Value for money

The fee of ₹1.7 lakh for two years gives students excellent return on investments at IIT-Delhi’s DMS

Gauri Upadhyay

It’s dedication, creativity and innovation that drive students of the Department of Management Studies (DMS).

USP: Given its excellent return on investment (ROI) - total fee for two years at ₹1.7 lakh with average placement this year hitting ₹1.4 lakh per annum - DMS is miles ahead of other B-schools in India.

Faculty: The college has more than 160 faculty, administrative and support staff.

Programmes: DMS runs various programmes in management. On offer are three MBA programmes, two out of which are full-time while the third is part-time. Also on offer is a PhD programme in management. The institute also has various MOUs with premier institutions like IIT Labs, USA, University of Paris, Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, International Centre for Promotion of Enterprises, Ljubljana, Slovenia, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and Stevens Institute of Technology in the US.

IT quotient: The college website is very comprehensive and easy to navigate. The DMS building, library and hostels are all Wi-Fi enabled.

Infrastructure: The Department of Management Studies has five lecture halls, an auditorium with a capacity for 140 people, syndicate rooms, a library, seminar hall, cafeteria, and computing facilities. Being a residential campus, DMS provides hostel facility to all its students within the campus. Students have access to the Internet and the central library, which contains a large section of management books. It has a state-of-the-art, modern computational and laboratory facilities with projection system and PCs, which are networked through institute-wide fibre-optic backbone. The institute has a 16-exercise gym and a large swimming pool. The campus also has a beautiful amphitheatre which can accommodate 2,000 people.

Studentspeak: “DMS is all about doing what one wants. IIT has provided abundant opportunities along with the choice to do what one enjoys to do. Students do everything from dramas to language courses. This freedom is what I personally like about DMS,” says Saurabh Jain, a second-year student.

Clubs and societies: There are 10 committees and five clubs at DMS, including the dramatics club, music club or indoor sports club. Other choices include the photography society, fine arts society, hobbies society and publicity cell. Opportunities for literary expression are offered by the English debating and literary club, Hindi samiti and the quizzing club.

Happy New Year

It has been an amazing two-year journey at DMS with all the highs and lows of doing an MBA. It has been great fun.

- Mansi Shrivastav, MBA 2011, currently working at American Express.

factfile

The post-graduate programme in management at IIT Delhi has existed for over three decades and has carved a niche for itself. The Department of Management Studies embodies the overall openness of the culture in IIT Delhi valuing all its stakeholders. In response to the feedback from the students, alumni, and industry, the Department of Management studies launched two MBA programmes in July 1997.

I wish to increase the level of interaction with other b-schools in the country. This can take the form of competitions, sports meets, etc. We believe these facilitate greater peer learning and interaction, says Sowmya Seetharamanuj, a student.
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Murthy’s barb on IITs kicks up war of words

DNA Correspondent MUMBAI

After Jaiprakash Narayan, Infosys chief NR Narayana Murthy commented on the sorry state of research in the IITs and IIMs.

"IITs have lost their sheen and have turned into mere teaching institutes without paying attention to research," said Murthy at IIT Gandhlnagar on Tuesday.

According to Murthy, between 1991 and 2006, only 36 papers from Indian management and technological institutes were published in international journals. This is not the first time that India's premier institutions have been criticised. Senior minister Jaiprakash Narayan had also taken the IITs to task for the same issue.

"It is a fact that our institutions don't figure in the world's top 150 lists. We are like infants when compared to MIT. Research needs funds and it must come from industry. But the level of research going on here fails to prompt industry to spend money. Students now don't prefer research as it's not a lucrative job," confesses an IIT professor, requesting anonymity.

"He might have impression of his own time (seventies) when actually IITs were not doing any research. We are doing very good research now. IIT-B is publishing more than 1,000 papers in international journals every year. Our research grant reaches Rs180 cr which is 10 fold from 2007-08," said professor Devang Khakhar, director, IIT-Bombay.

"Few bright students are delivering but what happens to general students? Research is not the IIT's cup of tea now," said Dr Ravi Manchanda, of the Astrophysics department, Tata Institute of Fundamental Sciences, Mumbai.

"Government interference is harming research. These institutes are crying for autonomy," opines an IIT-A professor. MHRD had appointed a committee to pave the way towards autonomy in the chairmanship of Dr Anil Kakodkar. "Financial independence is a must to excel in innovative research and research should contribute to the country's needs too. We have to work hard to be recognised globally," says Kakodkar in his report.
Industry-IITM faculty meet calls for creation of research consortia

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: The Industry-Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) faculty meet strongly advocated the need for creation of research consortia to innovate and work on time-bound projects and programmes to be technologically competitive globally.

Setting the tone for the evening, M. Murugappan, Vice-Chairman, Murugappa Group of Companies, said his company had worked with IITM on 50,000 to 75,000 soil samples over several seasons to come up with solutions for soil nutrition, giving the company's fertilizer unit a significant competitive advantage. The concept of consortium research wherein different companies competing with one another come together to work on different projects to co-own or share intellectual property had to gain momentum, he said, emphasising that the industries should be patient, reinforcing absolute faith in academia.

R. Seshasayee, Executive Vice-President, Ashok Leyland, said the conversion cost advantage the country has had for long no longer existed, as it was with China and ASEAN countries at present. There was a need to discover a way of delivering value to the customers through a frugal kind of approach to productivity to win the game. The approach had to be focussed, highly competent and cutting-edge technology, which required a dialogue between the industry and academia, supported by funding, in a time-bound programme mode, he stressed.

It was important to leverage knowledge, competence and technology available with a number of institutions, both within academia and industry globally. Industry, perhaps, had not been very good at collaborative research at a pre-competitive stage.

In his farewell speech, M.S. Ananth, Director, IITM, thanked the faculty, staff, students and partners from outside for the success of the institute in the past ten years. Juxtaposing of industry, faculty and students was very important and a meeting of scientific minds from different cultures could work wonders.

This idea of meeting of unlikely minds from different cultures was being tested at the IITM Research Park. IITM should enable the idea of research consortium with the help of its students from different industries by getting them to work in the research park and projects, Prof. Ananth said, hoping that IITM would take the lead.

Indian Institute of Technology-Madras Dean Job Kurian (left), felicitating Director M.S. Ananth at a meet in Chennai on Monday. Murugappa Group of Companies vice-chairman M. Murugappan (second from left) and Ashok Leyland executive vice-president R Seshasayee are in the picture.

PHOTO: K.V. SRINIVASAN
Supreme Court breather for B-schools

By Prashant K. Nanda & Nikhil Kanekal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave a breather to hundreds of management schools by extending an interim order that allows them to fix their own fees and choose students from a set of entrance exams rather than from a state-run test.

With this, the new guidelines issued by the Union government-controlled All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), which is the apex technical education regulator, cannot come into force even in the 2012-13 academic year.

The order effectively allows nearly 550 business schools that offer the postgraduate diploma in management (PGDM) to retain their autonomy in several matters, which AICTE had tried to curb by notifying a set of new guidelines in December.

The Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) and the Association of Indian Management Schools, two private education lobby groups, had approached the apex court against the move.

An apex court bench of justices R.V. Ravindran and A.K. Patnaik continued its interim order of 17 March. The court suggested that AICTE hold a national-level entrance exam for management schools to select students from among the candidates.

On the insistence of EPSI’s counsel on having one or two tests for PGDM admissions, instead of the existing five, the court allowed AICTE to conduct its own entrance test. But this will be in addition to the existing tests, which include the common admission test of the Indian Institutes of Management and XAT of XLRI Jamshedpur.

“It’s a great relief for PGDM institutes,” said Naresh Kaushik, an advocate representing EPSI. H. Chaturvedi, director of the Birla Institute of Management and Technology and alternate president of EPSI, said the court did not agree with the provisions of AICTE’s notification, which proposed that PGDM admissions be conducted by state governments.

The court has allowed management institutions to fix their own fees and intimate AICTE and the state governments.

AICTE acting chairman S.S. Mantha could not be reached for comment.

An official in the human resource development ministry said, requesting anonymity, that the ministry and AICTE expect the court’s final order to be in their favour as the notification was aimed at improving the quality of management education in the country.

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Coaching industry — A parallel education system

India has an "examination system" but not an education system, it is claimed. The coaching industry has emerged as a parallel education system in India in the last two decades.

With the competition becoming tougher day by day and the plethora of examinations to attend to, the students are left with no choice but to look for new alternatives to get an edge over their peers. The regular classes in the schools and the colleges have failed to make them feel secure and the coaching classes have conventionally filled this void while filling their own lockers.

A news report in 2007 placed the coaching industry in India at Rs. 5,000 crore with 20% growth per annum. Another estimate by ASSOCHAM in 2008 gave even more startling figures by claiming that the coaching industry in India is worth Rs. 10,000 crores industry.

The coaching industry can be divided into three sections: first pertaining to private tuitions meant to supplement the regular classes at schools or colleges, second catering to the competitive examinations where technically speaking the syllabus is same as the school or college curriculum and finally those preparing the students for such competitive examinations where the syllabus is different from the regular curriculum.

Private tuitions at school level were initially meant for the academically weak students and were more common in the classes which culminated in board examinations. However, today private tuitions have become a fad rather than laudable even at the elementary level of education. Here the blame has to be shared by both the schools and the parents. With no time to devote to the children during the office hours, the working parents find it convenient to send the children to private tuitions to keep them busy during the day. However, these days it’s also common to see children from economically weaker sections attending private tuitions in the neighborhoods. This stems from the anxiety being shown by the teachers at government schools and the falling standards of these schools.

Helpless to guide their children themselves, even these parents are left with no option but tuitions.

However, even the organized coaching institutes are just becoming crops where more and more students are being admitted with no concern for students’ water heads. It is further supplement this classroom coaching, now we hear of “take-up” coaches or “coaches” who help the students just before their examinations by visiting their homes and listening to what all they have revised. With such new innovations, there seems no end to this phenomenon.

The scrapping of board examinations at secondary level and the introduction of grading system might ease the pressure on the students momentarily, however it is doubtful if it will play any role in the falling away of the influence of private tuitions. Our mind’s not forget that the ultimate aim of the students remains admission to a good graduation course and with the type of competition and high cut-offs we are seeing today, parents will definitely want their wards to make an easy start.

This brings us to the competitive examinations like the ones to engineer and medical colleges where technically speaking the syllabus is same as the school or college curriculum. It is incomprehensible that why until the students prepare for parallel examinations at the senior secondary level. Though the ITI’s have brought in certain reforms and with the introduction of AIEEE and other such integrated competitive examinations, the situation has improved but still a lot more needs to be done.

Even UPSC’s latest move to introduce aptitude paper in the preliminary stage of the Civil Services Examination in place of an optional subject paper was meant to target the existing coaching industry. While this move brought some relief, it did not reduce the burden on the aspirants as they still have to prepare for two optional papers in the Mains examination. It also indirectly allowed the coaching institutes dealing with MBA entrance examinations to enter the lucrative market of Civil Services Examinations.

Many such institutes tweaking their existing study material and classroom programs to cater to CAT aspirants without much reorienting into the expected pattern for the paper. The end result was that when the actual paper was held a few days back, the aspirants realized that the paper required more of common sense than any coaching. You name an examination and there exists some institute to train you for it. Law entrance, fashion designing, NDA, Hotel Management, Bank PO and even jobs being conducted by companies during their placement drives are all largely based on aptitude. With the amount of competition the students have to face and the lack of vocational training at the schools and the colleges, they are left with no option but to seek coaching and guidance from outside. This industry is just filling the void created by poor educational facilities and poor policy making by those in power. One must remember that most of the competitive examinations take a toll on the students and they need a guide to take them through the examination. The onus lies on the government and the educational regulatory authorities to bring in more pragmatic and thoughtful reforms.

In my opinion coaching as a profession has reached its peak where young students broker their futures through the promise of a guaranteed success over the formal education system. I see no harm in both the structures coexisting as both have their own space and purpose in the educational system of this country.

The author is the former Centre Manager of a reputed coaching institute based in Chandigarh.
India has highest number of Gmail users

Andrew Lipsman, Comscore’s vice president for Industry Analysis, said, “Penetration is defined as the percentage of total home and work Internet users who engage in a particular behaviour. I am not surprised that India is the leader for Gmail penetration given the market’s general affinity for Google branded products and services.”

Gmail is obviously the number one webmail provider in India, and is at number two in the US. According to Lipsman, “Global Gmail usage is up 32% in the past year. It is up 52% in the US, 82% in Brazil, and 29% in India.”

The popularity of Gmail in India could also have been a factor behind the early success in India of Google’s social networking initiative, Google+, as Google’s tussle with Facebook for dominance of the Indian market, one of the hottest globally, continues.

According to Comscore, while the US accounted for nearly 5.8 million of Google+’s audience since its late June launch, India ranked a “strong second” with about 2.8 million visitors.

It’s also indicative of how the Indian market is evolving. In mid-2009, the social networking platform with the largest user base in India was Orkut, with 307 million.

At that time, Facebook trailed Orkut by over one million users. By the end of June this year, Facebook’s usage had jumped to 34.5 million with Orkut dropping to 13.4 million, going by Comscore statistics.

Orkut, of course, is the original Google social media platform, predating even the failed Google Buzz network.

Google did not comment on its plans for Google+ in India.

However, a spokesperson said, “We’re committed to making the web more people-centric, and we’ve been gradually giving people new ways to share things and interact within our products.”

Facebook didn’t comment on Google’s early success in India, saying that it was “hard to comment on the issue since Google had a very different, invite-only model.”

But Facebook’s Global Communications Manager Kumiko Hidaka stressed the importance of India to the company. She said, “As a global company, we are very focused on every region and India remains very important to us.”

She pointed out that Facebook had opened an operations office in India last year and established a “presence on the ground” there.
Work it out

Do we need an IIP – Indian Institute of Politics – like our IIMs and IITs?

Jug Suralya

Of late there has been a lot of talk of 'governance deficit'. Translated into plain language that means that the people who are meant to run the public affairs of this country – the politicians and the bureaucrats – don’t know how to do their jobs. The bureaucrats – who in order to become bureaucrats generally would have had to pass often extremely competitive exams – might say that they know exactly what their job is, and how to do it. However, they are often prevented from doing so because of political interference. Maybe that's just buck-passing on the part of babudom, for there are many who believe that the ills of misgovernance that routinely plague the country are caused more by a generally inefficient, corrupt and unaccountable bureaucracy than by politicians. According to this argument, while politicians have to at least pretend to perform before the electorate or risk being voted out of office when their tenure is over, babus are secure in their jobs for the full length of their careers, and are under no compulsion to do their jobs or even to pretend to do so.

However, there seems to be a more crucial point of difference between politicians and babus when it comes to getting on with the job. While the babus at least know what their job is – whether they do it or not being a completely different matter – Indian politicians by and large appear to be totally clueless as to exactly what it is that is required of them by way of work. A TOI report on the responses given to an RTI application seeking to find out exactly what are the duties and responsibilities of our MPs and MLAs has shown that almost none of the respondents – including the Lok Sabha secretariat and the Election Commission – could give an adequate answer to these questions.

While the Election Commission brushed aside the queries saying that it was “not concerned with information sought”, the Lok Sabha secretariat replied that there was “no provision either in the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business... defining duties and responsibilities of members of Parliament or through which the accountability can be fixed on non-performing MPs”.

Spokespersons for both the Bihar and the West Bengal assemblies agreed that “there is no provision/rule through which the duties, responsibilities and accountabilities of MLAs are fixed”. The sole exception to this denial of responsibility of our elected representatives was the Sikkim assembly which has rules “specifying the duties of MLAs”, their “prime duty (being) to maintain communal harmony and peace among the people”.

Ignorance is bliss. And being blissfully ignorant of just what their job entails – what they are actually meant to do once they’ve been elected into office – our political leaders can’t be blamed for ‘governance deficit’, for not getting on with what they are meant to be doing. Because, as they’ve all too readily admitted, they don’t know what it is that they are meant to do. So how can they be held responsible for not doing what they don’t know they were supposed to be doing? And the answer to that, of course, is that they can’t be held responsible. So the voters can go fly a kite. Or the governance deficit, whichever they prefer.

How are our politicians to be taught what their job is – apart from doing everything they can to hang on to power as long as they can and extract much as they can from the exchequer to enrich themselves? One suggestion might be to set up IIPs – Indian Institutes of Politics – along the lines of our IIMs and IITs, which are internationally acclaimed as centres of excellence. However, as well-meaning as it might sound, such a proposal is not merely hopelessly naive but also outdated. For the truth of the matter is that the Indian political class, across the board, has long ago already set up its own institute of political training, the alumni of which are living testimonials to the world’s first functioning IIP: the Indian Institute of Plunder.

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http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/jugglebandit/
आईआईटी पटना में हर सुविधा है, खूब पढ़िए : मौनिक

आईआईटी पटना के लेखक को लेकर अब लायक होने की जरूरत नहीं है। यहां के छात्रों में वे सही सुविधाओं के लिए भी मनोकामना करते हैं। एक छात्र ने कहा कि इस विश्वास में आज का जीवन हर तरह की सुविधाओं के लिए कोठे है।

यही विषय पर 2011-15 के छात्र-छात्राओं के लिए, आईआईटी असर्विटक और आईआईटी असर्विटक के लिए देखने के लिए 120 छात्र-छात्राओं के लिए यह बिल्डिंग शुरू होने के पूरे उसके संस्थान के स्थान में जानकारी देने के लिए आर्थिक और राष्ट्रीय प्रोग्राम का आयोजन किया गया था।

आईआईटी के नेता कहा कि संस्थान के लिए छात्र-छात्राओं को लायक होने की जरूरत नहीं है क्योंकि इस संस्थान में उन्हें विभिन्न सुविधाएं प्रदान किए जा रहे हैं।

इसके बाद और भी कई छात्रों का भाग भी मूल रूप से हो जाएगा। इसके बाद नए रिपोर्ट रिपोर्ट किए जाएंगे। ऐसी छात्र-छात्राओं को लायक होने के लिए उन्हें सही सुविधाओं के लिए आईआईटी के लिए आर्थिक और राष्ट्रीय प्रोग्राम का आयोजन किया गया था।

आईआईटी पटना में सोन्नार को आर्थिक और राष्ट्रीय प्रोग्राम में संस्थान के लिए देखने के लिए कोठे है। अब आईआईटी के लिए नए रिपोर्ट रिपोर्ट किए जाएंगे।

119 छात्रों का एंडिमांश

तत्काल विश्वविद्यालय के लिए आईआईटी पटना को नेतृत्व की ओर से 119 छात्र-छात्राओं को हिस्ट की गई है। आईआईटी पटना में छात्रों का एंडिमांश दर शाम तक जारी रहा। एंडिमांश के बाद छात्र-छात्राओं के लिए एंडिमांश का आयोजन किया जा रहा है।