneurship and technological advancements.

Development could be of three folds. First, Internal development of a country could be done through initiatives through the government sector particularly through University Grant Commission to monitor and evaluate quality assurance while giving competent schools the leeway of being deregulated or autonomous status. Further, universities in the country meet and form together an association to expediate their common needs. This would hesitate lobbying to government for the perceived needs of education. In addition, the association would be a vehicle for each to evaluate each others quality perspectives in terms of each universities' community involvement, Faculty, Instruction, Library, Laboratories, Physical Plant, Student Services and administration. There is a rich environment of being evaluated by a third person to assess the quality of education each one would provide. The value of Accreditation could lead to providing quality education for the constituents of the country. This would be developing within the country of origin as integration occurs regionally and globally.

Second, Regional efforts with education would be best achieved with a single commonality. With Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) member countries consisting of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal with their best foot forward, with each nations' best educational expertise. Each nation's could collaborate with each others' rich culture and education technical know-how. Such as, The life science and medical education experience and capability of Thailand or India could be shared with other medical universities of different member countries. Innovations as well as medical capabilities and expertise would enhance the provision of medical services to each nations' population.

In term of research capabilities, each nation having their collaborative efforts may work on researches that would appeal to their areas of interests and expertise that is relatively related to the Economic Development of all BIMSTEC members. The Thai Journal indexing as well as the Indian Citation index would assist in providing reliable literature and support for researchers/scientist alike.

Further, a creation of a regional association of educational schools would give a nitch of sharing the rich culture and capabilities of each nation. This would involve sharing each unique educational methodologies and capabilities, develop interdisciplinary academic programs and availability of academic degrees in each major university in each of the member states, existence of a cooperative regional programs for masteral and doctoral degree programs in more than one state member. Collaborative regional research projects jointly undertaken by enthusiastic scientist or scholars of more than one member state and availability of visiting professors programmes to enable lectures to enrich academics at an institution of higher education of another member state.

Student exchanges could also be made possible as students would develop international learning and knowledge to propel students to accept and understand an array of different cultural and community perspectives. There is language acquisition through practical immersion, being aware and adoptive of alternative, multi-faceted approaches in learning while broadening general knowledge in analytical, and

problem solving skills in interest to global issues while self-confidence and self-esteem are enhanced and finding themselves adoptable to foreign environments.

Finally as an region working as one, synergized by its competence and capabilities, it would provide better proficiency and survival with the encompassing world economy. Where only one cannot do it alone, a group of individual nations working together as one would make a difference. BIMSTEC could make a difference. It would be a region making marks within the global scenario.

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