

Obsolete Mode of Education

A week before, a questionnaire was being circulated in the major educational institutes of India asking people's opinions on India's stand on its economic and foreign policy. The questionnaire was prepared to collect the first-hand information for a study by the students of the University of Pennsylvania. Strange. This happens in almost none of the educational institute in India.

True admissions to Harvard are a lot easier than admissions to IIT's or the top 6 colleges of Delhi University. There are so many students who didn't get admissions in the best colleges of India are studying in some very good universities abroad which are way ahead in the ranking in the list of best universities in the world than the universities in India.

India boasts about its first class education system in schools but is way behind the foreign universities when it comes to higher education. To tackle the situation, Indian government has invited the Ivy League and Britain's Oxbridge universities to open their colleges in India.

The main problem with the higher education system in India is the high working hours. The best colleges in Delhi Universities have 6 to 8 hours of working day which sums up to 30 to 40 hours of working week while most of the foreign universities have much lower working hours which leaves with the students enough time to take up an internship, do a research work or participate in some other extracurricular activity. This obviously results in the overall growth in their personality. In India, the working hours are long which does not let students to devote their times to other important activities. Most disadvantaged students are those who travel great distances for two hours or more and then reach colleges. For them, reaching college and then going back home on time every day is a big thing, they are barely able to revise what they studied in college so doing a research paper or experiment is out of question.

Now the President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has called a meeting of deans of major educational institutes to reflect upon the situation and find out the feasible solution. During a convocation ceremony, he raised his concerns over Indian universities not in any international rank charts and has urged the private sector to take up the task of improving the education system due to unlimited demand and limited supply of resources with the government.

Private sector has the potential to play an important role in this scenario as many premier universities like Harvard, Yale, Stanford are an effort of private sector but people in India want to study not in the new private colleges but in the old, reputed and government college. Now, Indian government is in talks with these premier institutes to open their campuses in India to tackle the problem of reputation.

But this is not the solution. Even if these universities have their campuses in India, they are going to charge very high fees for their educational programmes. This is the very problem we have with the existing private institutes which charge 10 folds more fees than the government colleges for the same programme. Everyone knows to be a doctor, especially from a private institute costs a lot with almost 50 lakhs of donation and then lakhs of fees for a single semester. How will the high fees charging private institute help raise educational level?

Of course, once oxford comes to India, everyone will be willing to get an admission there but the problem is no with the people who can afford the expenses. Majority of Indians barely make their ends meet after paying for education and health and they will continue to study in the old colleges with the obsolete methods that too if the teacher comes. The need is to improve standards in the

existing institutes; lowering fees in the private institutes may be through a public private partnership. This will have its own problems but it would be a start. Lowering working hours and encouraging students to take up a study or a research project which involves a minimal prospect of copy and cut from the internet would a pleasant change.

Otherwise, students of other countries will write the papers undertake studies at their graduation level and gain all types of experiences and we in India will just learn those papers and pass the exams.

