In pursuit of its mandate, the DAE has established research and development centres as well as grant-in-aid institutions, and has taken in its fold several existing institutions as its grant-in-aid institutions. Together all institutions under the umbrella of the DAE present a formidable group in terms of expertise in science and engineering and research infrastructure.

All research institutions under the umbrella of the DAE had been pursuing academic programmes with affiliation from universities located nearby. These programmes were either research based degree programmes (Ph.D. and M.Sc. by research) or class room based course work programmes in certain specialized areas (Diploma in Radiological Physics (DipRP), and Diploma in Medical Radio Isotope Techniques (DMRIT)) or those having a combination of class room courses and research (M.D., M.Ch. and D.M.). Student intake for these programmes was less than the full potential of the institutions and intensity of academic exchanges between R&D centres and grant-in-aid institutions had scope for improvement.

For developing a well trained manpower to fulfill its mandate, DAE founded the “Training School” at Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET) in 1957. There was no opportunity available anywhere in the country to impart sufficiently broad-based training in the field of nuclear science and engineering. The Training School provided just the needed avenue both for training as well as for recruitment. With the renaming of AEET as BARC the Training School has come to be known as BARC Training School and the increased demand for manpower has prompted setting up training schools at other units of the DAE.

The Training Schools offer a well designed compact, one year intensive programme for fresh engineers and scientists giving them a sound knowledge base in nuclear science and technology. For historical reasons, the name “Training School” continues, however, given the depth and range of its operation of its programmes, it functions as a Graduate School.

The DAE has also made significant contributions to the development of research activity in the universities in the country. Through the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS), it has strengthened the research programmes in the universities by funding well defined projects. BRNS has the distinction of being the first agency in the country for funding extra-mural research. In the past one decade, funding through BRNS has been significantly stepped up.