



HEF BULLETIN

Issue II

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Make AIIMS among top ten institutes in world - PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on October 1, 2010 called for making the premier All India Institute of Medical Sciences one of the top ten medical institutes in the world. Addressing the 38th Convocation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the national capital, the prime minister said changes in the AIIMS system were needed for attaining this goal.

"We should aim at nothing less than making AIIMS one of the ten best medical universities in the world by the year 2020. This is not going to be easy. But it can be done. The government, on its part, will support all endeavours in this direction," the prime minister said. "The government will consider the recommendations expeditiously and do what is in the best interest of the Institute," he added. IANS

India aims to raise enrolment in higher education - President

Aizawl: President Pratibha Patil on September 24, 2010 said India intended to increase enrolment in higher education from the present 14 million to about 40 million.

"Higher education has been accorded priority in our country. It is our aim to increase gross enrolment ratio in higher education to 30 percent by the year 2020, which means almost tripling the enrolment from the present 14 million to about 40 million," Patil said here at the sixth convocation of the Mizoram University.

"Universities of the country, existing and the new ones, will be responsible for achieving this target," she added. The president said: "Periodic short-term courses for the local community on issues relevant to them like floriculture, mushroom cultivation and medicinal plants can be organized by Mizoram University where students also would participate."

Underlining the need for undertaking a programme for proper documentation of the state's rich biodiversity, the president said: "It is also important that the university creates certain awareness of the adverse impact of climate change and encourages people to adopt energy efficient and eco-friendly measures

IGNOU to provide English course through Nokia phone

New Delhi: As part of its initiative to integrate modern technology in distance education, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) said it would provide a certificate programme in English through Nokia phone's Ovi Life Tools.

EDITORIAL

Dear friends

Greetings.

We have the pleasure to present the second issue of the HEF bi-monthly news bulletin.

The issue covers some of the major news during last two months in the arena of higher education. As promised, from this issue onwards we are starting the column on views of some of the great Indians on education. The maiden venture in this regard contains the views of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation. This issue also contains an article authored by Mr. B R Bhandari, one of our senior most members on profile of an **international manager** and the educational intervention in this regard.

Indian higher education, particularly technical & professional education, is indeed passing through a phase of transformation. Some call it a period of crisis with which many of us tend to agree. Educational institutions are expected to hover around the concept of **knowledge**, their major functions being **creation, transmission and managing** the product known as "knowledge". The issue that needs to be seriously pondered is where the Indian institutions stand vis-a-vis their global counterparts in all these three parameters. We believe that many of us have miles to go before we match many of the global standards of excellence, barring the individual islands of excellence.

Possibly a forum like HEF thus has a crucial role to play to **build capacity** in this knowledge sector. Rather than being in the denial mode, it is high time that all of us look seriously both the **systemic and individual** issues of concern facing higher education in India and try to take the remedial measures before it is too late. While we formed HEF, we had and will continue to have a strong belief that it is individuals like us involved in higher education, in some capacity or the other, have to take the lead forward.

Enjoy reading the news bulletin and look forward to your views.

As usual I congratulate Richard Lasrado, the young dynamic member and his team for bringing out this bulletin!

With kind regards

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Profile & Portrait of an International Manager

Cross border movement and access to international managerial skills has been practiced since the advent of organized international trade and commerce. During earlier times, loyalty to boss was principal guiding factor in overseas managerial appointments. In nineties most foreign enterprises with the tacit support of their colonial masters used to post managers from their home base primarily on grounds of the trust and confidence they enjoyed of their superiors. In Japan as was convention managers used to spend their entire working life in a single enterprise, the concept being "Cradle to Grave". The loyalty to the enterprise influenced among other qualities, their posting abroad.

During last century the Indian family owned business houses preferred to depute managers for their overseas operations from their own chromosome, clan, caste, creed or community. This practice has now been discarded and professional managers are given international posting and entrusted with top managerial responsibilities.

In recent times, global movement of managers has picked up due to number of factors. The concept of national self sufficiency has become antiquated as consumers want the best and cheapest products and services irrespective of their origins. Far reaching changes in the pattern of global trade, internationalization of markets, currencies and investments, rapid growth of trade-in-services, need for highly motivated and dynamic managerial skills, faster obsolescence of technology inputs, introduction of rule based global trading system with the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) among other factors have necessitated global hunt of managers beyond their respective national borders.

The revolutionary developments in connectivity, communication and transport services have placed at the foothold of present managers vast and diverse opportunities. The free flow of investments, innovations and intellectual property right safeguards have removed non-technical barriers, restraints and restrictions for international managers to fully exploit and optimize the available opportunities for market penetration.

"We will initially start this programme in six districts of Maharashtra. After six months, depending on the response, we will launch it on a national level," IGNOU Vice Chancellor V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai told reporters.

IGNOU has entered into a strategic collaboration agreement with Nokia to provide the programme. It will be in functional English provided mainly through SMS.

"We have entered into an exclusive agreement with Nokia for this programme. This is a first-of-its-kind collaboration to provide English education on a large scale," said Pillai, adding IGNOU might sign a similar deal with other companies to accelerate education growth in the country.

The six-month certificate programme in functional English will begin from January next year. It is divided in three levels - English in daily life, English in education and joining the workforce. It will cost Rs.1,900.

"Education is considered a necessary skill for progress and gateway to a better future. Our association with IGNOU will immensely benefit students through the dissemination of quality educational content," Shivakumar added. IANS

New aptitude test for Class 10 students by CBSE

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that they will soon be introducing a new aptitude test for students of Class 10.

The CBSE had already introduced major changes in its curriculum this year by switching to the grading system instead of marks and implementing the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system instead of the yearly examinations.

The aptitude test that has been developed by the CBSE, called the Students' Global Aptitude Index (SGAI) will be made available to students in all 10,000 schools that are affiliated with the Board. The test aims at helping all students to make a better choice regarding their career.

The first such SGAI test will be conducted on January 15, 2011. A fee of Rs.100 will have to be paid by each student to appear for the aptitude test.

According to CBSE, the test will be two-and-half hour long and will be a paper-pencil test. It would help in determining the scientific, numerical, social, behavioral science and art aptitudes of a student of Class 10.

Army Welfare Education Society invites applications for MBA programme

New Delhi: The Army Welfare Education Society is inviting applications for admission into its MBA programmes 2011-2013 at the Army Institute of Management Kolkata (AIMK) and the Institute of Management and Technology, Greater Noida (AIMT).

Candidates with a three year Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with 50% marks recognized by the Association of Indian Universities or candidates appearing in Bachelor's Degree in 2011 are eligible to apply for admission.

contd..... Profile & Portrait of an International Manager

In the context of India, acquisition and mergers of overseas enterprises, opening of manufacturing and servicing outlets by Indian companies at different global locations, entry of multi-national companies in Indian market, scarce availability of managers with special skills etc. have all contributed to the movement of expatriates to Indian shores and a large contingent of Indian managers joining overseas assignments throughout the six continents.

In a highly competitive global economy, loyalty to ones' profession has become the main mantra for a successful international manager. Moreover in addition to professional excellence and individual motivation, team leadership, cross culture acceptability, innovative and creative mind, capacity to handle unspecified challenges, entrepreneurial attitude and core competence, adapting to new socio-economic environment, commitment to enterprise philosophy, group-dynamism and talent management, grooming multi-national staff etc. now largely portrait the personality of an International Manager. Thus speedy synthesis of professionalism in a cross cultural business environment is key elements for a successful international career.

Similarly, working under alien systems, unfamiliarity with language and local customs, adaptation to prevailing work pattern, cultural diversity and balancing multi-cultural perspectives, speedy conflict resolution etc, will be other factors which an international manager will have to deal with promptness and perfection. An international Manager has to be effective communicator, coordinator, change agent and corporate builder ; besides maintaining integrated network and excellent public relations. A successful manager has to be fully impartial in dealing with his colleagues, customers and public at large.

To acquire all these attributes and qualifications, future international managers will have to equip themselves with multi-languages proficiency, knowledge of the country of their posting's history, sociology and cultural heritage, achieve outstanding performance in field of their specialization, and sound understanding of global markets.

All available information on local affairs will have to be quickly examined and converted into basic input for decision making and planning of a cumulative innovation synergy. Instead of self-centered and stereotype solutions quick assessment of ground realities will have to be pursued with holistic approach before setting up of business strategy, enterprise performance and profit targets.

Attendance at management institutions will provide basic knowledge of management principles in various disciplines. However, it is through hands on field experience only one will acquire practical expertise and tact to efficiently handle complex problems under unknown circumstances. Exposure to ground realities under familiar conditions would sharpen their managerial qualities but in ultimate analysis use of local contacts, connections and constant liaison with those concerned will assist in successfully handling of complex problems peculiar to each country.

To this effect meaningful and close collaboration between academics and industry will help in preparing the young and upcoming international managers to equip themselves with necessary tools and techniques in dealing with not only local issues in the country of their posting but will provide an exposure to global business scenario which in present times is being largely propelled by technology, innovation and economic factors.

Authored by **Sri B R Bhandari**
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VIEWS ON EDUCATION

"Mahatma Gandhi and Education"

Gandhiji's concept of education includes harmonious development of all aspects of the human personality.

A sound mind exists in a sound body. Hence Gandhiji attached a lot of importance to physical development through sports, play and productive activities. Educational experiences must cater to the intellectual development of the person. Personality development is linked with education through work experience, productivity and the process of socialization. To Gandhiji, education should draw out and stimulate the spiritual aspects of child as much as intellectual and physical aspects.

Aims of education according to Gandhiji

- ▶ Education should be self supporting. It must enable one to earn a living and thus cut the root of unemployment.
- ▶ Character building must be an important aim of education. Strength, courage, virtues and the ability to be selfless are all aspects of character. Character building is more important than literacy.
- ▶ Preservation of our culture should be an important aim of education. Culture must pervade all aspects of human behaviour.
- ▶ On the all round development of the three H's ---- Head , Heart and Hand.
- ▶ Cultivate higher values in life such as moral, aesthetic, social and spiritual values and to practise self restraint, self realization, self insight and self analysis.

For admission to AIMK, candidates can obtain the prospectus and application form by post by sending a DD of Rs 800/- for Army wards & Rs 900/- for General candidates (includes Rs 50 postal charges), drawn in favor of "Director - AIM" payable at Kolkata (or by hand DD of Rs. 750/- for Army wards and Rs 850/- for General candidates).

For admission to AIMT, candidates can obtain the prospectus and application form by sending a DD of Rs 800/- (includes Rs 50 postal charges) in favor of "AIMT" payable at NOIDA. Only Army wards eligible for admission to AIMT. The last date for the sale and submission of application forms is December 21, 2010.

Sibal set on making Higher Education Stress Free

When it comes to taking any decisions on the hallowed portals of engineering and management education, even human resource development minister Kapil Sibal has to contend with the slow and time-consuming process of decision-making. The need for de-stressing the transition from secondary schools to graduate programmes in engineering is something everyone agrees on. But the way to reduce multiplicity of exams has eluded the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

The stress for students starts much before it is time to take the IIT-Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and other competitive exams. Some test the ability to apply principles of science while others are purely objective type but with negative marking for incorrect answers. Some use computers while others use machine readable answer sheets with correct answers to be blackened with an HB pencil.

The stress levels across the country just refuse to die down even with multiple counselling sessions. Even though the academicians and policymakers agree on the urgent need to de-stress young Indians, no consensus could still be reached on the recommendations of the IIT- Kharagpur director Damodar Acharya committee on the way to reduce multiple entrance tests. The IIT directors now face an unresolved issue of how much weightage to give to the Class 12 exam and a new proposed entrance exam.

Indian Medical Council amendment bill passed in Parliament

With Rajya Sabha passing the bill amending the Indian Medical Council Act, Parliament approved the legislation empowering the central government to supersede the Medical Council of India (MCI) and constitute a board of governors.

The amendment bill, passed by the Lok Sabha earlier, entails reconstitution of the council within one year from the date of its replacement. Until then, a board of governors will exercise the powers and perform the MCI's functions. The bill deems that the MCI shall stand superseded and the president, vice-president and other members shall vacate their offices without any claim for compensation.

contd..... VIEWS ON EDUCATION (Mahatma Gandhi and Education)

Curriculum suggested by Gandhiji

- ▶ Gandhiji advocated craft centered curriculum to train man by development of his soul. Craft was to be the starting point of all subjects.

Characteristics of craft centered curriculum

- ▶ Stress on co-operative activity, accuracy of planning and individual responsibility.
- ▶ Providing useful activities and experiences and stressing on co relation of subjects.
- ▶ Craft centered education leads to fullness of culture. It saves people from exploitation.
- ▶ Education should be that of the locality so that education becomes life oriented.
- ▶ It instills dignity of labour in the learner.

Subjects in the curriculum

Subjects should be according to local conditions. Mother tongue (facilitates natural expression), Arithmetic, Social Sciences, Art and Music, Domestic science for girls. All subjects to be taught with craft as centre of co relation.

Concept of discipline

Self discipline not imposed from outside sources. Self discipline emerges from a life of self restraint, fearlessness, utility and self sacrifice. Social discipline will come from craft activities.

Teacher

The teacher is an example by his or her attitudes and values. The teacher should help the pupil to distinguish between truth and false, good and bad. The teacher should possess the qualities he wishes to inculcate in the pupils. The teacher should provide a free & fearless learning environment.

Text books

Do not load the child with books. The teacher is the real text book. Text books should be suitable for Indian context. For primary schools, oral education is enough as the child learns more by observation.

Religious education

Truth that includes ahimsa is the only true religion. Impart religious education that helps students realize the existence of God everywhere. Essentials of all religions should be taught to pupils. Implement the morals of all religions in your daily life.

Gandhiji's Wardha Scheme of education

Free and compulsory education upto the age of fourteen years. Primary and secondary education to be combined. Higher education to private enterprises. At the age of fourteen the child is equipped with effective literacy and control over senses.

Gandhiji's philosophy of education is naturalistic in its setting, idealistic in its aim, pragmatic in its methods and programmes." In the present day this system should help HRD, enhance productivity and combat unemployment and poverty. Basic Education thus is the foundation of techno pedagogy and vocationalisation of education.

EDITOR'S BLOG

Dear Readers,

I invite you once again to the HEF Bulletin Issue II.

I have learnt in my school days on role of newspapers and letters that played in bringing revolution and change of British rule in India. HEF forum discussions are more on change and appreciation of education system. Let HEF bulletin be your mouth piece to communicate ideas, thoughts and changes that you wish to see in higher education system.

HEF Bulletin is your weapon for CHANGE !

Thank you,

Sincerely yours
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Mr. Richard Lasrado is the co-owner and founder of MyEducationalGuide - Empowering Youth, a bi monthly career-oriented FREE newspaper circulated to 1000 schools and colleges across India, 350 foreign universities and has student readership of 2,73,000.