

ETHICS IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION: AN ENDEAVOR TOWARDS BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ALUMNI BOND

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ABSTRACT

Education forms the backbone of a nation and is one of the most important indicators of a country's growth and development. Higher education in India has seen a transition in the last decade where from a nobler venture it has acquired the status of a "big business". This has led to a compromise on certain major ideals which have always been at the core of educational institutions. Lately the institutions have realized the potential of being ethically and morally upright. This assessment led to the dawn of more ethical practices at higher education institutions for the benefit of all stakeholders. This paper seeks to explore if the alumni, who are the most critical stakeholders for an institution value the moral and ethical training that they receive during their student life. If the ethical foundation that they receive at the institution makes them ethically competent, also, will it bring them back to their institution whenever required? For the study, a survey was conducted to identify the relationship between ethical practices and training in higher education institutions and alumni willingness for a long term association with their alma mater.

The universe for the study comprises higher education institutions in and around Delhi NCR, India. The data has been collected through a self constructed questionnaire and techniques of correlation, t- test have been used through spss version 17.0 for data analysis. The key findings of the research show a positive correlation between faculty being instrumental in building an ethical institution and potential of inculcating moral behavior in students by institutions practicing ethics. ($p < .01$, $r = .254$). There is a positive correlation between competency to take ethical decisions in testing times and Beliefs and values inculcated by the institution lay basis for ethical decision making ($p < .01$, $r = .495$), a positive correlation between feeling a sense of pride towards the institution for inculcating ethical behavior and willingness to participate in the institutions activities even after passing out ($p < .01$, $r = .304$) and a strong positive correlation between feeling a sense of pride towards the institution for inculcating ethical behavior and willingness to come back to the institution to give professional inputs ($p < .01$, $r = .588$).

KEYWORDS: Higher Education, Alumni, Ethics, India