Newspaper Clips
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To attract foreign students, IIMs giving final touches to global road show plans

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

AIMING at building on their global reputation and ranking, the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) plan to woo foreign students. Starting off with a series of global road shows to create a buzz around the IIM brand, the business schools will also introduce a qualitative improvement in the facilities offered at the campus, so that it suits international students.

All the IIMs will be "enhancing facilities" in order "to attract foreign students" over the 12th plan period. Funds for improving residential facilities at the premier B schools will be sourced from the University Grants Commission or All India Council of Technical Education through interest free loans or their own resources. The Human Resource and Development (HRD) Ministry has asked IIMs to send Detailed Project Reports for this makeover plan.

The IIMs have got a go ahead to hold road shows across the world. Each IIM is in the process of finalising date and venue of these road shows with their Board of Governors, said ministry offi-

cials. Incidentally, the IIMs will also host the first IIM World Conference in Kolkata in May.

The ministry will hold a meeting with all IIM directors on April 1 on a range of issues, including the foreign student plan, the contentious draft IIM Bill that seeks to confer degree granting powers to all IIMs and to set up a pan IIM Council.

Also slated for discussion is a proposal to set up an accreditation organisation that can conduct accreditation of management institutes and a national management academy to work on management

reform, focussing on governance, policy making, faculty development, introduction of global managerial standards and global best practices.

The HRD ministry, it is learnt, plans to take to the Finance Ministry a proposal for tax breaks for philanthropic contribution to public funded institutions. Based on recommendations of a committee, headed by IIM-Raipur chairman Hari Bhatia, fund raising options like naming rooms/classrooms after donors are under active consideration.

In another move, aimed as much at reform within the system as at earning greater

international credibility, the IIMs have indicated they are agreeable to an external peer review. The first such external peer review will roll out soon.

The move to go global follows from the autonomy road map for IIMs rolled out by the HRD ministry in November 2011 permitting IIMs to admit 10 per cent foreign students.

To ensure that new IIMs do not get left behind, the HRD ministry has approved a Rs 300 crore interest-free loan to help them attract quality faculty and advised them to opt for open course ware, smart classrooms, sharing faculty and library resources.

Economic Times ND 27/03/2013 P5

IIMs Gear Up to Attract Foreign Students

URMI A GOSWAMI
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are gearing up to make a bigger mark in the global arena in order to attract more foreign graduates and make the country's top business schools operationally and financially more autonomous.

The IIMs plan to conduct road shows abroad to attract talent that will make the batch of students more diverse. Some foreign students are already studying at some IIMs but the government expects the number to rise after the proposed law empowers them to award MBA degrees instead of the diploma currently offered.

The majority of the IIMs agree that the power to grant degrees will make the institutes more attractive to foreign students. Currently, many foreign students come to IIMs in exchange programmes and a few of them also take regular courses.

To cater to international students, the IIMs plan to upgrade residential facilities and the standards of faculty and academics, particularly at the new IIMs. This would be financed either through a grant from the UGC or through interest-free loans. The human resource development ministry is keen to set up a ₹300-crore fund to attract world-class faculty to the newer IIMs, government officials said.

The IIMs are also focusing on steps to become financially more independent. While older IIMs do not depend on annual budgetary support from the government, the new ones get government grants. The IIMs will consider recommendations of the committee headed by Hari Bhartia, such as naming classrooms and buildings after major donors. The Bhartia committee had been appointed by former HRD minister Kapil Sibal to look into the aspect of fund raising as part of an effort to improve the autonomy of the IIMs. The IIMs have suggested that the HRD ministry should pilot a proposal to provide tax breaks for philanthropic contributions.

The IIMs have suggested that workshops be held for each of the institutes. International consultants such as William J Conner and Julian Marland, who have years of experience in improving the fundraising potential of organisations, will conduct these workshops. IIM Raipur has already conducted a workshop on fund raising.

As part of its effort to stake its claim in the global arena, IIMs plan to bring out a management journal, IIM Business Review. This effort will be spearheaded by IIM Bangalore while IIM Calcutta will take charge of a world management conference to be held during May 31-June 1.

The heads of all 13 IIMs are scheduled to discuss these issues at a meeting with HRD Minister MM Paalam Raju on Monday. The issues include external peer review from attracting foreign students to improving fund raising capability to improving the quality of faculty and teaching.

As part of a roadmap to greater autonomy, IIMs had agreed to institute a system of periodic external peer review. In the next few months, with the approval of the board of governors of each IIM, modalities for conducting such a review will be worked out.

The meeting will consider setting up a system of accreditation for management institutes. Though initially opposed to the idea, the institutes will strive to put in place an annual work plan system and some standardisation of teaching hours to ensure maximum flexibility.

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Going Global

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प्रदेश के आठ नए आईआईटी में इंदौर सातवें पायदान पर

प्लेसमेंट में आईआईटी इंदौर पिछड़ा

दबंग रिपोर्टर • इंदौर

इंदौर आईआईटी में उम्मीद लिए विद्यार्थियों को तगड़ा झटका लगा है। प्रदेशभर के आठ आईआईटी में इंदौर की रैंकिंग सातवें पायदान पर है। यहां सर्वाधिक 17 लाख का पैकेज विद्यार्थियों को मिला है, जबकि पहले पायदान पर आईआईटी रोपड़ है, जिसमें 57 लाख का पैकेज मिला।

देशभर के आठ नए आईआईटी 2009 में शुरू हुए हैं, जिनका पहला प्लसमेंट हुआ और पुराने आईआईटी पर भारी पड़ रहे हैं। इनमें इंदौर आईआईटी पिछड़ गया है। इन नए संस्थानों में प्लेसमेंट शुरू हुए एक साल ही हुए हैं, लेकिन रिक्रुटमेंट कंपनियां यहां से मोटे पैकेज पर ताबड़तोड़ हायरिंग कर रही हैं। इंदौर आईआईटी के पिछड़ने से अंदाजा लगाया जा सकता है कि यहां जमकर राजनीति हो रही है। यहां डायरेक्टर प्रो. माथुर पर अपनों को प्राथमिकता देने के आरोप भी लगाए गए हैं। इसी का खामियाजा विद्यार्थियों को भुगतना पड़ रहा है और उनका पैकेज 17 लाख तक भी बड़ी मुश्किल से पहुंच पाया। रोपड़, पटना, हैदराबाद, भुवनेश्वर और गांधीनगर आईआईटी ने हायरिंग के मामले में पुराने इंस्टिट्यूट्स को पीछे छोड़ दिया है। माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, एमेजॉन और गूगल जैसी कंपनियां टैलेंट की तलाश में नए आईआईटी जा रही हैं, लेकिन इंदौर आईआईटी में चल रही राजनीति के कारण चुनिंदा कंपनियों ने रुख तक नहीं किया।

अन्य आईआईटी में हुई बढ़ोतरी

प्रदेश के नए आईआईटी में इंदौर को छोड़कर इस साल जो एवरेज सैलरी ऑफर की गई, उसमें 15.20 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। साथ ही इस साल ज्यादा कंपनियों की एंट्री हुई। वहीं मद्रास, रुड़की, खड़गपुर, मुंबई, दिल्ली और गुवाहाटी जैसे पुराने आईआईटी में फाइनल प्लेसमेंट ऑफर में सैलरी 5.10 फीसदी ही बढ़ी। आईटी सर्विसेज कंपनी एपिक सिस्टम्स ने

अन्य शहरों से पीछे इंदौर

आईआईटी	प्लेसमेंट	पैकेज
रोपड़	80 फीसदी	57 लाख
पटना	75 फीसदी	16.25 लाख
भुवनेश्वर	80 फीसदी	12 लाख
जोधपुर	60 फीसदी	17 लाख
हैदराबाद	85 फीसदी	35 लाख
गांधीनगर	75 फीसदी	12.55 लाख
मंडी	75 फीसदी	20 लाख
इंदौर	70 फीसदी	17 लाख

आईआईटी रोपड़ के दो छात्रों को 105000 डॉलर करीब 57 लाख रुपए का पैकेज ऑफर किया है। पिछले साल इस इंस्टिट्यूट में सबसे ज्यादा ऑफर 80 हजार डॉलर करीब 43.6 लाख रुपए का था।

पीपीओ पर दिया जोर : नई आईआईटी की सफलता में पीपीओ पर काफी जोर दिया जाता है। इसी का असर रिक्रुटमेंट पर दिख रहा है। समर इंटर्नशिप में छात्रों को बेस्ट परफॉर्मेंस देने के लिए बढ़ावा दिया जाता है। इससे यहां पीपीओ में शानदार बढ़ोतरी हुई है। पिछले साल जहां आईआईटी रोपड़ और आईआईटी पटना में पीपीओ की संख्या 1 थी, वहीं इस बार यह बढ़कर 10 और 3 हो गया।

छह माह लेट हुआ प्लेसमेंट : इंदौर आईआईटी में प्लेसमेंट लेट शुरू होने से बड़ी कंपनियां अन्य आईआईटी में पहुंच गईं। इसमें 'पहले आओ पहले पाओ' के तहत आईआईटी भुवनेश्वर, गांधीनगर, पटना और रोपड़ ने सितंबर के आखिर में ही अपना प्लेसमेंट शुरू कर दिया। लिहाजा इस बार कैंपस में आने वाली कंपनियां पिछले साल से ज्यादा रहीं।

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'MIT can find solutions to key future challenges but need global partners'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

MUMBAI, MARCH 26

WATER, food, energy, health, healthcare and manufacturing are the key challenges of the future, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology can help the world find solutions but not without the help of global partners, said Dr L Rafael Reif, president of MIT.

Addressing a gathering in Mumbai at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) presided by Adi Godrej, Chairman, Godrej Group, Dr Reif spoke on "MIT: An Instrument for Inventing the Future".

Dr REIF, president of MIT said he does not see a possibility of opening a MIT campus in India but he likes the idea of collaborating with people to build their own institute

"Water could be the next oil," said Reif adding that that it's a looming geopolitical issue and MIT can work towards reducing the burden of water-borne diseases, making mega cities water sustainable, among others.

He highlighted issues of health, healthcare and manufacturing and emphasised, "we need global partners."

Dr Reif is in India for a week to meet representatives from the government and industry to discuss and explore opportunities and areas around which MIT can collaborate with India.

He said that MIT has the potential to help invent the future as it is different and has a culture of research and invention.

He, however, added that while MIT's problem solving ambitions are global, it can't solve them alone and needs global partners.

While the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been working in Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Russia and other countries in setting up their institute, he said that while he does not see a possibility of opening a MIT campus in India, he likes the idea of collaborating with people to build their own institute.

"Its conceivable that we can do something like that in India but it will be an Indian institute," said Dr Reif.

Dr Reif said that India can do more on research and invention and it has the potential for it as it has human capital.

HT Chandigarh

JEE's online format finds favour with IIT aspirants

Students appearing for online test claim they get more time to prepare for entrance exam

Prateek Walia

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CHANDIGARH: Class 12 students about to appear for CBSE's Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) have found a friend in the online format of the test. While many aspirants are gearing up for JEE's offline exam on April 7, those who have opted for online tests from April 8 to 25 say they will get more time to prepare.

They feel they've got a breather, while their counterparts appearing for the offline exam are struggling to cope with the pressure after a series of exams since January.

Talking to HT, students say there has been no respite since January - they at first had to appear for pre-board exams in January, followed by practical exams in February, Class 12 exams in March and now the all-important JEE in April. Not to mention the combination of entrance tests they need to take just in case they don't make it to JEE main.

Ayaan Patti, 17, a student of Ajit Karam Singh International Public School, Sector 41 here,

SAMEER DOGRA/HT

says he is taking the exam offline and fears the duration that students have got to prepare between the entrance and board exams is less this time. "There is extra pressure on us to do well in the board exams as 40% weightage of our board result will be given at the time

of the entrance. It is difficult for us now."

Students wrapped up with the Class 12 examinations of the Central Board of Secondary Education on Monday.

Earlier, students concentrated more on engineering entrance examinations as com-

pared to the board exams as their performance in the latter had no bearing on the entrance exam result. But now it is mandatory for students to do well in both the exams. "The difficult part is changing track as the board exams are subjective, while the engineering entrance

exam is based on objective questions," says Ayaan.

Most students Hindustan Times spoke to have opted to take the IIT entrance test in the online format this year. The main reason they cite is more time to prepare and flexibility the format offers. In the online format, aspirants get three exam dates to choose from.

Manpreet Kaur, a student of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Senior Secondary School, Sector 35, says though there is tremendous pressure on them to prepare for JEE, they are lucky to have a choice between the two formats of JEE. "Students who opt for the offline exam are generally those who are not as tech-savvy. Coaching centres and schools should educate them on how to take the exam online." Vineet Kumar, another IIT aspirant, agrees the online option gives students additional days to prepare. Anil Verma, the director of a city-based coaching centre, agrees that more students are opting for the online test. "It gives them the convenience to give the exam when they are prepared."

Countdown to IIT-JEE

With IIT-JEE entrance exam just a few days away, students are studying hard to give their best. AAKASH CHAUDHRY tells you that proper strategy and planning, especially during last minute helps ace the exam

The final and crucial day has almost approached and the JEE aspirants are all set to give their best shot as they know that this is the "big chance" for them. Nowadays, the IIT-JEE entrance exams are structured with respect to testing students' aptitude, analytical, logical and reasoning skills. Therefore, it is an imperative for students to plan a right strategy ahead of the test. Even though the syllabus of Class XII and the new IIT-JEE are similar, the pattern of the exam is quite different.

Many students get jitters and goose bumps on the thought of understanding formulae, equations and theorems. Now that not many days are left, they don't have to lose sleep and mind over what and how to study. Here are some important topics and last minute strategies to make sure that you come out with flying colours.

JEE MAIN

The JEE Main paper is an apt example of time management for exams. It's crucial to optimise your performance by practicing a good number of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs). There are 90 questions in all to be done in three hours duration. So on an average, you must aim to devote two minutes per question. But there are questions which may consume more time than others. That means one must be able to solve some other questions in lesser time so as to manage time well. This could be achieved by going through a good number of MCQs.

IMPORTANT TOPICS (MAIN)

Every portion of the syllabus is important, but, there are certain topics in every subject which form the basis of the entire subject and can serve your purpose of scoring well. These topics can be applied in all other chapters, and therefore, having a thorough understanding of them is important.

Physics: You should have a fair understanding of Kinematics and Dynamics and it is essential to be able to build a strong problem solving ability. Also, the Theory of Fields (Electromagnetism) is very important.

> EVERY PORTION OF THE SYLLABUS IS IMPORTANT, BUT, THERE ARE CERTAIN TOPICS IN EVERY SUBJECT WHICH FORM THE BASIS OF THAT SUBJECT AND CAN SERVE YOUR PURPOSE OF SCORING WELL

Chemistry: Physical chemistry can fetch you real good scores and hence all the units in it must be done carefully. Students tend to neglect Inorganic Chemistry but just a proper understanding of it can prove beneficial. **Mathematics:** Calculus forms a base for almost every part of mathematics. Other important and scoring topics are determinants, sequences, permutation and combination. The student must be able to relate the complex numbers with coordinate geometry and vectors. Three dimensional should be practiced to get that additional or compensating score.
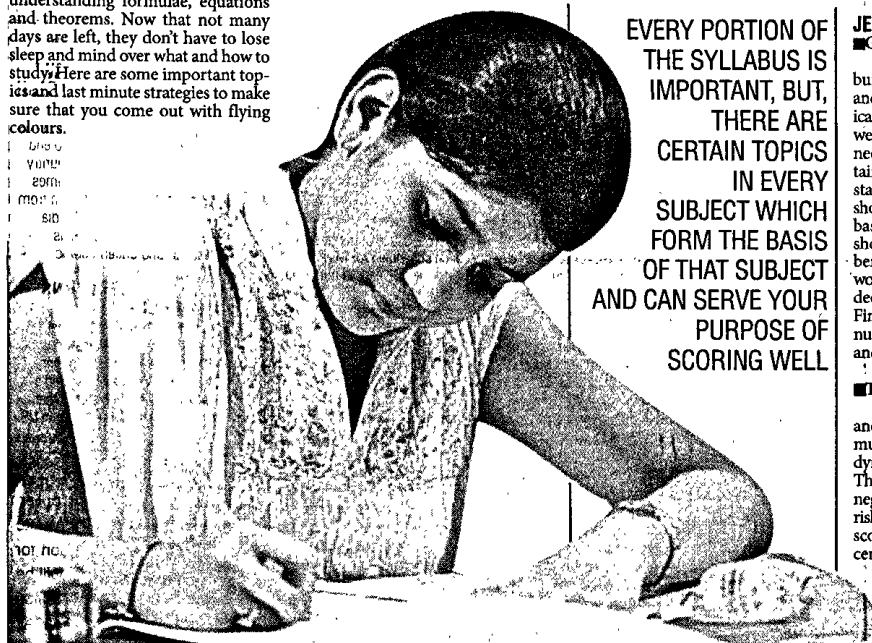
JEE ADVANCE

General preparation strategy

For JEE (Advanced) one should build a strong foundation of concepts and developing skills to tackle numerical problems, that need calculations as well as a good aptitude. For this one needs to be thorough with theory pertaining to each topic, test the understanding of the theory by solving short answer type and assertion reason-based questions. Also the aspirant should be able to solve a good number of subjective type problems. This would certainly help in developing even deeper understanding of the subject. Finally, a student must practice a good number of MCQs to build up speed and accuracy.

Topics of Importance

Physics: In addition to mechanics and electrodynamics; enough time must be allotted to heat and thermodynamics, optics and modern physics. These topics are generally the most neglected topics which can prove to be risk factors. But they are the easiest and scoring topics and share a good percentage of total marks of the exam.

Chemistry: Enough time should be devoted to general principles of organic chemistry, as this will make the remaining part easy to comprehend. Physical chemistry is important as numerical problems asked from this section are scoring and not too difficult. Pay special attention to learn inorganic chemistry as there are many facts and figures to be remembered. One can learn this topic by continuous revision.

Mathematics: One must be able to understand inter-relationship between various topics so as to know their importance. The knowledge and skills developed by understanding and preparing for Coordinate Geometry, can be used to solve problems in complex numbers. The knowledge of vectors is also very helpful in these topics. To solve problems of probability, the student must be strong in permutation and combinations. Formula and problem solving skills developed by thorough practice of trigonometry are useful in almost all topics.

LAST MINUTE TIPS

■**Don't touch any new topic:** This is time to revise and go through already prepared topics. Taking up new topics will only lead to a panicky situation. It's advisable to be thorough with whatever you know than skim through new concepts and chapters.

■**Be well versed with physics, chemistry and mathematics:** Keep a track of all the topics in the respective subjects, as there are certain topics that make for an entire subject. Application based chapters are very important to be looked upon. It is essential to pay equal weight-age to physics, chemistry and mathematics as the exam constitutes questions based on the same. Always remember that you must prepare keeping in mind the exam notification, syllabus, patterns and importance of chapters so you can pay special attention to topics of utmost importance.

■**Refer to NCERT Textbooks:** Treat NCERT textbooks as a bible. Going through the concepts and key points of this textbook makes for a strong foundation for entrance exams. Several illustrated examples are very well explained to clear all doubts.

■**Mock test papers:** Run through last five years' mock text IIT-JEE test papers. This will help you understand the pattern and complexity of an entrance paper. Also, practicing them will enhance your skills to appear for the nearing exam. A student should have taken at least 15 to 20 full length tests before taking the actual exam.

■**Rest and Relax:** It is good to take some time off and do things that rejuvenate you and keep your mind cool. Watching a movie, meditation, jogging or playing football is advisable.

■**Don't lose mind and be confident:** The IIT-JEE is just like any other exam. As long as you are doing your bit and keeping yourself disciplined & motivated about your preparation, clearing the entrance exam will appear to be a cakewalk!

WELCOME TO JAMIA MILLIA

The varsity plans to allow transfer of credits across departments and hold common entrance tests for a cluster of courses from 2013-14, says Gauri Kohli

A fine blend: Jamia offers as many as 51 bachelor's programmes, which are a mix of science, commerce, arts and humanities

When Delhi student Aashish Birgi first came to Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) to fill his form for the bachelor's in business studies (BBS) programme three years ago, he was amazed to see the size of the campus. "The infrastructure is good too with lots of greenery around a heritage building. Being a Central university, JMI's resources and potential are huge. I had a great holistic learning stint here," he says.

Besides the excellent infrastructure, Jamia has a lot to offer to its students, especially those at the undergraduate level.

Options galore

Jamia offers as many as 51 bachelor's programmes, which are a fine mix of science, commerce, arts and humanities. It shifted to the semester mode last year for its undergraduate programmes as this aids continuous assessment and also offers students the option of tweaking courses. The varsity also introduced the credit transfer system last year.

"We had earlier introduced a concept of transfer of credits at the faculties of social sciences and humanities and lan-

guages. There are plans to introduce it across faculties and departments from 2013-14. For example, a student who is majoring in history will be able to transfer credits from Islamic architecture. Similarly, a civil engineering student can take credits in architecture and social sciences," says SM Sajid, registrar.

Students can thus develop a multidisciplinary approach to their studies. All the departments and centres at Jamia are independent and run their own courses and can devise their own syllabi, their own mode of evaluation etc.

What to expect

"We want the students who come to Jamia to have a holistic learning experience. Not only are the courses tweaked regularly to make them more contemporary but the subject associations provide a platform for students to participate in a plethora of co-curricular and extra-curricular

activities round the year. We want them to explore their potential to the maximum. There are ample opportunities and platforms available at Jamia for them," says Najeeb Jung, vice chancellor.

Beyond books

JMI is popular for its outreach and extra-curricular activities. "We organised TedEx JMI, an event that included a series of talks on successful career switching featuring speakers from different fields, in 2011. The university organised its first-ever cultural fest called Miraas in 2013. The university culture is very appealing and exposes you to interdisciplinary interactions," says Ayesha Hussain, an electrical engineering student.

Other changes

The university has revamped some of its courses recently. An MoU was signed with York University and a joint

exercise conducted for revamping the course structure of the programmes on offer at Jamia's Mass Communication and Research Centre. Some of the diploma courses have been upgraded to degree courses for the next session. There are plans to hold common entrance tests for a cluster of courses as part of the university's efforts to make the admission process smoother this year. For instance, there will be common entrance tests for courses offered at the faculty of natural sciences such as physics, chemistry etc and the students will have to indicate their choice of preference. "This will reduce the burden on the students who will have to take fewer entrance tests," says Jung.

The university got a grant of ₹25 crore for girls hostels from the ministry of human resource development. "We are committed to providing living facilities, especially to girls on campus," adds Jung.

The International Summer School (ISS) was launched recently to bring students

Continued on page 4

together from across the world. Each summer, the ISS will be in session for six weeks as a part of the university, in association with the ministry of tourism. It offers intensive, undergraduate level course modules and experiences that focus on India and reflect the country's growing influence on the world stage. The programme will be divided into two components — a four-week academic session held on campus at Jamia and a two-week India experience which will be held after the academic session. This will include excursions to Agra, Jaipur and other locations and offer students the opportunity to volunteer for social causes. ISS begins in June 2013. The programme is meant for undergraduate and postgraduate students of all nationalities, including Indians.

The newer courses at JMI include MTech in nanoscience and nanotech-

nology and MA in early childhood development. Recently, new centres on Afghanistan studies and Chinese studies were also set up.

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Courses on offer

BSc (hons) chemistry; BSc (biotechnology); BCom (hons); bachelor of architecture; BA LIB (hons); BFA (applied art); BA (hons) English; BA (hons) Turkish language and literature; BA (hons) social work; and BE (computer engineering). The university also offers master's, doctoral, certificate, diploma, advanced diploma, and postgraduate diploma courses in the regular and distance modes

The list is not exhaustive. For more, visit jmi.ac.in

'Creativity is mandatory for a successful future'

Experts and educationists from various Asia Pacific countries discuss the challenges of using technology to stimulate creativity among students

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More than one hundred educators and experts from prominent Asia Pacific countries gathered at 8th Adobe Education Leadership Forum 2013 in Phuket, Thailand on March 20-22, 2013 and deliberated upon the need of modern learners vis-à-vis the unprecedented possibilities technology is presenting them with. The educationists shared interesting anecdotes based on their experience and expressed a deep concern for exploring contemporary pedagogies in a technology-rich world.

Speaking on the subject 'creativity no more an elective, it's the future,' Peter McAlpine, senior director, education (APAC), Adobe, said, "Creativity is no longer an elective for educators, students and the education organisations. It is a mandatory requirement for a successful future. The classroom is evolving from the traditional notions of learning, to a more creative platform of understanding. Educators and students are redefining how knowledge is acquired and shared."

Other senior officials from Adobe showed how the company partners with institutions around the world to support creativity at the heart of learning.

"Our digital platforms are

Trevor Bailey, one of Adobe's directors, speaks at the forum in Phuket

enabling creative collaboration, making new learning tools possible and discovering new ways of measuring success. But in the process, we have to overcome a lot of challenges. The biggest of them is to change the mindset of educators who are reluctant to come out of their comfort zone to learn modern methods," said Trevor Bailey, director, worldwide education, Adobe Systems Incorporated, United States.

Bruce Dixon, co-founder of Australia-based Anytime Anywhere Learning Foundation, raised a foundation, "Why aren't we setting the bar higher, so that our students are able to show how ubiquitous access to technology allows them to be more creative, and build more powerful ideas from much broader, deeper and more ·

complex experiences than has previously been possible?"

Educationists feel that the modern teacher needs to connect with the communication tools that their students are using outside of school. Otherwise the disconnect between students and teachers will be detrimental to both the parties.

"Today's secondary and higher education students want to connect with content in a continuous manner with multiple screens and devices anytime and anywhere. Timetable structures such as seven 45-minute periods from 8.30am to 3.30pm and up to seven different areas of unrelated content per day as well as rules like no access to smartphones in class heighten the disconnect between students and teachers," said Tim Kitchen, director of

learning technologies, Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School, Australia.

He said further, "Today's students want to share their ideas with their peers, their teachers and a worldwide audience. Structures like locking down control of internet downloads and uploads and using paper and pen as the main form of learning construction also encourage the disconnect."

Amidst concerns for implementation of modern methods, many experts feel the need to maintain a balance between traditional and modern methods of teaching as both have their limitations.

"When I teach my students through e-learning, I don't get relevant feedback that I normally get from classroom teaching. Similarly learning from your peers is another limitation that modern teaching has," said Tridib Roy Chowdhury, senior director of products, Adobe System Incorporated, India.

Another Indian participant Nuriya Ansari, vice president, Learing Links Foundation, while speaking on creativity and technology — crossing the chasm, highlighted how on one hand, there are various initiatives in India driving the adoption of absolute cutting-edge technologies which nurture creativity, and on the other hand, there are issues of getting basic education to remote areas.

86% say technology can foster creativity

One of the interesting features of the Adobe Education Leadership Forum 2013 was the unveiling of the findings of a study titled 'State of creativity in Education in Asia Pacific'. Adobe surveyed 1014 educators (teachers, administrators, heads of institutions) representing 13 Asia Pacific countries with an aim to gauge the state of creativity across the region's educational landscape.

■ An overwhelming 86% of respondents felt that technology and digital tools play an important role in fostering creativity among students

■ 43% of the surveyed educators feel the current education system is either outdated or restrictive

■ The lack of resource, tools and training are identified as the biggest barrier

■ 62% felt they should be creative regardless of the subjects they teach

■ When asked about the efficacy of the current education system in developing a new generator of innovators, educators rated it a mere 5.0 on a scale of 1 to 10

■ In India 69% said they are hampered by an education system that is not geared towards creativity; 45% cited a lack of resource to support their efforts

■ The surveyed educators, on average, spent 45% of their time in the classrooms while they wanted to spend 58% of their time for it