

**Newspaper Clips**  
**January 11, 2011**

Times of India ND 12/01/2011 p-17

# ‘MCI jumped the gun on common medical test’

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

**New Delhi:** Breaking his silence on the controversy over the common entrance test (CET) for graduate and post-graduate medical courses, health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said Medical Council of India had jumped the gun without taking into consideration apprehensions expressed by states.

Calling the apprehensions against CET “fair and genuine,” Azad told TOI in an exclusive interview on Tuesday, “The ministry totally supported CET. But states had genuine concerns again at CET which have to be addressed before a clearance is given. MCI should have looked at the bigger picture and addressed all concerns before issuing the notifica-



States have genuine concerns against CET, which have to be addressed before a clearance is given. MCI should have addressed all concerns before issuing the notification

Ghulam Nabi Azad | HEALTH MINISTER

tion. The ministry therefore asked MCI to withdraw it which they have done.”

According to Azad, most private colleges are spread across southwestern India. “Some governments had reservations that CET would tamper with state reservations. Some states thought CET would benefit students from urban areas and those from English medium schools. States too were keen to support the idea of CET if

their apprehensions were addressed. I had told MCI to find a solution to these apprehensions and take state governments on board before any decision. But they jumped the gun,” Azad, who will discuss the contentious issue with state health ministers on Thursday in Hyderabad, added.

MCI said it issued the notification approving CET after getting a go-ahead from the Supreme Court.

# 8 engrs score 100 percentile in CAT '10

## 19 Candidates Get 99.99; IIMs To Announce Results Of 1.86L Aspirants Today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** The 100 percentile scorers in the CAT 2010 will be an all-male engineers' club. They've topped the second edition of online CAT which decides admission to 11 IIMs and over 150 B-schools this year. The test scores will be released on Wednesday.

While Maharashtra has three toppers — two from Mumbai and one from Pune — the rest are from Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata and Indore. Breaking the myth that women rarely top CAT, two women from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have scored 99.9 percentile. In all, 19 candidates have scored 99.99 percentile in the test, three candidates each from Tamil Nadu,



WHO WILL BELL THE CAT?

Maharashtra and Gujarat getting the second-best score. There are two candidates from Karnataka with 99.9 percentile. The identity of all toppers has been kept confidential.

IIMs, which jointly conduct CAT, will announce the results on Wednesday. Candidates can

download their score cards from the CAT website, [www.catiim.in](http://www.catiim.in). Over 1.86 lakh candidates appeared for CAT 2010 held between October 27 and November 24, across 20 testing days. The CAT score is one of the inputs used by IIMs in admitting students to its

flagship two-year post-graduate programme.

### New IIMs join hands

The four new IIMs at Ranchi, Rohtak, Raipur and Trichy have a surprise in store for those who belled the CAT this year. They are working on what could be the next big thing among IIMs. The newly minted institutions are mulling a plan to have their own admission process and even hold joint interviews and group discussions to cherry-pick candidates for this academic year. Currently, all IIMs individually send out call letters for interviews and GDs.

This coming together will greatly ease the stress of having to hop from one interview to another. "We don't want left-

over candidates from the older IIMs. IIM-Trichy will have its own identity and admission process. The directors of all new IIMs will meet soon to decide on holding joint interviews and using those scores for admissions," IIM-Trichy director Prafulla Agnihotri told TOI. "There is great synergy when the IIMs come together. We have been talking about it (holding joint interviews and GD); all we need to do now is to sit down and chalk it out," P Rameshan, director, IIM Rohtak told TOI.

Even though the idea of joint interviews and GDs is not entirely new, the older IIMs, especially at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta, have rejected it for the sake of autonomy.

# Relief for 44 'deemed unfit' univs?

## On SC Insistence, Govt To Examine Afresh Steps To Build Infrastructure

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Forty-four universities damned by the Tandon Committee and recommended for stripping of 'deemed' status will now get an opportunity to stay afloat by declaring steps taken by them to put infrastructure in place as needed under rules to deserve the prestigious tag.

Attorney general G E Vahanvati told a Bench comprising Justices Dalveer Bhandari and Deepak Verma about the decision after consulting HRD minister Kapil Sibal on a two-hour notice from the court.

After the SC turned the heat on deemed universities found woefully lacking in infrastructure, the government had appointed an expert body headed by P N Tandon which evaluated them and put 44 in the category to be



Students of a TN varsity went on the rampage early last year after govt decided to withdraw deemed status for the institute

stripped of their deemed status while giving 44 others three years to match the infrastructure required for keeping intact their status as

deemed universities.

However, the Bench on Tuesday insisted on giving the 44 universities another chance to explain the steps

they had taken to improve facilities for higher education. Only 38 deemed universities had passed muster during scrutiny by the Tandon committee.

Hearing a PIL filed by advocate Viplav Sharma, the Bench felt there was scope of elevating some universities from the worst category to a rather better category to save them the ignominy of de-recognition. "Perhaps on a re-evaluation, some of the universities can be elevated to Category Two (with minor deficiencies)," the Bench said.

"Some universities have enjoyed deemed status for more than 20-25 years. Just because they have added two courses, they are being de-recognised. Either you give them time to upgrade their infrastructure or permit them to continue by cancelling these courses, but

in the garb of these two-three courses, denuding them of their deemed status will not be fair."

The AG, after consulting the HRD minister, informed the court that the Bench's proposal for giving one more chance to the worst category universities was acceptable to the government.

The court gave the Centre two weeks to issue notices to the 44 worst category universities and another two weeks for them to respond to it.

However, the Bench clarified, "These institutions will be entitled not only to give reply but make a representation on status of deficiencies. Thereafter, each university will be separately heard. Any university still in the worst category will be heard before any action is initiated by the Centre." The case will be heard on May 3.



## UNBEATEN TRACK

Sridhar Vembu and Shailesh Kumar,  
Founders, Zoho Corp

# Zoho brothers on cloud 9

Ishan Srivastava | TNN

**I**t was October, 1995. Sridhar Vembu had completed his PhD at Princeton University, US, a year ago and was involved in wireless research at Qualcomm in San Diego. His younger brother Kumar was also a software engineer at Qualcomm, a promising startup at the time. The youngest of the three brothers, Sekar, had just arrived in the US for a PhD at Rochester University in New York. It was then that Kumar suddenly decided to quit his job and head back to India to create a company.

Sekar also quit his PhD and accompanied his brother back to India to help. "We used to have these startup discussions at the dinner table and one morning Kumar just took the decision to move to India," says Sridhar. "He was also feeling very homesick. And they had no clear idea what they were going to do."

The Vembu brothers had little idea then, but in these moves lay the beginnings of Zoho Corp, which today employs close to 1,300 people with offices in Chennai, US, Europe, Japan and China, and the main development centre in Chennai. Its online suite of productivity and collaboration tools called Zoho.com competes with Microsoft's and Google's offerings in the space, including word processor, spreadsheet, presentation, as also customer relationship management (CRM) tools, where it competes with Salesforce.com. The suite has over 3 million users around the world. Zoho also has a tool for IT administrators to man-



Sridhar Vembu



Shailesh Kumar

**Sridhar Vembu and Shailesh Kumar saw several ups and downs in their entrepreneurial journey. Their latest venture, Zoho, competes with Google and Microsoft and has 3 million users around the world.**

age networks, called ManageEngine. This has over 40,000 customers, including 60% of the Fortune 500 companies, and is the company's biggest revenue earner.

Kumar and Sekar set up their first office in their father's home in Chennai with two computers, and called it Vembu Systems. Sekar, a BTech from IIT Madras, got his IIT friend Shailesh Kumar to join the startup. In the US, Sridhar put all his belongings in a car and drove to Silicon Valley to drum up business for the startup.

"After 3-4 months, I had

nothing to show for my sales effort and I ran out of money," says Sridhar.

But he quickly recovered from that to set up a network management product company that did very well till the tech bubble burst in 2001. Later, Sridhar, together with Shailesh, reinvented that business, which became Zoho.

"We have been really good at riding technology waves," says Shailesh. "First was the Java wave and then we saw cloud computing coming. Combining that with our new strategy of getting close to end users, we

ended up with Zoho." The Zoho Office suite was launched in 2006, at a time when cloud computing was barely heard of. Cloud computing refers to the access of software applications over the internet, instead of from your PC's hard disk.

Sridhar and Shailesh also started a unique initiative called Zoho University that takes in 12th standard and polytechnic students, trains them for 18 months in English, mathematics and computer science, and depending on performance, absorbs them into the company. "It gives an opportunity to students living in interior parts of India who otherwise wouldn't have been able to pursue such education. It is also good for us as they are more dedicated and loyal," says Shailesh. 120 students have so far passed out of it and comprise about 10% of Zoho's workforce today. The goal is to take it to 30-40%.

The strategy is working well. Zoho's clients include such names as Coca-Cola, Nortel, Motorola, Deutsche Bank and Cisco. But the focus is on smaller enterprises for whom cloud offerings are cheaper, since it obviates investment in hardware, software licenses and IT infrastructure management.

Zoho may not have the marketing budget of a Google, but it's hoping its products will continue speaking for themselves.

"We have started moving some of the ManageEngine products to the cloud and are bringing in regular improvements in all our services. We intend to make the most of the cloud," says Shailesh.

**Cloud computing services, like Zoho's, can obviate the need for small enterprises to invest in IT infrastructure. Smart startups are seeing significant gains from it:**

**Phanindra Sama's** popular online bus ticketing service redBus migrated to the cloud infrastructure of Amazon Web Services some time ago. The move has given redBus an overall cost benefit of 30-40% and provided measurable improvements in the bottomline. redBus is also able to reduce or increase the IT infrastructure required in real time.



**Sumeet Vaid's** Delhi-based startup Freedom Financial Partners built a cloud application based on Salesforce.com's platform to help with his firm's personal financial management services business. Now, about 70% of the firm's work, right from lead generation, happens on this app. Vaid says it's so good and so cost effective that he's become a big evangelist for the cloud.



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# Lancet says sorry for 'Delhi bug'

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

**New Delhi:** Naming the drug resistant superbug New Delhi Metallo Beta Lactamase-I (NDM-1) after India's capital city was a "big mistake", Dr Richard Horton, editor of prestigious British medical journal "The Lancet" said on Tuesday.

Dr Horton told TOI "it was an error of judgment" on their part to allow the article to get published with the name NDM-1 as "we didn't think of its implications for which I sincerely apologize." He said it "unnecessarily stigmatized a single country and city".

Dr Horton, however, strongly felt the science "was strong, sound and correct" and that the name "distracted people from the important science".

"I would welcome if researchers changed the name of the superbug but it is in the hands of those who named it in the first place," Dr Horton who is in India said.

The journal, he said, had learnt to be more careful with new inventions or conditions named after a country or city after this experience. **P 11**

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# Psychologists say it's stress taking toll

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The death of a restaurant manager at Khan Market in a road rage incident has once again brought to fore issues of increasing violence and decreasing tolerance in cities. Psychologists say high level of stress and personal conflicts — family related or over professional matters — often affect people's behaviour on roads and make them brawl on frivolous issues. They say stringent laws are needed to induce fear among people against committing such act.

Said Dr Jitender Nagpal,



consultant psychiatrist at VIMHANS, "Roads are becoming a forum for neurotic catharsis. When on road, people often tend to think about frustrations of home or of the office. The slightest of provo-

cation in such circumstances leads to momentarily loss of sanity. People fall prey to reactive anger and later regret it."

According to the experts, even young executives and educated people are getting involved in such incidents. "It is worrisome. Earlier, we would see gangsters or poverty-stricken people trying to vent their anger and frustration over others. But with the change in social equation and lack of family communication, people from good family backgrounds are also involved. On many occasions, youngsters with powerful con-

nections commit these crimes with a sense of belief that they can easily escape. In some cases, road rage is result of accused trying to assert their identity," said Nagpal.

Dr Nimesh Desai, director of Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, said anger by itself may not be avoidable but one should know the limits.

"There should be stringent laws against traffic violations. We need enforcement and the guilty should be booked so that people committing road rage incidents can't get away," said Dr Desai.

Hindustan Times ND 12/01/2011

p-4 (city)

# Nesting place for tech-birds

Our professors ensure open communication with them, says an Indian studying in Germany

Vikas Shabadi is pursuing a fast-track PhD programme at the Institute of Materials Science, Technische Universität Darmstadt (TUD), Germany. A BTech from the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, he talks about his experience so far in Germany

Germany is a great destination for engineering sciences and technological studies. The Federal Government of Germany and the European Union are investing increasingly huge amounts of capital into technology-based research and product development.

The excellence centres at the Universities of Technology are all world class with state-of-the-art research facilities for all branches of study, including technology, social sciences, humanities, literature, health and life sciences. The teachers are indeed among the world's best in their respective fields. With all this on offer and my personal motivation to pursue technology-based research, choosing Germany was indeed a straight-forward decision.

Since 2008, I have been a visiting student at the TU Darmstadt working as a part of a research group here. In 2009, I was awarded the DAAD WISE Fellowship which supported me to continue my research during the summer. These short periods of study in Germany have also been a great source of exposure to German universities, German culture and lifestyle. And this has also been one of the main reasons for me to

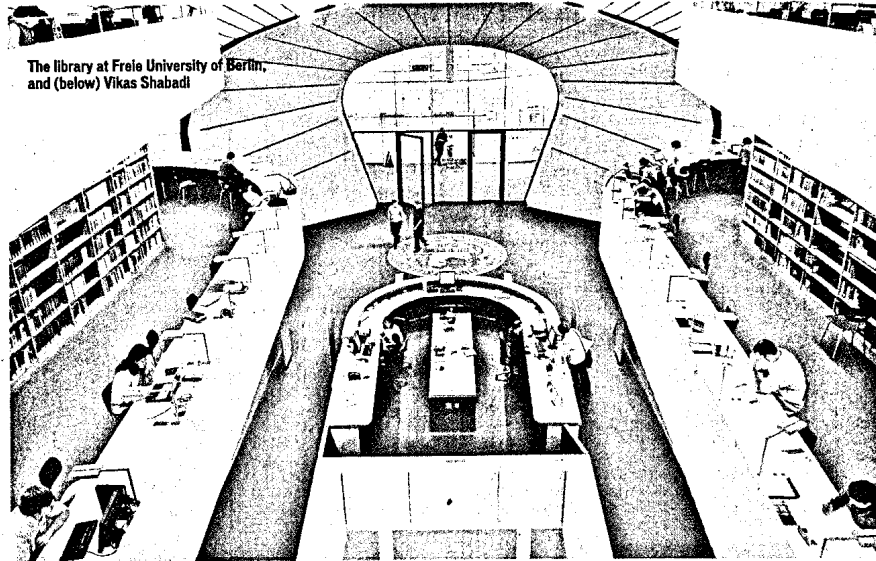
return to this country to continue my education. It was also a part of my personal strategy to stay close to India, with a time difference of just 3.5 hours.

In Germany, your classmates are from different parts of the world like USA, Australia, Spain, China and Russia. Classes are highly discussion oriented. And every theoretical lesson is equally followed up with practical testing. Especially interesting is the intercultural training about cultural and social habits of different parts of the world.

My study experience is very good and with our professors, no question remains unanswered. Students can communicate with the professors at a very personal level. If a professor agrees with the views of the students he/she can fine-tune that particular course teaching system according to the students' needs. The education system is very flexible.

Communication channels and method of approach with the universities and their long-established systems. In my case, it is very good and transparent. One thing I like is the respect that the faculty gives to students here. The teachers speak to students with a lot of personal concern and regard.

When it comes to the language, as long as you are a part of an international study programme, it is not mandatory to know German, since classroom teaching is usually in English. Also in research departments these days, there is a huge mix of students from all around the globe. Most administrative



The library at Freie University of Berlin, and (below) Vikas Shabadi

processes are standardised. However, it is always recommended for students to pursue language courses during the study periods in Germany to be able to integrate into social life. Once you register as a student at a German uni-

versity, in most cases you are offered a professional and free language course through a semester parallel to your core study.

What about everyday life? Once you have lived in India, then coping with life here is

relatively easy. Your days usually go quite smoothly. The public transport throughout the country is excellent. So, you don't waste much time in commuting. Sometimes weekdays could be quite hectic and it could sometimes get tough

to balance your time between academics and chores like cooking and cleaning. But you can make up for this during the weekends.

Weekends in Germany are a great opportunity to enjoy the culture and relax. Most weekends usually have some vibrant fests in the city centres with music, food and wine. Even shopping at the weekend markets or shopping centres in the countryside is fun.

Being a university student in Germany gives you a lot of perks. You usually get a semester card with which you can freely travel with all modes of transport throughout your Federal state. Universities have very good facilities for sports and games. In the summers, we often have barbecue parties at universities which are attended by the faculty as well. These are good icebreak-

ing sessions. Sometimes you also have day-trips for hiking or also extended student holidays where the faculty and students go out for leisure. Not to forget that there are a lot of campus parties which are great to relax and interact with friends without hitting your pocket. Besides, the life at a "studenten-wohnheim" (student dormitories) is a lot of fun.

As regards money, the cost of living varies from one place to another - slightly more expensive in bigger cities like Berlin, Hamburg or Frankfurt. A student may require anywhere between 500 to 700 euros a month. In terms of food, interestingly I have never felt far away from India. If you wish to cook at home, you can mostly find everything you need to cook typical 'Indian khana'. There are also many Indian stores around where you can buy things like spices, wheat flour, pickles and everything else you need. At restaurants, the vegetarians might have fewer things to tuck into but the options definitely exist, although eating out too often can be heavy on the pocket.

What about career prospects? If you perform well at the university and back up your application with appealing projects, you usually stand a great chance of finding a job. A lot of newspaper articles indicate that Germany needs a lot of qualified engineers and professionals. To find a job, knowing German language is preferred as it can greatly increase your chances of employment. In special cases, multi-national organisations ignore applicants' German language skills at the time of employment, but you are surely expected to pick up Deutsch soon to be able to integrate well in the environment, especially if your job involves communication with local people.

As told to Vimal Chander Joshi



Times of India ND

12/01/2011

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# 'India trains only 500 designers, requires 10,000'

*There is an urgent demand for nearly 10,000 designers across 250 sectors. No wonder the government has given approval to four new National Institutes of Design in the country and the existing one at Ahmedabad also has plans to increase its intake by over four times this year. On the occasion of its golden jubilee, NID Ahmedabad director Pradyumna Vyas speaks to Neha Pushkarna about the increasing role and effect of design in industry*



## What are the opportunities for young designers in the industry?

Design is what makes a technology contextual and usable. There are nearly 250 sectors — from automobile to hospital equipment — which are looking for designers in the country. These sectors have created a demand for 10,000 designers but we produce only around 500 designers across India every year. There is a big gap at present.

## So what is being done to fill this void?

A. Four new NIDs are coming up in the country, including one at Jorhat in Assam. The idea of setting up a design institute there is to put traditional knowledge of locals to

Design is what makes technology contextual & usable. There are nearly 250 sectors which are looking for designers in the country

Pradyumna Vyas | NID DIRECTOR

though we have 100 seats in undergraduate courses and around 250 in the post-graduate disciplines. In fact, we get a lot of people in the PG courses who are passionate about design.

## What kind of placements do UG and PG students get after the course?

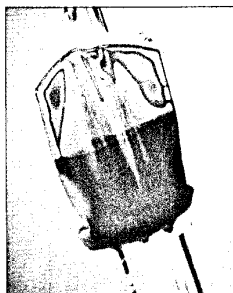
A. This year we had nearly

Indian Express ND 12/01/2011 p-15

## HEALTH

SOFT HYDROGEL PARTICLES HAVE SIZE AND FLEXIBILITY OF RBCs, COULD LEAD TO UNLIMITED MAN-MADE BLOOD

Scientists inch closer to artificial blood, mimic RBCs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 11

**I**N A possible breakthrough in developing artificial blood, scientists have created jelly-like synthetic particles which they claim mimic some of the key properties of red blood cells.

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who made the discovery believe this could also lead to more effective treatments for life-threatening medical conditions such as cancer.

Detailing their study in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the team reported that they used a technology known as PRINT

(Particle Replication in Non-wetting Templates) to produce very soft hydrogel particles that mimic the size, shape and flexibility of red blood cells, allowing the particles to circulate in the body for extended periods of time.

The scientists are yet to test the particles' ability to perform functions such as transporting oxygen or carrying anti-cancer drugs. But early experiments indicate they have exciting medical potential. One possible application is unlimited supplies of man-made blood.

Over their 120-day lifespan, real cells gradually become stiffer and eventually are filtered out of circulation when they can no longer deform enough to pass

through pores in the spleen.

To date, attempts to create effective red blood cell mimics have been limited because the particles tend to be quickly filtered out of circulation due to their inflexibility. Beyond moving closer to producing fully synthetic blood, the findings could affect approaches to treating cancer: Cancer cells are softer than healthy cells, enabling them to lodge in different places in the body, leading to the disease's spread.

Particles loaded with cancer-fighting medicines that can remain in circulation longer may open the door to more aggressive treatment approaches.

"Creating particles for extended circu-

lation in the bloodstream has been a significant challenge in the development of drug delivery systems from the beginning," said Joseph DeSimone, co-author of the study.

"Although we will have to consider particle deformability along with other parameters when we study the behaviour of particles in the human body, we believe this study represents a real game changer for the future of anomedicine."

Professor Chad Mirkin, from Northwestern University in Chicago and one of US President Barack Obama's science advisers, said the ability to mimic the natural processes of a body for medicinal purposes has been a long-standing but elusive goal for researchers.

before but thanks to media and career counsellors, the young generation is realizing the importance of design education. We get around 7,000 applications every year

driving licence and the national identity card. NID has also prepared the colour scheme for Mumbai local trains. We have also worked on several defence projects.

Hindu ND 12/01/2011

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# Fate of IISER students hangs in the balance

Law empowering the institutes to grant degrees yet to be made

Aarti Dhar

**NEW DELHI:** The fate of students of the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) – designated as institutes of national importance – hangs in the balance in the absence of a law that would empower them to grant degrees.

Having failed to bring in a law to govern the IISERs for five years, the Human Resource Development Ministry has put the students in a fix, particularly those who pass out from the IISERs at Kolkata and Pune this May.

The IISER Kolkata has 38 students who would complete their five-year integrated undergraduate and postgraduate programme, while 44 will complete their course from the Pune campus. Many of the students enrolled here had left their engineering courses

• **Amendment Bill could not be passed as Parliament did not function in winter session**

• **Five IISERs were aimed at promoting research in basic science and were put on par with IITs**

in other institutes.

The Ministry hurriedly moved an amendment to the National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007 in April last to bring the IISERs under its purview. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD presented its report to Parliament on November 25 last year, but since the entire winter session of Parliament was washed out in the wake of 2G spectrum allocation scam issue, the amendment Bill could not be passed.

If Parliament does not function in the budget session also and the government is unable to pass the amendment Bill,

the students will not get any degree – at least for now. Also, the government cannot bring in an ordinance at this stage since the Bill is under consideration of the House. It may not be “unconstitutional” but could amount to breach of privilege of the House.

Directors of some of these institutes told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity that the HRD Ministry told them that they could confer degrees through an executive order. However, the Ministry has no power to issue an executive order to grant degrees, and neither have the IISERs applied for the deemed university sta-

tus so far. Even if they do so now, the process may take several months.

Announced in 2005, the five IISERs were aimed at promoting research in basic science and were put on par with the Indian Institutes of Technology. The IISERs at Kolkata and Pune started functioning in 2006 while those at Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram came up subsequently. The admission to these institutes is done through qualifying the IIT-JEE or Kishore Vaigyanic Protsahan Yojana or the applicant has to be among the top one per cent of students in Class XII examination of CBSE or State Boards.

A similar situation had arisen in the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing at Jabalpur but it has since been granted a deemed university status and can confer degrees.



Economic Times ND 12/01/2011 P12

# Five reasons to scrap this right

The Right to Education Act may be a well-meaning step, but it suffers from a number of serious flaws that will poison the ecosystem by sabotaging other ways to get India educated, says **Manish Sabharwal**

**I**T IS said that one of most damaging virtues of George W Bush was his steadiness: he believed the same thing on Wednesday that he believed on Monday — no matter what happened on Tuesday. Unfortunately, the well-meaning or self-interested people — these are the only two kinds pushing for swifter implementation of the Right to Education Act (RTE) — seem to share this dangerous steadiness despite new information. As state governments start codifying the details or plumbing of RTE, I'd like to make the case that the RTE must be scrapped or substantially modified before it causes permanent damage because of five reasons: capacity, cost, competition, corruption and confusion. As a company at the exit gate of the education system — we have hired somebody every five minutes for five years but only 5% of the kids who came to us for a job — we see and suffer the tragic consequences of India's education emergency. True impact in public policy — unlike election campaigns — does not lie in poetry but in plumbing. So let's look at the plumbing of RTE through its consequences:

**Lower capacity:** RTE timetables the extinction of 25% of India's 15 lakh schools that are 'unrecognised'. These mostly low-cost schools have been an entrepreneurial response to parental choice — the antibiotic reaction to dysfunctional government schools chronicled in *The Beautiful Tree* by James Tooley. Our demographic dividend — 10 lakh people will join the labour force every month for the next 20 years — would have been a bigger nightmare if these private schools had not substituted for the missing state in the last 20 years. And while it is a lie that all these schools deliver quality, it is true that a bad school is better than no school. To paraphrase a beheaded French queen, this provision of RTE effectively says "if you can't have cake, don't eat bread".

**Higher cost:** RTE essentially mandates a huge rise in school fees. It micro-specifies salaries, qualifications and infras-



ANIMISHA

structure. Delhi schools that don't pay a minimum of ₹23,000 per month to teachers will not receive recognition and specifies that primary teachers must have a two-year education diploma; this means that 33% of teachers have to be fired. RTE specifies that every school must have a playground; Delhi specifies 900 sq yards but I know a state that is considering 1,500 sq yards. The 25% children from disadvantaged groups will require massive cross-subsidisation because state governments propose to reimburse way below cost, e.g. Karnataka caps it at ₹7,000 per student per year. All this micromanaging of schools — to the delight of teachers and the real estate mafia — hits middle class parents with higher prices for essentially the same quality product.

**Lower competition:** A big driver of higher quality and lower costs in higher education has been competition. The 50% vacant seats of 1 lakh capacity UP Technical University are forcing engineering colleges to offer free hostels, English training, only MTech faculty, and much else. About 15,000 of the 45,000 Kar-

nataka MBA seats are vacant; these colleges are reducing fees, guaranteeing internships and embedding soft skills in their curriculum.

RTE makes it impossible for education entrepreneurs to compete on price since many states propose to regulate fees and uncertainty has paused the Cambrian explosion of energy in school entrepreneurship. This means lower capacity and lower competition. And that means schools don't have clients, but hostages.

**HIGHER corruption:** RTE mandates schools to take 25% students from 'poor' backgrounds. Some states are going overboard — Karnataka requires schools to conduct household surveys to create and maintain records of all children in a 1-3 km area from birth till 14 years of age to identify the poor. But who is poor? If the Indian government can't decide whether 24% or 42% of India is poor, how will a BEO (block education officer)? In reality, he or she won't; they will auction their certification of poor to the highest bidder. What constitutes appropriate efforts to bring

back dropouts? How will teacher student-ratios be calculated? The BEO, long a thorn in the flesh, now has powers to be a dagger in the heart. RTE provides the BEO's the ability to convert every school into a personal ATM. Not all, but most will.

**More confusion:** Does changed evaluation mean no exams? What does immunity for government bureaucrats mean? Is incompetence good faith? How will mid-day meals be handled for the 25% in private schools? Where will these 25% go after Grade VIII? Will the 75% parent-populated government school management committees have the power to hire and fire teachers?

RTE prohibits schools from admission procedures and forces them to select students on a random basis within a policy that "includes criteria for the categorisation of applicants in terms of the objectives of the school on a rational, reasonable and just basis". By definition, don't random, rational, reasonable and just mean different things to different people? Why take away the right to detain or expel till Class VIII? Can we be equal and excellent?

RTE does not pass the Hippocratic Oath of every doctor, 'above all, cause no harm', and has three birth defects. First the doctors in this case — civil servants — are unwilling to take the medicine they prescribe as they shamelessly and explicitly exempt the government schools they run (70% of all schools) and the walled gardens where their children study (Kendriya Vidyalas and the elite Sanskriti that is now going national) from RTE. Second RTE values hardware over software but what can easily be measured may not matter. Third as enrolment ratios cross 100% it fights yesterday's war of quantity and fails to focus on quality and learning outcomes. We don't need more cooks in the kitchen but a different recipe. RTE not only fails this test but poisons the ecosystem by sabotaging other ways to get India educated.

(The author is chairman, Teamlease Services)

# IIMs' student exchange programme grabs increasing eyeballs

SREERUPA MITRA  
Bangalore

THE student exchange programme at the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) is grabbing eyeballs with the number of management graduates and students opting for these programmes having almost doubled over last year.

The reason behind this significant jump has been doubly attributed to the keenness on global exposure as well as the swiftly-changing work scenario.

Global exposure is considered invaluable to any management graduate as even employers prefer students with some experience working in a cross-cultural environment, says Gurchetan Lakhmana, student exchange programme representative at IIM-Calcutta.

At IIM-C, the number of stu-

dents going to foreign universities for the three-month programme has shot up to 93 as compared to the 66 students sent last year. Similarly, the number of foreign students joining the campus has risen to 56 from 49 students in 2009-10 academic year.

"Exposure to a globalised world always works in the favour of the students and therefore with every passing year, we see a growing demand to participate in this programme. Students looking to bag jobs in foreign locations find this programme beneficial as along with the work experience they are also exposed to cross-cultural activities," explains Sanjay Kumar Singh, chairman, student exchange programme at IIM Lucknow.

The institute has sent 52 students this year as compared to 43 last year. The final year students take part in the exchange pro-



**CHANGING SCENARIO:** The reason has been doubly attributed to the keenness on global exposure as well as the swiftly changing work scenario

grammes which runs usually between September to December every year.

At IIM-Bangalore, the situation is no different. A total of 106

students were sent on exchange programmes as against 94 students in 2009-10. The number of incoming students also rose to 135 this year from 117 last year.

According to Sabarinathan G, associate professor and chairperson, office of international affairs, IIM Bangalore, there was a dip in the number of those applying for the course in 2009-10, probably reflecting the overall economic situation when the students made their choices in early 2009. The situation, he says, is now reverting to normal.

Interestingly, "the feedback from incoming exchange students indicates a very high level of interest to gain direct exposure to India and/or China during their MBA programme. Also a segment of students prefer shorter, alternative formats over regular full-term student exchange programme. This helps them to gain international exposure without having to miss a full term at their home institution," he pointed out.

France, Germany and the USA

see the highest flow of exchange students from/to IIM-B. Others opting for the exchange programme include students from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland.

IIMs across the board send about 300 students for this foreign exchange programme every year and are also looking to increase the number of seats in the coming years.

Debashish Chatterjee, director of IIM-Kozhikode said that the institute's count of students going on the exchange programmes have doubled. "These three months experience allows a student to acquire business knowledge in a different context. "We have sent 25 students last December and we expect this number to cross 50 in the coming academic year," he points out.

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# HOT SHOTS OF 2011

Recession has changed the job market over the last two years. With fear in mind, future aspirants have many doubts about the safest job route they should take now. NIDHI MITTAL tells you about the six safest and most rewarding sectors in India this year

Recession hit the world hard and many were left jobless. Though India didn't feel the tremors as much as others, it has raised doubts in the minds of students, who are on the brink of starting a career, as to what field they should head towards. Some of the jobs which were earlier considered well-paying and secure may not even exist today. According to market experts, five sectors of the economy — healthcare, business and finance, information technology, education and media/communication, will continue to grow, despite all the changes that have come. However, career counselors insist that the career options do not rise or fall in popularity yearly. "A trend happens over the years. The prospects from a career field grow as an economy develops and certain sectors start booming. Since the world was marred by recession over last two years, career choices have undergone some changes, but in India the already popular fields still remain the favourites," says career counselor Pervin Malhotra.

For all those who want to know the best careers of 2011, below is a list of a few jobs that are claimed to be the safest options:

## EDUCATION

Teaching jobs, whether in school or college, remain the best careers for this year. Global meltdown or unprecedented boom in economy, quality teachers will always be in demand. "It's such a big field with numerous options to explore that it will never go out of career fashion. People will always continue to study and spend on academics," says Malhotra. The sought after Indian workforce is not only attracting a prospective employers but also the education system behind it is driving a prolific education market.

With 367 universities and 18,000 colleges with half-a-million teachers and about 11 million students on the rolls, India could reap huge returns off its demographic dividends aka its youth. Over the last few years, there are about 1,500 management colleges, close to about 3,500 engineering colleges and about 1,200 medical colleges. In



terms of private schools mushrooming day in and day out and a majority of the new institutions being private, the privately-managed part of it would not be anything less than 20 to 25 thousand crores.

Presently the educational industry is \$50 billion strong and showed an increase of 12 per cent in 2010 and by 2012 it is expected to touch \$80 billion. Universities and colleges in India have grown at a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of over five per cent and six per cent respectively, since independence. In recent months, the education segment has also seen the rising interest of private equity players.

India-focused PE firm Gaja Capital Partners invested \$8.25 million in Career Launchers. Similarly, SAIF Partners invested \$10 million in the English training academy Veta and ICA Infotech. Some of the other listed companies in the education segment are Edupoint Solutions which posted a return of 374 per cent. Everonn Systems which got listed in August 2007, gave a return of 130 per cent in just five months. Not far behind are the older houses such as Aptech and NIIT, which fetched returns of 162 per cent and 124 per cent last year.

## HEALTHCARE

This is another

sector that will continue to be in demand with the demand for personnel increasing year after year. The Indian healthcare sector is expected to become a \$280 billion industry by 2020 with spending on health estimated to grow 14 per cent annually. Healthcare has emerged as one of the most progressive and largest service sectors with an expected GDP spend of eight per cent by 2012 from 5.5 per cent in 2009. It is believed to be the next big thing after IT.

As per a study by an industry body and Ernst & Young, India would require another 1.75 million beds by the end of 2025. The corporate India is, therefore, leveraging on this business potential and various health care brands have started aggressive expansion in the country. Some of the companies that plan to increase their footprint include: Anil Ambani's Reliance Health, the Hinduja, Sahara Group, Emami, Apollo Tyres and the Panacea Group in turn increasing the number of job opportunities in this sector. "There is no alternative to healthcare facilities. If a person has a kidney situation, he will have to be on dialysis," points out Malhotra who is popularly known as career queen for the kind of right advice she has been giving over the years.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT jobs such as software developers, software testers, technical writers of definitely qualify for high salary careers in 2011. Despite the recession, there

has been a continued surge in the demand for IT professionals. According to a research report published by NASSCOM, the IT-BPO industry is estimated to aggregate revenues of \$73.1 billion in 2010, with the IT software and services industry accounting for \$63.7 billion of revenues. Software and services exports (including BPO) is expected to account for over 99 per cent of total exports, employing around 1.8 million employees.

IT services are expected to grow by 2.4 per cent in 2010, and 4.2 per cent in 2011 as companies coming out of recession harness the need for IT to create competitive advantage. NASSCOM said that the domestic IT-BPO is expected to grow by 13-17 per cent during 2011. Growth drivers include a thrust on platform BPO, Analytics, Finance & Accounting, Remote Infrastructure Management, ADM, and Cloud Services. Career counselors say the value-added services in the IT sector will keep increasing throwing more jobs in the market.

## PHARMACEUTICAL

Accounting for two percent of the world's pharmaceutical market, the Indian pharmaceutical sector has an estimated market value of about \$3 billion. It's at fourth rank in terms of total pharmaceutical production and 13th in terms of value. It is growing at an average rate of 7.2 per cent and is expected to grow to \$12 billion by 2010. Over the last two years the pharmaceutical market value has increased to about \$355 million because of the launch of new products. According to an estimate, 3,900 new generic products have been launched

in the past two years. These have been, by and large, launched by big brands in the pharma sector. And in the year 2005 Indian pharmaceutical companies captured around 70 per cent of the domestic market.

The sprawling numbers speak volumes about how safe a career option this sector is, no matter how bad the times are. "It's a booming sector as drugs are always in use and with newer diseases coming to the fore now and then, there are always newer products being developed," says Malhotra.

## BUSINESS AND FINANCE

The demand for professionals who manage company's accounts and yearly income statements has increased, thanks to cash crunch during recession. There is a lot of scope of growth in this sector in terms of employment. Financial analysts and financial planners who advise a business on taking the right decisions so that profits can be made, are in great demand too.

Experienced financial planners can expect to make around \$100,000 per year in the coming months. Other business jobs such as sales manager, human resources manager, market research professionals are not only considered best careers for 2011, but they are also predicted to be hot careers for the next

10 years.

## TRAVEL AND TOURISM

One sector that refuses to give way to economic meltdown and cash crunch is the travel and tourism industry. The tourism industry in India is substantial and vibrant, and the country is fast becoming a major global destination. India's travel and tourism industry is one of them most profitable industries in the country and also credited with contributing a substantial amount of foreign exchange.

Thanks in part to its booming IT and outsourcing industry a growing number of business trips are made by foreigners to India, who often add a weekend break or longer holiday to their trip. Foreign tourists spend more in India than almost any other country worldwide. Tourist arrivals were projected to increase by over 22 per cent per year through till 2010, with a 33 per cent increase in foreign exchange earnings recorded in 2004.

The courses in this sector include Bachelor in Airlines, Tourism & Hospitality Management, Bachelor of Tourism Administration, Bachelor of Tourism Studies, BTM (Hons), PG diploma course in Tourism Studies, PG Diploma in Management (Tourism & Travel), and PG Diploma in Management (Tourism & Leisure).



## IN BRIEF

### ROBOTIC TRICKS ON OFFER

ThinkLABS Techno solutions Pvt Ltd is launching a Robotics Championship in India with socially-relevant issues like 'Go Green' and 'Drive Safely' as the themes on January 23, 2011, at IIT Bombay.

TRICKS, the championship is aimed at providing a solid platform to the young

robotics enthusiasts to think, learn and come up with innovative and out-of-the-box solutions for important social issues like saving the environment and driving safely. Also, it will be an opportunity for school students to collaborate, work in teams and to interact with students from various schools and cities.

### BITS GLOBAL MEET ENDS

The three-day BITS Global Meet 2011 ended in a crescendo with the chief guest Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan gracing the occasion along with Sam Pitroda, Advisor to the Prime Minister.

Chavan said: "BITS Pilani always imparted best-in-class education with emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurship. This is an opportunity not just to return to my

alma mater, but to the society. The global alumni meet is a platform where all of us can come forward and help in nation building through innovative mechanisms."

He candidly recalled that it took him time to locate Pitroda on the map while he was still in school and planning his undergraduate studies here, to which his fellow alumni applauded with ecstasy.

### JOBS ON A HIGH IN DECEMBER

The Naukri Job Speak Index for December 10, 2010, was at 928 as compared to 922 in November 10, 2010. This indicates steady hiring levels and a positive sentiment among recruiters. Traditionally, December always witnesses a dip in hiring owing to the end of the year holiday season, but this year, apart from certain sec-

tors which saw a downward trend in hiring activity, the scenario has been stable.

Thus, in contrast to last year when a subdued mood pervaded in the employment scenario, this year has been one with increased confidence and companies have been buoyant about creating job opportunities and hiring the right talent.

### PG DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India's PG Diploma in Management (Development Sector and Social Entrepreneurship) has been recognised by the AICTE.

The first batch of the two-year programme has been announced and designed to address the present role of NGOs in development. It aims to provide a learning environment which will promote the exchange of ideas and build links among NGO functionaries. For more visit [www.indiaia.org](http://www.indiaia.org).

### APIM'S TWO-DAY CONFERENCE

As part of its endeavour to provide industry interface and impart the best leadership practices among its students, Asia Pacific Institute of Management organised a two-day National Conference on 'Leadership Challenges in Managing Modern Business Organisations' at its campus in Jaisalmer on January 5-6, 2010. Dr Prajapati Trivedi, Secretary Performance Management Government of India and Chairman, National Authority, Chemical Weapons Convention, Cabinet Secretariat presided as the chief guest.

### AMU EXPRESSES SHOCK

The AMU administration is shocked to go through a new item published in a new newspaper referring to AMU, with reference to Wissem Ahmad as it amounts to defamation of AMU and its officials.

AMU is facing an enquiry, which is in progress, and the university is extending all possible co-operation for its completion as early as possible because the overall reputation of university is at stake and tagged with the enquiry outcome. Thus, the matter is sub judice and before the completion of enquiry, issue motivated and derogatory statements through print media is not desirable as such statements are bound to influence the

enquiry when its proceedings are going on. Ahmad is bent upon to defame the university and his conduct with reference to AMU after about a year from the assumption of the office of the VC by Prof PK Abdul Aziz has become negative.

It appears that the current administration has not satisfied his unauthorised and unjustified expectations as it is now committed to govern its affairs strictly by adhering to the norms approved by the rule of law and its statutory bodies. He has come out with a high fever to malign the university by adopting the mechanism of false propaganda and the foul means to satisfy his ill intentions.

### MAPS ADMISSIONS OPEN

Millennium Academy of Professional Studies (MAPS) announces admission for its MBA programme for the year 2011-13 batch at New Delhi and Bangalore campus for the academic session starting July 2011. The courses are available in Marketing, Finance and Human Resource specialisations, designed to empower the participants through quality education, focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship and benchmarked management techniques.

The institute aims to create an environment in which students undergo a process of experiential learning through

exposure to a range of real world business and management case studies.

The admissions for the academic session have already begun. Application is based on the MAPS Aptitude Test (MAPSAT) score. In addition to the written test, group discussion, personal interview will be given weightage for final selection.

Candidates who have a CAT/MAT/XAT score above 80 per cent are exempted from MAPSAT. Application form can be downloaded from [www.maps.edu.in](http://www.maps.edu.in).

### LA TROBE PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE

La Trobe University, Australia, is offering a distinctive photography programme. "Edge of the Outback" wherein students can learn about photography and achieve academic credits. The programme would serve as a platform for Indian students and would provide ample opportunities to gain

real life experiences and sharpen their photography skills. The three-week course takes place annually in the months of June and July. Indian students therefore have a splendid opportunity to utilise their summer break to the fullest. Students from across the globe participate and bond over this unique educational

programme that aims to sensitise students to Australia's history and culture. Through this, Indian students will get to showcase their photographic portfolio in major regional art galleries of Australia. For more information: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/mil-dura/events/short-courses/outback>.

### FASHIONISTA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR UG AND PG

Fashionista, the school of fashion technology, invites applications for its undergraduate and PG degree programmes in BSc in Fashion Technology, BSc in Fashion Design, BSc in Textile Design, MSc Fashion Technology, MSc Interior Design and diploma programmes in Fashion Design, Interior Design, Textile Design Fashion Management.

Applicants, who have passed or appeared for the Class XII examination conducted by CBSE/ISC/any other, may apply. Students must possess the original copies of 10th and 12th documents at the time of admission.

To apply, log on to [www.fashionistaschool.com](http://www.fashionistaschool.com). The application form is available in Fashionista prospectus

for 5500. Candidates may also send a demand draft of 7500 in favour of Fashionista, payable at New Delhi in order to receive their application form. The application form is also available at the Fashionista centres like South Extension, Faridabad and Gurgaon. The last date for submission of applications is March 15, 2011.

### CHENNAI'S FIRST IIFT PROGRAMME

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) announced a new certificate programme in Export Management in partnership with Loyola Institute of Business Administration (LIBA). It is the first such programme in Chennai. The six-month course is designed to give attendees advanced training in handling the complex and constantly changing international trade scenario.

The course, which commences in January 29, 2011, will be taught by senior faculty from the IIFT and LIBA besides industry experts including formal lectures, followed by discussions, case studies, group discussions and exercises. Seminars and workshops involving industry experts would also be organised. Throughout the pro-

gramme, participants are encouraged and given opportunities to do projects for greater effectiveness of the teaching-learning process. The eligibility for the course is bachelor's degree. The admission for current academic session is open. The shops involving industry experts would also be organised. Throughout the pro-

# युवा ऊर्जा को ताकत में बदल डालो

अन्य देशों के मुकाबले भारत एक युवा देश है। करीब 40 फीसदी आबादी 20 साल से कम उम्र की है, अगर इन युवाओं को हम बेहतर मानव संसाधन में बदल पाएं तो निश्चित तौर पर भारत दुनिया के अग्रणी देशों में शुमार हो जाएगा। इन युवाओं का बड़ा वर्ग स्कूल, कॉलेजों में जाता है। उनका उद्देश्य अच्छे से अच्छे अंक लाकर नौकरी वाली परीक्षाओं को पास करना भर होता है। इन्हीं में वह तबका भी शामिल है, जो पेशेवर पाठ्यक्रमों में अध्ययन करने के लिए आईआईटी, आईआईएम जैसे संस्थानों में पहुंचता है, लेकिन उनका उद्देश्य भी बेहतर नौकरी हासिल करना होता है। इस रवैये के पीछे सामाजिक पहलू की भूमिका भी बेहद अहम है। माता-पिता अपने बच्चों पर इसी बात के लिए दबाव बनाते हैं। नाते-रिश्तेदारों का भी उन पर काफी दबाव होता है। भारतीय शिक्षा व्यवस्था की यह बहुत बड़ी खामी है। एक तो शिक्षा हर किसी तक नहीं पहुंच सकती है और जिन लोगों के पास पहुंची है, वहां उसका उद्देश्य सर्वांगीण विकास के बजाय नौकरी पाने का जरिया भर

है। शिक्षा का वर्गीकरण भी हो चुका है। हैसियत और पैसे के आधार पर स्कूल और कॉलेज के वर्गीकरण ने शिक्षित युवाओं को भी बांट दिया है। इन सब असमानताओं के बीच देश में मौलिक खोज और अनुसंधान का स्तर दयनीय है। विज्ञान में हमारे पिछड़ने में दो बुनियादी बातों की अहम भूमिका है, ये दोनों बातें आपस में एक-दूसरे पर निर्भर हैं। एक तो हमारे यहां बच्चों में विज्ञान के प्रति अभिरुचि कम है, तो दूसरी ओर स्कूलों और कॉलेजों में विज्ञान पढ़ाने का तरीका आज भी बेहद पुराना है। अमूमन 10 फीसदी बच्चे ऐसे होते हैं, जिनमें वैज्ञानिक टेपरमेंट होता है, अगर उन्हें सही मार्गदर्शन मिले, तो वे विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में मौलिक काम कर सकते हैं, लेकिन हमारे स्कूलों और कॉलेजों में पढ़ाने का जो तरीका है, उससे उनमें मौलिकता खत्म हो जाती है। यही वजह है कि भारत में नए प्रयोग नहीं हो पाते। विज्ञान को पढ़ाने और अनुसंधान के लिहाज से देश में ज्यादा संस्थान भी मौजूद नहीं हैं। आईआईटी जैसी संस्था की संख्या बढ़ी है, लेकिन यहां भी पेशेवर पाठ्यक्रमों की पढ़ाई ज्यादा होती है, विशुद्ध विज्ञान के छात्र यहां भी बहुत नहीं होते।

शिक्षा का स्तर तब तक सुधर नहीं सकता है, जब तक हमारे पास मौलिक और आधुनिक सोच-समझ वाले शिक्षकों का तबका मौजूद नहीं होगा। इसके अलावा विज्ञान में दिलचस्पी रखने वाले छात्रों का कम उम्र में ही चयन कर उन्हें विशेष माहौल में विकसित होने का मौका उपलब्ध करना होगा। इसमें सरकार को बहुत ज्यादा खर्च करने की जरूरत नहीं होगी, लेकिन उसे इस दिशा में पहल करनी होगी। शिक्षकों को ट्रेनिंग देने के दौरान विषय-वस्तु संबंधी समझ कितनी स्पष्ट है, इसका ख्याल भी रखा जाना चाहिए। पढ़ाने के तरीके और पाठ्यक्रम को इंटरैक्टिव बनाने की कोशिश होनी चाहिए। विज्ञान में कम युवाओं के आने की एक अहम वजह करियर के सीमित विकल्प का होना भी है।

मौजूदा समय में विज्ञान में उच्च शिक्षा हासिल करने के बाद कोई युवा रिसर्चर बन सकता है या फिर अध्यापन में आ सकता है।

ये दोनों करियर बहुत चमकदार नहीं हैं, इसीलिए कोई छात्र इसमें अपना करियर बनाना नहीं चाहता। माता-पिता भी नहीं चाहते कि उनके बच्चे पढ़ाने का काम करें। विज्ञान में उच्च शिक्षा वाले छात्रों की मुश्किल यह है कि पीएचडी हासिल करते-करते उनकी उम्र 28-30 साल तक पहुंच जाती है, इतने लंबे समय तक उनका खर्च कौन चलाएगा, यह भी एक समस्या बन जाती है। हालांकि भेरे अपने अनुभव से मुझे लगता है कि इसका निदान संभव है। विज्ञान में बेहतर सोच-समझ वाले छात्रों को दसवीं के बाद एक ऐसे पाठ्यक्रम में खलना चाहिए, जिसमें उन्हें सात साल की पढ़ाई में पीएचडी की डिग्री मिल जाए। इससे उन्हें आगे अनुसंधान करने में मदद मिलेगी। जब तक इस तरह की कोई ठोस व्यवस्था नहीं बनती, युवाओं के लिए न तो बहुत ज्यादा की गुंजाइश होगी और न ही उनमें कुछ करने की इच्छाशक्ति होगी।

आईआईटी मुंबई में इस मुद्दे पर छात्रों से बात करता हूं, तो निराशा होती है, क्योंकि हर छात्र यहां से निकलने के बाद मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियों में मोटी पगार की नौकरी पाना चाहता है। वहां से निकल कर उन्हें अपने समाज को क्या देना चाहिए, इस पर वह सोच नहीं पाता है। पूरा समाज ही मनी-माइंडेड होता जा रहा है। आईआईटी में पहुंचने वाले युवा भी इसी समाज का हिस्सा हैं, लिहाजा साय कसूर उनका नहीं है। वैसे भी 22-23 साल की उम्र में वे ज्यादा परिपक्व नहीं हो पाते हैं, लिहाजा जाने-अनजाने कॉर्पोरेट संस्कृति के कामगार बनने में ज्यादा दिलचस्पी दिखाते हैं। युवाओं की मौजूदा पीढ़ी अपने आस-पड़ोस या समाज से ज्यादा लगाव नहीं रखती, इसकी एक वजह तो यह भी है कि



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हर छात्र आईआईटी से निकलकर मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियों में नौकरी पाना चाहता है। समाज को क्या देना चाहिए, इस पर वह सोच नहीं पाता है। पूरा समाज ही मनी-माइंडेड होता जा रहा है, युवा भी इसी समाज का हिस्सा हैं।

हमारे शैक्षणिक पाठ्यक्रम में सामाजिक विज्ञान को ज्यादा प्राथमिकता नहीं दी जाती है। युवा पीढ़ी को सशक्त और मजबूत मानव संसाधन में बदलने के लिए उन्हें सामाजिकता के बारे में पढ़ाये जाने की जरूरत है, तभी वह भारतीय समाज के बुनियादी तत्वों को समझ पाएंगे, उनसे तालमेल बिखर पाएंगे।

हाल के दिनों में आईआईटी के छात्रों में एक अहम बदलाव यह भी देखने को मिला है, वे अपनी पढ़ाई पूरी करने के बाद प्रबंधन या फिर प्रशासन के क्षेत्र में चले जाते हैं। इसमें कुछ भी गलत नहीं है, अगर एक युवा को इंजीनियरिंग की तालीम पूरी करने के बाद ऐसा लगता है कि वह प्रशासन में ज्यादा बेहतर कर सकता था, तो उसे प्रशासन की ओर जाने देने से रोकना सही नहीं होगा। वह अच्छा बुरा सोचकर अपना फैसला लेने को स्वतंत्र है। दूसरी ओर आईआईटी प्रशासन या सरकार को भी यह जरूर सोचना चाहिए कि एक छात्र को पढ़ाने पर दिया गया अनुदान व्यर्थ तो नहीं चला गया या उसकी भरपाई किस तरह से हो सकती है। भागदौड़ वाली जिंदगी और जीने लायक सुविधाओं को जुटाने की कोशिश में भारतीय युवा अपने स्वास्थ्य के प्रति ध्यान नहीं दे पाता है। देश की आबादी का एक बड़ा हिस्सा कुपोषण का शिकार है, लेकिन मिडिल क्लास परिवारों में भी पोषण को लेकर जागरूकता का अभाव होता है, जबकि हमें समझना चाहिए कि स्वस्थ मस्तिष्क एक स्वस्थ शरीर में निवास करता है।

लेखक आईआईटी मुंबई में भौतिक विज्ञान के सहायक प्रोफेसर हैं, इन्हें आईआईटी में सबसे कम उम्र की फेल्लो होने का गौरव प्राप्त है  
प्रस्तुति : प्रदीप कुमार

