
7. Informatics

(A) NEWS

● **A lucrative display of quality Indian education with EdCIL - Indian Education Fair 2011**

Another valuable exhibition displaying the entire spectrum of higher educational opportunities was held for the Sri Lankan Academia, specially the student population of the Island with EdCIL - Indian Education Fair 2011, from 13th to 15th of May at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre at BMICH in Colombo organized by Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL) with support and the endorsement of High Commission of India, in Colombo.

● **Budget 2011: Increase in outlay for higher education needed**

The higher education infrastructure is inadequate to support India's ambitious targets of increased enrolment, suffers from severe issues of quality and relevance to the job market and cannot provide universal access to training and education.

A recent study conducted by PWC indicates that the growth of the sector is constrained not so much by willingness or ability to pay, as by supply and availability of quality and relevant education.

The greatest hurdle is the huge capital required to fund expansion of education—we estimate that \$21 billion capex and \$7.5 billion opex would be required to meet the XI Plan GER target of 15%. Given the huge gap between demand for quality education and limited supply, there is tremendous interest and potential for private investment.

With Kapil Sibal having taken charge of the ministry of human resource development (HRD), there is a prospect of genuine change in Indian higher education. The government has set in motion comprehensive reforms of the education.

● **National Seminar on Quality & Relevance in Higher Education**

A National Seminar on Quality & Relevance in Higher Education was organized recently by Indian Institute of Education, Shimla. The main focus of seminar was to explore three major aspects of Quality & Relevance in Higher Education viz. 1. Privatisation of Higher Education. 2. Quality & Assurance in Higher Education. 3. Challenges in Higher Education. Chairman of the Management Committee IIE was also present during the deliberations.

The Seminar was inaugurated by the Sh. Rajesh Sharma, State Project Director Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In his Inaugural address he stressed upon Innovative Teaching Methods to improve quality of Education.

● **National Conference on Preparing Teachers for Diversity in 21st Century**

A Two Day National Conference on Preparing Teachers for Diversity in 21st Century was organized on 16th & 17th April 2011 as Department of Education, Noida College of Physical Education.

In this first decade of 21st Century classrooms are changing and the teachers need to be prepared for ensuring a high quality education of increasingly diversified population.

The Major Sub – Themes were as follows:

1. Interdisciplinary Research in Teacher Education for Diversity.
2. Partnership Between Institutes & Teacher Training Organizations
3. Continuous & Comprehensive Evaluation in Teachers Education
4. Edupreneurs Approach in Teacher Education

National Meet of Researchers in Education – 2010 – 2011

Centre of Advanced Studies on Education, Department of Education, of the M.S. University of Baroda, and Vadodara organized a National Meet of Researchers in Education– 2010 – 2011, during February 2011.

The focus of this meet was on following issues:

1. Educational Research Trends & Practices in India.
2. Approaches to Research in Education.
3. Relevance & Quality Educational Research in Education
4. Institutional Diagnosis, Resilience & Excellence

● UGC Guidelines for Career Advertisement Scheme (CAS) for teachers in universities and colleges.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has given guidelines regarding minimum academic performance and service requirements for promotion of teachers in universities and colleges under career advancement scheme. The system is devised on **Academic Performance indicator (API) based on “Performance based appraisal system”(PBAS)** It is for the promotion of the faculty from Stage 1 to Stage 6 .

Note: Please refer UGC website for further details under VI Pay commission .

Indian Society for Training & Development , New Delhi ISTD:

Dr. Mrs. Sushama S. Kulkarni, Director, K.E Society's Rajarambapu Institute of Technology, Rajaramnagar, Sakharale, (Maharashtra) **also a member of Board of Trustees of Engineering Education Foundation, Pune**, won the award **“EMERGING HRD THINKAR'S AWARD —2010”** awarded by Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD), New Delhi through open national level competition. She had contributed her paper on **“Strategic Planning for Engineering Institute for Effective implementation of growth & Development plan - a case study”**.

Engineering Education Foundation, Pune

Prof. N. V. Ratnalikar, President, EEF, has been appointed as the Director, Sir. Dir. M. S. Gosavi Centre for Quality and Excellence, Nasik, for a period three years, initially. This is probably the only centre of its kind in India, working for quality and excellence in higher education.

According to Prof. N. V. Ratnalikar, this is challenging job & he will do his utmost to make the Centre, worth the name.

Sir. Dr. M. S. Gosavi is also Advisor to Engineering Education Foundation.

(B)VIEWS**Enhance quality of higher education: Dr.Thorat, UGC Chairman.**

Dr. Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman UGC, has expressed concern over problems of university education, including low enrollment, inter-regional and inter-group disparities, quality of education, relevance of education and reforming regulatory authorities in India.

Delivering an address at the 61st annual convocation at Karnatak University in Dharwad on Tuesday, Dr. Sukhadeo said these challenges need to be faced and that the 12th Five Year Plan should offer scope to address them.

The financial allocation has been increased ten-fold. "The states should make use of the allocation to enhance the quality of higher education," he said.

To Appreciate Excellence: The Core of Positive Learning

Jayant Naralikar (Professor at IUCAA) delivered an address at the 7th convocation of Dhirubai Ambani Institute of Information & Communication Technology., Gujarat as on 22nd January 2011. He said the successful manager is able to prioritize the activities to save the time. The striving for excellence in all the fields also includes teaching only will help to improve the quality of Education in India. The respect for knowledge, Spread of Education for everyone will be the values one should impart to achieve desired quality in education.

Higher education in India

Philip G. Altbach ((Philip G. Altbach is Monan professor of higher education and director of the Center for International Higher Education at Boston College)

INDIA is rushing headlong toward economic success and modernization, counting on high-tech industries such as information technology and biotechnology to propel the nation to prosperity. India's recent announcement that it would no longer produce unlicensed inexpensive generic pharmaceuticals bowed to the realities of the World Trade Organization while at the same time challenging the domestic drug industry to compete with the multinational firms. Unfortunately, its weak higher education sector constitutes the Achilles 'heel of this strategy. Its systematic disinvestment in higher education in recent years has yielded neither world-class research nor very many highly trained scholars, scientists, or managers to sustain high-tech development.

Enhancing the quality and accessibility of higher education through the use of Information and Communication Technology.

Ashish Hattangdi and Prof. Atanu Ghosh, (Ashish Hattangdi is a doctoral student at the School of Management, IIT Bombay.), (Prof. Atanu Ghosh is an Associate Professor at the School of Management, IIT Bombay).

Changes in the economic and social fundamentals call for transformation in the skills, capabilities and attitudes of the masses. This requires a shift in the delivery and pedagogy used in the current education system. The purpose of this paper is to promote integration of Information and Communication technologies (ICT) in higher education for imparting easily accessible, affordable and quality higher education leading to the economic upliftment of India. The focus of the paper is on the benefits that ICT integration in education can provide, right from breaking time and distance barriers to facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing among geographically distributed students. The findings reveal that it also facilitates sharing of best practices and knowledge across the world.

(C) Forthcoming Events:**Engineering Education Foundation and Maharashtra Federation of Consortia, Pune**

The XVI Foundation of Engineering Education foundation & the II Annual Convention of the Maharashtra Consortia of Engineering College & Polytechnics will be held on 2nd July 2011 at Pune (the Venue will be declared shortly)

