

ANALYZING THE NEXUS: ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY LINKAGES AND STAKEHOLDER OUTCOMES IN NASHIK PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES

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ABSTRACT

In the evolving landscape of higher education and global competitiveness, effective Institute-Industry Linkages (IIL) have emerged as a critical factor in enhancing employability, fostering innovation, and improving academic quality. This study investigates the impact of IIL on key stakeholders—students, faculty, institutions, and industry representatives—in professional colleges across Nashik District, India. Using a quantitative research design, data was collected from a stratified sample of 873 respondents, including faculty, students, and HR managers across engineering, management, pharmacy, and architecture institutes. The study applies descriptive statistics to summarize stakeholder responses and regression analysis to examine the relationship between Institute-Industry Linkages and outcomes such as research output, employability, and institutional quality. via Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to evaluate the relationship between IIL practices (such as internships, guest lectures, and IP projects) and outcomes like research output, student placement, and institutional quality. The findings indicate a significant positive relationship between strong IIL and improvements in faculty research, student employability, and institutional performance. However, notable gaps remain in sustained industry participation, curriculum relevance, and intellectual property collaboration. This paper recommends a systemic reorientation through regulatory support (AICTE/UGC mandates), incentivized collaboration models, and sustained skill alignment to maximize the benefits of IIL for all stakeholders.

KEYWORDS: *Industry-Academia Linkages, Employability, Innovation, Stakeholder Analysis, Higher Education, Nashik, India*

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