

Indians most intelligent: A farce?

India has always been viewed as an education powerhouse, and Indians one of the most intelligent minds. We have always proudly stated that the world's best doctors, engineers, economists, mathematicians, etc. belong to our nation. But is this the only reality?

Are we hiding the truth behind the veil of a few who have made big in other nations? Are we putting on a façade that gives the world a picture that Indians are the brightest?

A shocking revelation came when the brightest fifteen year olds were put for the first time on a global platform when tested for their reading, math and science abilities. The test was conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development under the Programme for International Student Assessment. India came second last, only beating Kyrgyzstan, out of a total of 73 countries.

The students of the states of Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh were selected to sit for the test on the grounds of being the best minds of the country. The analysis from the test came as, in math, considered India's strong point, they finished second and third to last, beating only Kyrgyzstan. When the Indian students were asked to read English text, again Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh were better than only Kyrgyzstan. Girls were better than boys. The science results were the worst. Himachal Pradesh stood last, this time behind Kyrgyzstan. Tamil Nadu was slightly better and finished third from the bottom.

Shanghai, China topped the rankings when it came to mathematics and science and in reading it came second.

These reports bring up the need to urgently bring about the change in our education systems. We need to move away from the general methods of rote learning and make our students understand every subject conceptually. Also practical application of subjects enables the students to get a hold of the subjects more easily and efficiently and ensures the knowledge to remain with them forever, and not just for a day of the examination.

So maybe we are trying to paint the picture all utopian, but the reality is that our beliefs are far from truth. But some efforts from the educationists can ensure that the next time India can pull its rankings many notches up.

