How IITs are shaping students for future CEOs?

The students of the India’s leading institution with believed-to-be most intelligent students can obviously crack toughest math questions, but most of them need to improve at communication skills, body language and also, better their skills for the development of Android apps.

The establishment of new IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) has rose issues about employability at the premier engineering institutes. And, the institutes are trying to improve this with help from outside.

The IIT Hyderabad is in the path of a pilot for assessing the speaking, reading and writing skills of its about 1,500 students. It’s one of the best newer IITs in research, which is associated with IT skilling firm Talent Sprint for conducting computer-aided tests for BTech, MTech and PhD students.

The aspiring students will have to go through a 36 hour remedial coaching programme on professional communication, body language, listening and paraphrasing, and articulation of thoughts. This test will be mandatory for all first-year students from the next year batch.

“Our students are good in engineering and technology, but the communication skills are important in the real world. Whether, they become entrepreneurs, CTOs or CEOs, they require these skills,” said Uday B Desai, Director – IIT Hyderabad.

Mohandas Pai, who is chairman of Manipal Global Education and also a member of Anil Kakodkar committee on autonomy for IITs, sees these developments as much needed changes.

This year, IIT Kanpur has collaborated with British Council for conducting English tests around conversation skills, spoken fluency and written skills. It will also bring other organizations to help students with technical and aptitude tests. IIT Kanpur is also setting up a career development center – CDC by the end of this year.

IIT Guwahati is also in talks with business institutes and coding platform providers for providing students mock tests. The plan is to offer softskills workshops.

IIM Kozhikode to organize Pan-IIM Conference on Nov 5-8

Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) will be organizing the 2nd PAN-IIM World Management Conference (WMC) 2014 on November 5-8 at its picturesque campus in Kozhikode. The conference theme is ‘Globalizing Indian Thought.’ The first such conference was organized by IIM Calcutta, as the lead IIM, in 2013 in Goa.

The WMC 2014 conference advisory committee is led by Prof. Debashis Chatterjee, Director, IIM Kozhikode. The organizing committee is led by Prof. R Radhakrishna Pillai and Prof. C. Raju as its co chairs. The Programme Committee is led by Prof. Saji Gopinath and Prof. Keyoor Purani as the co chairs.
The conference will host workshops and panel discussions on contemporary themes such as publishing India based research in top international journals and case writing, future of management education and accreditation of management schools. Close to 300 scholars are expected to share their research in management at this platform.

Talking about the WMC Theme 2014, IIM K says, “The main theme of the conference is Globalizing Indian Thought. Over the past couple of decades India underwent a process of greater integration with the outside world. However the economic crisis of 2008 challenged some of the accepted wisdom of practicing management in a globalized world. The conference will reflect on lessons from the past, critically analyze current imperatives and develop a path for the future of management theory, education and practice.”

The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) was established in 1996 by the Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Kerala. IIMK started with its first batch of 42 students in 1997 and has grown tremendously over the years with the current batch strength of 356 odd students. Spread over about 100 acres of land, the IIMK campus is situated on two hillocks in the Kunnamangalam Area of ancient city of Calicut in Kerala. IIMK has its satellite campus in Kochi where the offerings are targeted at working executives.

‘Indian scientists find 2500 types of proteins’

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

LUCKNOW: Indian scientists have made many breakthroughs in human genome, said doctors at the SGPGIMS on Saturday. Dr Akhilesh Pandey of Institute of Bioinformatics, Bangalore and Dr Kanchan Mukherji, neurosurgeon at the Post Graduate Institute of Chandigarh, said Indian doctors and scientists have discovered around 2,500 types of proteins found inside eight hormones secreted by the pituitary gland. Their work has been acknowledged by science journal, Nature.

MOOCs from the IITs


NPTEL, a project of IITs and IISc, funded by the Human Resources Development ministry, recently launched the NPTEL Online Certification (NOC) portal with the support of Google and NASSCOM. On this portal, two new courses are now open for registration.

The first course “Introduction to Programming in C” is being taught by Prof. Satyadev Nandakumar of the Computer Science Department, IIT Kanpur. The goal of this course is to teach basic programming in C with a problem-solving approach to college students, second year or above, in all disciplines of engineering and science. The course starts from basics and no prior programming experience is required. Programming is a vital requirement for almost all technical jobs today, and this course is an important starting point for learning more advanced courses in programming.

The second course “Basic Electrical Circuits” is taught by Prof. Nagendra Krishnapura of the Electrical Engineering Department, IIT Madras. The goal of this course is to teach analysis of electrical circuits to students of Electrical/Electronics/Instrumentation Engineering in their second year. This subject is fundamental to all of electrical engineering and is one of the first courses typically taken by students in the area. Most technical jobs in the electronics industry will require mastery of this subject.

Enrolling

The courses are free of charge for all and have an optional certification from the respective IITs for a fee. Certification is based on the online assignment scores and the scores from a proctored exam. For the Programming course, the certification exam will be run like a programming contest where students will be
asked to solve programming exercises in a proctored online coding environment. For the Circuits course, the certification exam will be a computer-based test similar to GATE.

The courses will run from September 1 to November 15. The last date for enrolling will be September 15, tentatively. The certification exam will be conducted in December. For enrolling, please visit the NOC portal here.

Indian students still don’t find Japan interesting. Here is why


While Indian Students perceive their higher studies dream with US, UK and other Global universities on high pitch scale, Selecting Japanese Universities seems to be out of radar for many years among Indian Students.

To study in Japan more than 10,000 Chinese students enroll per year in Japanese universities and specialized training Institutes. Students from Other countries like Korea are more than 1000, hardly 500 Indian students are studying in Japan currently. On a rigor promotion by Japanese universities to attract Indian students the numbers have increased only recently, otherwise even a decade ago it used to be only below 100’s per year.

Though Indians have tremendous liking towards Japan for its technology, Bullet trains and beautiful seasons, it appears there is lot more at stake when it comes to studying or starting their higher studies in Japan. One can say that Studying in Japan is expensive hence no interest is shown to select Japanese universities, but if total cost per program is compared to US or UK universities Japanese universities cost does fall on the similar line with slight variations in cost of living.

There are 80 plus National universities, 90 plus public universities and approximately 600 private universities offering variety of programs in Japan. Many Japanese universities offer courses in English in selected disciplines and does have world’s best research facilities. Some of the renowned Japanese national universities have consistently tried to attract Indian students through scholarships and other exchange programs. Couple of universities has even set up their support desk in India to spread awareness among aspiring Indian students. Yet Japanese universities remain far for Indian Students. Apart from cost of living and studying and language challenges The Top reasons for not being primary choice to study in japan are as follows.

Lack of Role Model: In US and other countries there is clear role model [Nonresident Indian’s and also other foreigners] who have flourished in many ways be it in political academic, scientific, entrepreneurial domains or any domains that attracts students from their origin country. In Japan it is very hard to say – if there is any role model [NRI or foreigner] who has been successful after studying here on par with other countries. Neither Indians nor other foreigners in main stream domains have been able to climb up the ladder in Japan, but it does not mean there is none. There are handfuls of people who have made it to the top, but very limited.

Indians who came to japan to study 20 ~ 30 years back have had good career but many of them are not based in japan. Those who stayed back, their contributions have been limited to certain levels.

Lack of Career Prospectus: Since Many Japanese companies tend to have Japanese personnel in top management level for their subsidiaries and important positions, like other countries or multinationals, it is very hard to see Indians / Other foreign nationals who studied in Japan and have taken up Top position in Japanese Corporates. Many foreign students, post their graduation join Japanese companies, as interns and or mid-level professionals ,after certain period they move on, retaining foreign employees is been challenge for Japanese companies.
Lack of entrepreneurial opportunities: Raising funds through Japanese angel investors and Venture capital firms has been toughest. Most of the foreign entrepreneurs after pitching to investors tend to calculate time and energy spent VS money raised and profitability due to demanding consumer requirements. Many investors are risk averse and more importantly most of the VC’s are subsidiary of Japanese Banks. Not many Foreigners have been successful to raise funds for Tech startups or other forms of venture. However setting up companies is very easy and does not have any hassles unless the venture requires special licenses. In US [Silicon Valley] most of tech startups by Indian’s have made worldwide buzz and attracted huge profitability. In Japan there is not a single IT Venture /startup which have made buzz.

In US, Indian students and researchers have been able to patent their ideas in computer programs and other inventions made by them, but in Japan none. Japan being high technological country and has world’s largest patents even today, yet Foreigners owning patents in Japan is very limited.

According to the Japanese Immigration Bureau, out of all nationalities students, there were 8,905 people who changed their status of residence from College Visa to employment Visa in 2009. There is an increase in foreign students who participate in internship programs at Japanese firms while they are enrolled in Japanese Institute.

Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) conducted the Japan Education Fair in First week of August’2014 at a hotel in New Delhi promoting Japanese universities among Indian students. As trade between India and Japan is estimated to grow and many Japanese companies are setting up their offices in India, requiring Indian employees in many cadres, perhaps career opportunities could be more from now on.

By the way it is very important to note that Japanese companies who have set up their offices in India, most of them do hire Indian employees from IIT and IIMs as those are top tier universities. Indian IIT`s and IIM` s are regarded as best elite Indian universities in Japan and among Japanese expatriates. Therefore when it comes to hiring Indians for Indian market, Candidates from Indian elite universities are preferred.

Another aspect is that Japan tends to be more conservative in engaging foreign people, though foreign people are welcomed as tourist and as short term visitor; and hospitality is highly regarded but for a long term career and other opportunities still there is huge challenges to overcome, not limiting to language alone.

One more dimension is due to changing Hiring pattern by Japanese companies preferring overseas experienced Japanese candidate, many Japanese students tend to travel to US and other emerging countries for their higher studies. Therefore Many Japanese students are studying in India now, their choice of study in India appears to be IT, Language and Business management programs.

For Indian students – Post graduation, career is been the attracting factor in many countries, Hope Japanese companies and Japanese universities work hand in hand to enable employment for Indian students those who study in Japanese universities. Opportunities and career growth will be huge pull factor, once Role model can be seen in all domains that will in turn attract future students.

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Hyd sends more students to US than Delhi, Mumbai

The actual number of full-time Indian students in the US exceeds existing estimates by a huge margin. So far, it was assumed on the basis of an earlier study that there were 100,000 F-1 Indian visa holders in the US. A recent report by a Washington DC think tank puts this number at 160,000. India ranks second only to China in the list of 74 nations with a large number of F-1 visa holders.

The report on foreign student population in the US, published by Brookings Institution for 2009-2012, offers some remarkable insights on India. For instance, Hyderabad was second in F-1 visa holders, almost as many as Mumbai (17,560), Pune (5,521) and Delhi (8,789) put together. In fact, there are more students in the US, from (unidentified) Andhra Pradesh than any other state in India. Chennai (9,141) and Bangalore (8,626) are running neck and neck.

The cutoff is Kolkata, which is only 3,881 F-1s. But here is the twist in the tale. While most Indians from other cities came to the US for their master's, 45% of Kolkata came for their doctorates.

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Engineering is top choice of Indian students in US

For Hyderabad, the comparable percentage of doctoral students was only 1%, for Chennai 14%. This could suggest a second master's programme in West Bengal.

The study also shows that two-thirds of foreign students are studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) or business, management and marketing fields, compared to 48% of US students. At 70%, STEM preference is particularly pronounced among Indian students. In this list, engineering tops, followed by computer, information sciences and support services, business, management, marketing, and related support services, biological and biomedical sciences; and health professions and related programmes.

The Brookings report sees the foreign student inflow as an economic bonanza for the US that Washington and local metropolitan should capitalise on. It is easy to see why – Indian students, for instance, poured more than $6 billion in the 2008-2012 period to study in the US (831 million in tuition fees and $3.1 billion in living expenses) with students from Hyderabad and Mumbai coughing up $400 million (all from each city).

It is no secret that US institutions crave for foreign students because of the money, brains, and prestige they bring. The report suggests several measures to maximise the benefits of the full benefit of foreign students' local presence. "Foreign students," it reasons, "offer valuable knowledge of the business, cultural and societal norms of their city and country of origin and so can serve as a bridge to help globalise local economies."

The report throws up other interesting facts about the Asian craze for a US education. Bangladesh (5,319), for instance, has almost as many students in the US as Pakistan (5,376) but that could be because of strict visa controls that apply to the latter. The real surprise, however, is Nepal, which got nearly 20,000 F-1 visas, compared to Sri Lanka's 4,131. Another surprise is Iran with 9,611 F-1s compared to Israel's 4,098.

Lapping up this mainstream from foreign students are 138 metro areas in the US that the Brookings report assed as having the largest numbers of foreign students and while measuring their monetary contributions to their economy. New York and Houston had the highest percentage (75%) of graduates working for a lead employer, Seattle, Miami, and Las Vegas also ranked high for students who remained in their areas to work after graduating.

Continued from P1

While large population centres, such as New York and Los Angeles, have high numbers of foreign students, small or medium-sized metro areas that are home to large universities have the most significant concentrations of these students. Ithaca, New York (home to Cornell University) tops the list with 71.3 F-1 students per 1,000, compared to 22.4 for the nation as a whole. Boston, Massachusetts and Santa Barbara, California also rank at the top of the list.

University of Southern California, Columbia University in NYC, and University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign (also referred to as University of Illinois and University of Chicago) were the magnets for foreign students, each taking in around 30,000 F-1 visa holders. NYU, City University of New York (CUNY) and Purdue hosted around 11,000 each. While this data suggests that foreign students typically flock to metropolitan, the foreign student inflow is also a boon to small universities towns such as Lafayette and Bloomington in Indiana and Durham and Chapel Hill in North Carolina.

The report offers a two-pronged approach to help metropolitan leaders make the best of their heavy foreign student population. It suggests leveraging foreign student connections with their home communities abroad to facilitate and deepen economic exchange. It also advocates the following developing programmes to connect graduates to employers located in the school's metropolitan area, helping local employers obtain the necessary visas for foreign graduates with in-demand skills and advocating for immigration reform to make more visas available for graduates who want to stay in the US.

"Increasingly US colleges and universities are educating the world's business, scientific and political leaders of the future. Metropolitan leaders should capitalise on this trend to strengthen their position in the global marketplace by giving local employers access to a larger pool of workers with valuable skills and knowledge already living in their areas," says Neil Ruiz, associate fellow for the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program and author of the report.
NCTE control battle hots up

Akshaya.Mukul
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New Delhi: The battle for control of National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) is hotting up. With just a week left for the council meeting, there is a renewed demand by Dinanath Batra of RSS for removal of a few non-official members of the NCTE council.

HRD ministry sources say interest in teacher education has gone up after the government’s announcement of Madan Mohan Malaviya New Teacher Training Programme.

"Batra and a few former NCTE directors want to have a say in the running of the proposed programme at least in designing its course and direction of pedagogy," a senior NCTE official said.

Batra said the HRD ministry should have taken prompt action and removed four non-official members. "I had to file RTI application to get a clear picture. Ministry reply only talked of legal opinion being sought on removing Virginius Xasa, one of the four members. But I am told Xasa resigned on his own. I do not know what the ministry is doing about others," Batra said.

Xasa confirmed that he had resigned but denied it had anything to do with Batra’s demand. "I was not able to devote enough time for NCTE meetings," he said.

Batra said since teacher education was the most crucial aspect of education, it could not be left to a select few.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com
A group of IIT students and faculty members came together to teach under-privileged kids, changing their lives for the better.

**Spreading the light of knowledge**

**Kritya Kanav Chandra**

Shiksha Sopan is an organization of IITKanpur community working for social uplift. Since 2001 it has been helping children from economically weak families living in the vicinity of the IITK campus and rural students from adjoining districts. Several children whose parents are workers, drivers, daily-wage earners and labourers have immensely benefited from it.

Three friends Hanuman, Dipika and Dharmendra were studying in a government school in 2000 in a rural area near the IITK Campus they heard about IIT students providing free tuition to poor children in the vicinity. These three Class X students went there to check and got hooked to the two-hour evening classes. “The IIT students who taught us were not only teachers to us but mentors who changed our lives,” says Hanuman.

Today all three are doing well. Hanuman works as Manager with Huawei Telecommunications, Gangapur, I passed my Class X and XII board exams in first division with distinction in physics adds Hanuman. Later, a faculty member helped Hanuman to complete his computer courses. Hanuman, an MBA from Symbiosis, Pune, is proud of his friends, Dipika who runs a business and Dharmendra, who is an Engineer.

The story of this trio is one among many whose lives changed for better at the initiative of IIT students and faculty member lighted their way with their knowledge and guidance.

Daga, the daughter of a vendor who sold wadas in front of IIT-Kota hotel, now works in an IT firm in Bengaluru after Shiksha Sopan funded her education in MCA from Gokulpur University, Vikas, who lived in servent quarters of IIT-K, benefited by Shiksha Sopan’s Pratibha Pushti. Waga took assisting sheme and was provided free coaching. Today, he is pursuing B.Tech from NIT Hamirpur.

The list of such children is endless.

Every year most poor children from the vicinity of the IIT campus come for the regular evening classes in the premises. More than 500 families have been benefitted by sending their children, studying in Class IV to Class XII for free tuition. These children participate in several projects, workshops and classes. These include inspiring stories, songs, and knowledge about Indian culture, games and personality development activities.

“IT is a good platform for the IITK students to spend time with real society,” said R C Verma, Department of Physics, IITK and the current secretary of Shiksha Sopan. He recalls how the work of Shiksha Sopan was started in Kanpur hostel when they felt the urge to contribute something to society.

“My friend Pranav Kumar and I used to teach children from IITK campus servant quarters. Many IIT students, who saw us, wanted to extend this on a larger scale,” said Ranjan Upadhyay, Shiksha Sopan’s Ex-Committee member and a local social worker from Nankari together with many IIT students, they started free evening classes for poor students living in nearby areas in 2001. “The idea was to use the intelligence of India’s brightest students to spread knowledge among the poor section of the society,” said Ranjan. Later some faculty members, too, joined and Shiksha Sopan blossomed. Today the Shiksha Sopan committee consists of nine members that comprise faculty members, students and local social workers. The locals are delighted that so many children of poor families are getting quality education from students of one of India’s premier institutes.

With the joining of faculty members, the science cell has got strengthened. Around 300 poor children daily attend the evening classes at Shiksha Sopan; and below Prof II C Verma, one of thefounder members of Shiksha Sopan.

**PROGRAMMED TO EDUCATE**

The Shiksha Sopan is working for the underprivileged children in and around IITK through a number of regular programmes.

**Pratibha Pooshan Yojna (Junior)**

A child is selected at the level of Class 6 and all his educational expenses up to Class 12 are met. The beneficiary mostly belongs to the family of the daily wage labourers working in IITK and is selected on the basis of his merit and economic criteria.

**Pratibha Pooshan Yojna (Senior)**

The programme takes talented poor students of rural areas at class 8 level. Every year 20 children are selected through a competitive test. These children reside in rural areas in a radius of 40-60 km distance from IIT-K. Shiksha Sopan organizes 4-6 weeks summer camps at IITK campus. Some short term camps (2-4 days) are also organized during vacations.

**Sopan Vidyalaya**

Sopan Vidyalaya runs regular school up to Class 7. It caters to the needs of the poorest section of society providing them with nutritious breakfast, books and subsidised school uniforms.

**Higher education cell**

Higher Education cell of Shiksha Sopan helps economically weak children who have passed Class 12 and want to further their higher education. Mentornous children of poor parents are assisted.

Several workshops in the campus and in government schools are being held regularly to educate students as well as teachers.

For the benefit of rural schools, they are also creating e-learning resources for under-privileged students. Children from other schools are also invited for workshops in IIT campus.

The results of children from Shiksha Sopan in 2014 board exams were very good as all students of Classes X and XII got good marks. Most of them secured first division and a few scored more than 89 per cent marks.

An annual scholarship, Dr V N Kulkarni Merit Scholarship, has helped many meritorious students. This year 10 students were selected for the scholarship after a test taken by over 3,000 students. The teaching is not restricted to IITK campus only but extends to surrounding rural areas too. There is a rural educational centre, (Aanapadham Cheeru Matha Kendra) in nearby Bagnath village.

**A workshop in progress**

Whenever possible many IITK students, especially NIS members, go to Basantwa to teach around 300 children there. With 300 children being taught in evening centres and having given away 150 scholarships till date, Shiksha Sopan is doing a great service in educational sector.
Internship scheme at Ministry of Human Resource and Development Internship, apply


Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has come up with an internship scheme for Indian nationals to commence on October 1, 2014. The main objective behind this scheme is to involve young students in policy making, project implementation and other initiatives related to education sector. The interested and eligible candidates can apply.

Details have been provided below:

Eligibility criterion: Candidates who have completed two-years of graduation, post-graduation or research programme in the fields of Education/Social Sciences/ Humanities/ Science/ Management/ Engineering/ Law/ICT can apply. Candidates who have enrolled themselves for five-year integrated programmes should have completed at least three years of their course to apply for the MHRD internship scheme. Only Indian Nationals can apply.

Scheme:
Duration: Two months (extendable up to six months)

No. of interns in each batch: 6

Stipend: Rs 10,000 per month

Batches:
Batch I: October to November
Batch II: December to January
Batch III: February to March
Batch IV: April to May
Batch V: June to July
Batch VI: August to September

On completion of the internship, candidates will be required to submit a brief report on their learning experience to the Bureau Head. They will also receive a certificate at the end of their internship, as recommended by their respective Bureau Head to the Administration Division.

Students will be provided internships in the following areas (According to their interest as far as possible):
Higher Education
Deemed Universities
School of Education & Literacy

How to apply: Candidates filling the eligibility criteria and willing to apply are required to visit the official website and download the application forms, from there. The duly filled application forms are to be sent to "Section Officer (Establishment-IV), Room No. 235, C-Wing, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-1100115" latest by August 30, 2014 (by 5:30 pm) for Batches I to III, and by February 28, 2015 (by 5:30 pm) for Batches IV to VI, by post. Or the candidates can mail the applications to harjeet.edu@nic

The candidates will also have to produce a letter from their Head of Department, Principal or Supervisor which indicates the status of the student in their institution as well as served as 'No Objection Certificate'. Their NOC will be required again if an intern gets an extension of the tenure. Besides, they are required to have a character certificate from their Head of Department, Guide or Head of Institutions.

The final offers will be made by the standing selection committee.