China surges ahead by degrees

2020 Will See 60 Million Chinese Graduates As Against India’s 24 Million

Rukmini Shrinesasan
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

New Delhi: India and China will between them have 40% of the world's university graduates by the end of this decade, new estimates released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) show. However, most of the growth between now and 2020 will be in China, with India's share barely rising.

The total pool of graduates is expected to expand from 129 million in 2010 to 204 million in 2020, but the bulk of this growth is taking place in non-OECD 620 countries, including India, China, the Russian Federation, Indonesia, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. As a result, the share of Europe, North America and Japan is declining.

By 2020, India will have more graduates than the United States. The OECD looks at graduates between 25 and 34 years of age, thus implying 'fresh graduates'.

But the big story in these numbers is indisputably the China story. Over the last ten years, China went from having fewer or as many graduates as the US, which dominated higher education throughout the 1990s, to having the world's largest proportion of graduates.

In 2010, it had 18% of the world's graduates, or 23.22 million graduates. Over the next ten years, China looks set to putting even more distance between itself and the rest of the world. By 2020, China will have 29% of the world's graduates, close to 60 million of them.

India, which is set to surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2020, will have not even half as many graduates as China by then. India had 14 million graduates in 2010 and is expected to grow to 24.48 million in ten years.

But while the proportion of Indian students among the graduates of the world might be rising, the proportion of Indian students who go on to graduate is still very low.

Just 8% of Indians aged 25-34 are graduates. India's own measure, the Gross Enrollment Ratio, which looks at 18-22 year-olds, stands at 16% according to the ministry.

More than one-third of students who enroll in college get a bachelor's degree in arts. A BSc is the next most common graduation degree followed by BCom and BEd, according to the ministry of human resource development statistics for 2010-11. Engineering, medicine and other technical courses follow far behind.

While the number of higher education institutions has expanded — 533 universities and 33,000 colleges in 2011 — the numbers are still very low compared to India's population.

China has doubled its number of tertiary institutions over just ten years. It aims for 20% of its citizens to have tertiary degrees by 2020.
New IIMs eye executive education for industry links

BY Prashant K. Nanda
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NEW DELHI

Enthused by the sound placement season for their first batch of graduating students, the new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are venturing into executive education to enhance industry linkage and boost revenue, although they are still operating out of temporary campuses.

Just three of the five new schools have been around long enough to see their students graduate from the 2010-12 MBA programme. While some say they may be spreading themselves too thin this early in their life, the B-Schools argue that the move will provide much-needed exposure to real-life corporate culture for faculty and students.

The move may also strengthen placement efforts in coming years as some feel that sustaining a good campus-recruitment record even while operating from smaller towns needs a proper strategy, without which the IIM brand may get diluted.

“Other than building capacity for industry, customized education programmes for corporate executives will help better our industry relations, which is important for placement of our current and future students,” said P. Rameshan, director, IIM-Rohtak.

The institute is set to start both short-term and long-term executive education programmes in two months. “Such programmes open up your mind and challenge you to do better academically as well as in terms of corporate life,” M.J. Xavier, director of IIM-Ranchi, said that his institute was the first of the new IIMs to venture into this space. “We started last year with a long-term, part-time executive education programme. When you are new and not all your faculty members are veterans, such programmes give exposure to both faculty and students.”

The three-year-old IIM-Ranchi started its 18-month executive course last year and has lined up several short-term courses and consultancy projects both for the private and the public sector. In the previous academic year, the institute had a revenue of more than Rs 1.5 crore from such courses. While a long-term executive education programme could exceed six months, the short-term ones largely range between two days to around seven weeks.

“The revenue is the goal but the aim is to have the required ecosystem. Management education is like the practice of law, the more you practice, the better you become,” Xavier said.

IIM-Tiruchirappalli, which started operations in 2011, has opened a satellite campus dedicated to executive education.

“The Post Graduate Programme in Business Management (PGPBM) at the Chennai Centre... (was) launched to groom working executives who aspire to move into senior leadership roles,” according to IIM-Tiruchirappalli’s website. The IIM brand can help build capacity for industry and government, and executive education is a step in that direction, said IIM-Raipur director B.S. Sahay.

“As IIMs we have a larger national role of capacity building. By starting early in the executive education space, it helps the pursuit of the institute as well as industry,” he said.

The Raipur B-School is set to enter the space in a few months. “The state (Chhattisgarh) has a lot of mining and power-related activities and here we can contribute,” Sahay said. “The state government too is eager to involve us in training and different projects and this makes our situation better.” Earlier this year, the three new IIMs at Ranchi, Rohtak and Raipur recorded robust placement of their first batch with an average salary for their students upward of Rs 12 lakh per annum amid a slowing economy and talk of poor hiring trends in the country. The other two new IIMs are in Kashipur, Uttarakhand, and Udaipur in Rajasthan. In total, there are 13 IIMs in the country.

The move by the new IIMs looks like a sensible step, said Debashis Chatterjee, director of IIM-Kozhikode, one of the older IIMs.

“Management education is a performing art and you have to practice and improvise,” he said. “IIMs starting executive education is like a medical college starting a hospital. You study theory in one section and practice in another.”

Given the debate about employability, the trend is set to expand. IIM-Kozhikode set up an extension centre in Kochi to focus on executive education two months ago.

“Such courses give a lot of advantage to students, faculty and the institute,” he said. “The revenue earned, too, helps it improve infrastructure and depend relatively less on government funds.”

When Chatterjee joined IIM-Kozhikode in 2009, the institute earned Rs 2.77 lakh from such executive programmes; this has risen to Rs 8 crore.

Bala Chakravarty, an India-born professor at IMD Business School, Switzerland, said the new IIMs can mould themselves to suit the needs of the industry as they weren’t carrying any baggage. The primary focus of IIMs is on executive education.
Times of India ND 12-Jul-12

Higher education bill: Lawyers boycott district courts in protest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Work in the six district courts in the capital came to a virtual standstill after the lawyers abstained from work to oppose the government's proposed Higher Education and Research Bill.

Lawyers in all the district courts — Patiala House, Tis Hazari, Karkardooma, Dwarka, Saket and Rohini — boycotted the court proceedings and only the proxy counsel appeared in court to get the next date of hearing in the cases.

The strike was in response to the call of Bar Council of India to observe July 11 and 12 as "protest days" to oppose the bill. HER Bill seeks to regulate legal education system in the country and has been facing strong opposition from the apex lawyer's body which has alleged that it is aimed at usurping the BCI's control over legal education.

Due to lawyers' strike, the trial of various high profile cases including the 2G spectrum allocation case and CWG scam were also affected and had to be adjourned along with many other cases. According to the Delhi bar association of Tis Hazari court, as many as 15000 lawyers abstained from work.

R K Jain, president, Shahdara Bar Association, said, "There is complete strike in Karkardooma court. We are not working and lawyers will continue to abstain from work tomorrow."

"We are not attending any of the court proceedings. Only the proxy counsels have been asked to stand in the court to take next date in the matters," said Avnish Rana, secretary of Dwarka court bar association, adding that the advocates would abstain from work all through the Thursday also.

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Times of India ND 12-Jul-12

A tool to help hearing impaired talk

Fitted With Sensors, ‘Super Glove’ Can Convert Sign Language Into Spoken Word

London: Scientists have developed a hi-tech glove capable of converting sign language into speech, a feat they say could improve the quality of life of millions in the world with speech and hearing impairments. The "super" glove by a Ukrainian team of inventors is fitted with a complex network of sensors that recognize hand movements and translate signs, which are then converted into spoken word by a smartphone app.

The glove, called EnableTalk, has already won an award for its inventors who hope their work will help improve the quality of life of millions of people around the world with speech and hearing impairments, the Daily Mail reported.

The hi-tech glove comes complete with flex sensors, touch sensors, gyroscopes and accelerometers, as well as solar cells that help keep it powered. It even allows users to create and programme their own signs, which the app will then recognize. EnableTalk is still in a prototype stage, but it’s already winning admirers in high places. The project was a winner at the recent Microsoft Imagine Cup in Australia, a competition to promote technical innovations.

And the team behind it are confident they'll end up with a product that will change the lives of people with speech disabilities. "We were inspired to help our friends who are hearing — and speech impaired — to have the ability to communicate like everyone else," said a team member. The hardware cost them just £25, meaning they would be able to offer a product that doesn't break the bank.
Spurt in growth of unrecognised B-schools

Number of institutions not approved by AICTE has seen an over three-fold increase to 327 in 2012 from 104 in 2007

KALPANA MITRA
Mumbai, July

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)’s list of unapproved institutions has grown three-fold in the past five years. AICTE, the country’s technical education regulator, has brought out a list of 327 unapproved institutions on its website. The number stood at 104 in the year 2007.

AICTE says there are institutions which are not included in the list of approved institutions, which do not have the required facilities and infrastructure. The council, to inform the public about the institutes’ dubious status, brings out the unapproved list of educational institutions.

“We issue showcause notices to the unapproved business schools asking them to explain their stand. We also inform the respective state governments to take action. But sitting in Delhi, I cannot go and raid some of them in some other state. We also cannot stop the state governments from giving approvals,” said S S Mantha, chairman, AICTE.

AICTE has a separate division which keeps a track of advertisements and takes note of unapproved institutions. It also gets references from the government and its vigilance department against unapproved B-schools and other institutions.

“We cannot tell people not to take admissions in such institutions. We just need to make people aware of these institutes. In spite of that, if the people go and join these institutes, it’s their problem. We send a copy of the showcause notice to the state government concerned. State governments also have to take responsibility,” said Mantha.

Why is the number of unapproved institutions growing?

A primary reason, say industry players, is the increase in the number of B-schools itself. India has nearly 4,000 B-schools, more than 95 per cent of them privately run, with a seat capacity of 3,60,000. This year alone, 354 private management institutions have sought AICTE’s permission to close due to lack of students. Another prominent reason is AICTE’s lack of teeth to take action against unapproved institutions and the confidence of B-schools on placing students.

“Many new B-schools do not want to seek AICTE’s permission to operate, as they do not see any benefit in seeking its approval. B-schools are able to get a good number of students as they ensure placements. Students are happy about getting placed,” said Premchand Patey, chief executive of the Centre for Forecasting and Research, an organisation that does an annual ranking of B-schools.

While the Indian School of Business (ISB) at Hyderabad is a regular defaulter, according to AICTE, other B-schools which figure on the list this year include international affiliates like Canada’s Schulich School of Business at Hyderabad and MIB Bocconi at Powai, Mumbai.

ISB, however, says it does not apply for approval to AICTE, as its one-year post-graduate programme does not fall under the ambit of the latter.

AICTE regulates B-schools which provides a two-year post-graduate programme in management.

ISB is a Section 25 company that has been established as a world-class institution. While we have received international accreditation, at the same time, we have been in touch with the AICTE over the years and have shared information whenever required by them,” says Stram

Reasons for not going in for AICTE approval

A primary reason, say industry players, is the increase in the number of B-schools itself. India has nearly 4,000 B-schools – more than 95 per cent of them privately run – with a seat capacity of 3.6 lakh. This year alone, around 354 private management institutions have sought AICTE’s permission to close due to lack of students.

Another prominent reason is AICTE’s lack of teeth to take action against unapproved institutions and the confidence of B-schools on placing students.

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Gopalkrishnan, director, marketing and communications at the ISB, says, “Currently, the school has over 4,200 PGDM alumni and more than 13,000 executive education alumni spread across 25 countries.

An email to MIB Bocconi in 2013 is unanswered.

Another institution which prominently figures on the list is the ICFAI University. Three B-schools run by ICFAI have been listed by AICTE as unapproved.

ICFAI says, “ICFAI Gurgaon, and IBS Kolkata, placed under the list of unapproved institutions, have approached the Delhi High Court and have obtained an order not to be shown in the list of unapproved institutions. On the same analogy, other IBS institutions will be written to the AICTE in case they are placed in the list of unapproved institutions,” said Sudhakar Rao, director, ICFAI Group.

The institute adds that the blacklisting or being unapproved has not had any impact on the institute. “It is being patronised by the students, parents and guardians as in the past,” which is evident from the number of admissions carried out this year.

Each year, there is an intake of about 4,000 students in the PGDM programme, with no students opting for the 25 year-old programme.

Rao says, “Does the blacklisting matter to the industry?"