Review of: "Empowering Minds: The Evolution of Higher Education in Tamil Nadu towards Innovation and Excellence"

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The authors have focused on the needed growth of higher education in Tamil Nadu, one of the fast-growing states in India.

The following are very important issues in higher education in Tamil Nadu:

1. Anna University has reviewed all affiliated colleges and found many colleges don't attract even 10% of the sanctioned seats. These colleges have to be closed.
2. A large number of engineering graduates don't get proper jobs for want of industry-specific skills and abilities, and they have to take very low-paying jobs in micro and small companies.
3. The shortage of qualified and experienced engineering faculty grows at a fast rate.
4. The linkage between the colleges and the engineering industry is very low in Tamil Nadu. Only a few colleges offer co-operative/sandwich programs.
5. There is no assessment of industrial needs for engineers, their attributes, and attitudes.
6. There are very limited training opportunities for engineering faculty members in industry-specific design, prototype development, testing, manufacturing, and maintenance.
7. Most of the institutes can't take up consultancy work due to a severe shortage of resources and competent faculty members.
8. The gap between current engineering curricula and industrial practices is very large.
9. Many colleges don't prepare strategic plans.
10. Only a very few faculty members are involved in interdisciplinary research and publication.
11. Many colleges don't fund faculty development.
12. There is no effort on Institutional Development.
13. In 2030, all colleges will have to grant degrees without any affiliation to any state university.
14. There is no action plan for implementing the suggestions of the National Education Policy.
15. The state needs educational leaders with integrity, ethics, equity, humility, and an outstanding culture to plan for interdisciplinary programs.
16. Every reader looks for innovative solutions to overcome the problems faced by higher education institutions and engineering institutions in Tamil Nadu.