UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research & Social Responsibility in Higher Education

Seminar on Social Responsibility of Higher Educational Institutions
Delhi Technological University, New Delhi
July 21, 2016
Preparing Socially Responsible Engineers

Context:

• Quantity is high, quality is poor
• Theory is strong, practice is weak
• Mugging is popular, creativity is irrelevant
Preparing Socially Responsible Engineers

Social Responsibility: Whose?

- Professional engineers
- Profession of engineering
- Institutions of training engineers
- Regulators of engineering education
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Global Trends:

• Foundation for Innovations-STEM-IDRC
• Science Shops in Europe over thirty years
• EU Horizon 2020—Responsible Research & Innovation
• Science with and for society
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What is social responsibility in India?

• NSS?—planting trees, cleaning garbage
• Adopting slums, villages?—Unnat Bharat Abhiyan
• Extension—one-way knowledge transfer
• Or something else?
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Integrating Social Responsibility in Higher Education:

• Mainstream in core mission, not ghettoise in one department
• Teaching/learning system: curriculum of local ‘technologies’
• Pedagogy: Learning in partnership with communities
• Research: Knowledge in everyday life
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Normative Anchors of Social Responsibility:

- Integrity and ethics of professionals
- Ethical global citizenship
- Respectful towards other knowledge
- Open to accountability of science