A step for the better

The common entrance examination for admission to undergraduate engineering courses to be held from the next academic year is a positive step — not just because it aims to set a national standard to evaluate students, but it also puts the focus back on doing well at school. Students who neglected school-leaving exam grades and joined coaching centres, aiming solely at cracking the IIT entrance test, will now have to find a balance that may serve them better in their lives and careers.

The compromise formula, with varying percentages of weightage to school finals, marks in two different tests — JEE Main and Advanced — to be taken the same day and percentile calculations to determine the mean to bridge marks from different streams (like CBSE, ISC and state boards), may seem a complicated way of tinkering with the existing system. But the new system should eliminate the need to take multiple entrance tests in different parts of the country at great expenditure of nervous energy in students and financial cost to parents. It’s now up to the states to devise a common standard that should, in the long run, offer all citizens a level playing field.

If concessions are sought and exceptions made, it would once again lead to the kind of chaotic choices that students must make in determining their careers. We will of course have to think again if the new system adversely affects the prospects of rural students, some of whom now excel at the IIT entrance tests.
REFORMS IN ENTRY TO NIITS A GOOD MOVE

The inclusion of Class 12 results in assessing the eligibility of students seeking admission to engineering colleges is a good step. The stress on engineering entrance tests for admissions to all prominent colleges made students neglect the Class 12 board exams and also increased pressure on them. Similarly, holding a single entrance test for and other centrally-funded will save students' time and effort, as they would not be required to prepare differently for different exams. This will also help choosing accomplished candidates.

29 May 2012 | Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

TOPPERS HAIL ANNOUNCEMENT

The city's toppers are happy with Union HRD minister Kapil announcement of making class 12 marks count for IIT:EE. Many of those students who haven't done well in the and the AIEEE are excited that this new format would give them a fair chance. Priyanshu Gupta of RLB, who scored 96.8%, says: "It is a welcome move and we appreciate the decision." Son of an army officer, Anirudh Kulkarni (96.2%) of APS Nehru Road said it is a good initiative by and this would give a better chance to students. Tirath Raj Dwivedi (95.8%) of APS also hailed the decision. Apurva Tewari of RLB, who scored 96.2%, was happy that for admission to all the centrally-funded, there would be 40 percentage weightage for performance in class 12 (after normalisation of marks).
reforms force students of Class 12 to redraft study strategy

MUMBAI: More work, greater emphasis on Class 12, a sudden reorientation of mindset: students appearing for the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) next year are fretting over the announcement of the new pattern merely 10 months before they sit for the exam.

is the admission criterion to the Indian .

On Monday, the human resources development ministry announced a two-part admission process next year for the , including a first part screening process followed by a second exam that would determine the merit . In the first part weightage will be given to a student’s Class 12 board exam based on a percentile score.

“It’s wrong to do it when we have just 10 months left to give the exam,” said Harsh Khara, 17, an aspirant. “They could have brought it in for 2014. We will have to prepare harder for the boards now. We will need to reorient ourselves.”

With two exams, one main and one advanced, students suspect they will have to work harder.

Senate members of IIT Bombay also pointed out that it would be unfair to those candidates who had taken the exam this year and plan to attempt the exam again next year.

The ministry’s rationale for bringing in the reforms includes doing away with the proliferation of coaching classes and bringing back importance into the school system. Coaching see in the reforms further opportunities.

Pace is planning to open more junior colleges where students prepare for both and Class 12, in addition to the six that are already operational in Mumbai.

"I am seeing a big rush for these integrated programmes," said Praveen Tyagi, director of IITB’s Pace, a . "All my expansion has been along these lines."
Anand leads protest against new IIT admission test format

ATNA: Hundreds of underprivileged students aspiring to join IITs on Tuesday took out a rally in the city under the leadership of Super-30 founder and noted mathematician Anand Kumar to protest against the Centre's decision to change the format of IIT admission test from next year.

Under the new format, instead of one examination for admission to the 15 IITs across the country, there will be two examinations—JEE-Main and JEE-Advanced. In the main exam, 50% weightage will be given to performance in the Class 12 boards, which will be used as a filtering process. A candidate's performance in the advanced examination will determine his/her admission to the IITs.

Besides, there will be no separate examination for admission to non-IIT engineering colleges from next year. Admission to the various National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and centrally funded engineering colleges across India will be based on the JEE-Main and JEE-Advanced examination.

"If there can be one test for the more competitive AIIMS examination, which has fewer seats and more candidates, and IIMs, why can there be no single test for IITs? The process being adopted is more cumbersome and it will only add to pressure on students," Anand said.

He told mediapersons that the move to change the examination format from 2013 would cause confusion among the current batch of students. "They have already completed their Class XI. If at all the new system is to be implemented, it should be effective from 2014, so that the students get enough time to adjust. After all, the changes are for students only," he added while reacting to the Union HRD minister's decision.

Maintaining that there was still uncertainty about the mechanism of two-tier test, he said if the JEE-Main and JEE-Advanced examination are held the same day, it would be psychologically draining for the poor students. "More thought needs to be given to the proposed changes before implementing them," he added.

"The proposed reform to bring focus back to the schooling system by giving weightage to performance in Class XII Board examinations normalized on percentile basis would also be a serious challenge as there is huge gulf between schools of the CBSE and ICSE boards and those under state boards. The formula to be adopted for percentile calculation is also not clear, as all state boards have different yardsticks," Kumar added.

Anand said the new system would make students more dependent on coaching, as they would have to prepare for three different tests—JEE-Main, JEE-Advanced (which will also have aptitude test), and for scoring high marks in the Plus Two examinations. "What is more, the students from rural areas, who don’t have the advantage of quality schooling, will face disadvantage in qualifying for the JEE-Advanced examination for no fault of theirs," he said.
Engineering CAT will hit rural students: Super 30 founder

PATNA: The move of the joint councils of IITs, NITs and IIMs to hold a common admission examination would make it more difficult for students, especially those from rural areas where school infrastructure is poor, Super 30 founder Anand Kumar said on Tuesday.

If there can be one test for more competitive AIIMS examination, which has fewer seats and more candidates, and JIMs, why can't there be so similar test for IITs,' Kumar said.

The process being adopted is more cumbersome and it will only add more pressure on the students," he said.

Anand said the move to implement the common admission examination from 2013 would create confusion among the current batch of students. 'If at all the new system is to be implemented, it should be at least from 2014 so that the students could have enough time to adjust. After all the changes are for the students.' Maintaining that there was uncertainty still about the mechanism of the proposed two-tier test, he said if JEE-Mains and JEE-Advanced were held the same day it would be psychologically draining for the students. 'More thought needs to be given to the proposed changes before implementing them,' he added.

Anand said the present system would make students more dependent on coaching, as they would require it for three different examinations.

Anand Kumar's Super 30, set up a decade ago, has been lauded by Time magazine as the best in Asia. The institute provides free residential coaching to 30 meritorious students from the underprivileged sections of the society and so far 263 students have made it to the IITs.
Nitish urges Sibal to reconsider new criterion for IIT-JEE

Urging union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal to reconsider his move to change the existing eligibility criteria in the IIT joint entrance test, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday said the new proposal will discriminate against students with poor socio-economic status.

In a letter faxed to Sibal today, Kumar said, "Such proposals will favour students with elite background and discriminate against students with poor socio-economic status. Any examination system should be inclusive. Any change in the existing examination system will have far-reaching consequences, which is unwarranted."

Sibal had yesterday mooted a new proposal, whereby a student would have to secure at least 80 per cent marks in the class 12 Board examinations as compared to the present requirement of 60 per cent for sitting in the IIT-JEE test.

Requesting Sibal to reconsider the proposed change in the existing examination system, the chief minister said students from backward regions of the country would be the most affected by the new proposal.

"In the existing system, larger pool of students with different socio-economic background are able to appear in the entrance examination. This explains better performance of students from backward regions in the IIT examination," he added.

RJD supremo Lalu Prasad also opposed the move and described it as a "wrong step".
"The proposal has been brought under a conspiracy to deny entry of the students coming from poor and deprived backgrounds into the IIT," he said.

"We strongly oppose it and I will personally take up the issue with Sibal," he added. When contacted, Congress leader Shakeel Ahmed refused to comment, saying he did not have any details about what the HRD minister had proposed.
Coaching centres cash in on new JEE norms

MSARASWATHY
Mumbai, 29 May

Institutions offering coaching classes for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have been quick to sniff business opportunities in the new norms for entrance examinations to these. Some have already increased fees, citing additional expenses on preparing study material for board examinations.

Yesterday it was decided that from 2013, there would be a single entrance examination for admission to the IITs, the International Institutes of Information Technology and the National Institutes of Technology. Equal weightage would be given to marks secured in Class XII Board examinations and performance in the entrance test.

Coaching institute IITian's Face already has an integrated programme for the IIT-JEE entrance test and Class XI and XII examinations, through its junior colleges in Mumbai. Managing Director Praveen Tyagi says, "The decision has come as a boon for us, as we have already been offering coaching for Board examinations. About 90 per cent of the new admissions are for the integrated programmes." He added there was a rise of 20 per cent in the institute's fees in April, owing to investment needed for material for Board examinations.

Rao IIT Academy also plans a 10 per cent rise in fees for the batch appearing for the IIT entrance test this year. Chandan Dikshit, planning and strategy head, says the fee increase would help provide aggressive coaching for Board examinations.

Triumphant Institute of Management Education Director Manek Daruwalla said there would be no impact on the institution, as students here were already tutored for Board examinations. "We just need to be more involved with schools for Class XII preparation," he said. For now, the institute would not increase fees.

Major institutes such as Career Point in Kota already began offering coaching for Class XI and XII examinations from January. "The new pattern, which gives 50 per cent weightage to Board examination marks, will actually increase business in the tutorial space," said chief executive Padmin Maheshwari. The institution would not increase fees this year.
...कोचिंग संस्थान फिर भी हैं किंग!

एम सरसवती 

पटना परीक्षा पैटर्न से संबंधित निवेदन में भारतीय राज्य आईआईटी इंजीनियरी संस्थान (आईआईटी) के दाखिले के लिए स्थान पाने करने वाले कोचिंग संस्थाओं के लिए नए कारोबारी अवसर के तौर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा गया है। कोचिंग संस्थान ने नए पैटर्न से निपटने को कहा है और कोचिंग संस्थान भी राजकीय फायदा उठाने की तैयारी में जुट गया है।

12वीं में पास अंकों को बनाए रहने में मदद के फैसले के बाद इंजीनियरिंग की कोचिंग देने वाले संस्थानों के लिए प्रात: अंक और प्रवेश परीक्षा में प्रात: अंक का अनुपात 1:1 होने के लिए कोचिंग संस्थान पहले ही आईआईटी जो इंजीनियरिंग के लिए कोचिंग देता है। यदि कोचिंग वाले में 2013 से केंद्र सरकार के सहयोग से सहायता प्राप्त सभी इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में प्रवेश के लिए एक कॉमन प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित की जाएगी। इन संस्थानों में अपनी नीतियों को विकास और बढ़ते दृष्टि से उठाए।

आईआईटी में दाखिला हुआ मुश्किल

विनय प्रसाद

पटना। देश के सबसे बड़े संस्थान आईआईटी में अब केवल युवता पूर्ण छात्र ही जा सके। दरअसल केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन मंत्री कफ़ी सिब्बल ने श्री स्टेप का फायदा इस प्रकार किया है। जिसमें एल्टीएस टेस्ट, आईआईटी की परीक्षा और पूर्व डू के मार्कस होंगे। ऐसे में कफ़ी सिब्बल की आईआईटी में दाखिले की नई तरीक़ा का निरोध भी शुरू हो गया है। सिब्बल की नीतियों को खिलाफ का ब्रेक पटना के आनंद तहत स्टूडेंट संस्थान ने उठाया। संस्थान के मुलाजित सिब्बल के प्रस्ताव में बिहार राज्य से इसका ग्रामीण इलाक़े के छात्रों को खासा मुक्ताकाल होगा। सिब्बल की अपनी नीतियों में बदलाव लाया हुआ सिब्बल सिस्टम को लाना चाहिए। संस्थान के प्रमुख आनंद का कहना है कि बिहार बोर्ड में छात्रों की सीबीएस की तुलना में कम नंबर आते हैं। छात्रों का आईआईटी में जाना मुश्किल हो जाएगा।
आईआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए जारी रहेगी काउंसिलिंग
आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट द्वारा अल्पसंख्यक कोटा को रद्द करने का मामला

30 May 2012 | Hindustan Times (Chandigarh) | HT Correspondent letters@hindustantimes.com

ORDER MAY HIT SELECTED STUDENTS’ CHANCES

NEW DELHI: The government may challenge an order of the Andhra Pradesh high court, which scrapped the minority sub-quota on Monday, and obtain an interim stay. The development, however, is likely to jeopardise the chances of 335 students who qualified under the sub-quota in this year’s Indian Institute of Technology Entrance Exam (IIT-JEE).

This year, the IITs had allowed a 4.5% sub-quota within the 27% seats reserved for other backward classes (OBC) — the non-creamy layer-oblec. Though as many as 445 seats were reserved for this category, only around 325 students qualified.

“We will wait for the human resource development ministry’s order in this regard,” said Dr GB Reddy, organising chairperson for 2012 IIT-JEE.

Sources, however, maintained that if the government does not accept an interim stay, the subquota seats will have to be merged with the OBC category.
IIT hopefuuls left in a lurch as politicos escalate quota war

By Ritika Chopra in New Delhi

THE fate of over 300 students is hanging in balance because of a brewing quota war.

On Tuesday, political parties escalated the war. BJP's L.K. Advani led the offensive from the principal Opposition party. Minority affairs minister Salman Khurshid played a strong defender of the cause.

The IITs had short listed 325 Muslim candidates for admission this time under the 4.5 per cent minority sub-quota introduced by the Centre recently.

According to IIT-JEE chairman G.B. Reddy, all of them were sure to get admission in the premier tech institutes as the number of seats reserved under the sub-quota is more than the number of students short-listed.

But with the Andhra Pradesh High Court striking down the minority sub-quota within OBC reservation, the fate of these students remains uncertain on Tuesday. The Centre's announcement on challenging the high court's decision in the apex court was not of much help as Khurshid could not define a timeframe within which this would be done. Moreover, both Khurshid and the HRD ministry did not elaborate on what the IITs should do meanwhile.

'Ve spoken to the HRD minister (Kapil Sibal) and he said that the admission process at the IITs was not complete. But the Supreme Court is on vacation and our law officers are also travelling. The attorney general should be back next week and then we can take a call on how to go on about it," Khurshid added.

This is the first year of the new sub-quota that the Centre had announced before the assembly elections in five states last year. The HRD ministry had subsequently asked all institutions under it to implement the quota from January. The IITs would have been the first to do it.

Salman Khurshid is batting for minority quota in IITs (left, IIT Delhi). The BJP, however, has accused him of appeasing the minorities for political gains.

The law minister put up a strong defence for the reservation. "The expression of the word minority is both religious and linguistic. Moreover, the 4.5 per cent reservation is commensurate with the population of backward minorities based on Mandal Commission," he argued.

The BJP, however, said the quota was directed at appeasing Muslims for electoral gains. Turning the decision to approach the apex court as "unfortunate", Advani said the matter which should be solved by the executive is now being taken up by the judiciary. "The government is using it for its vested interest," he said.
Quota cloud over 325 who cracked IIT

Himanshi Dhawan & Subodh Ghidiyal | TNN

New Delhi: The future of 325 IIT aspirants belonging to backward sections of minorities appears to be in limbo in the wake of the Andhra Pradesh high court striking down the 4.5% sub-quota for minorities within OBC reservation.

—they can move SC, P 11

The students, who are in the middle of the counselling process, were expected to be allotted seats by June 14.

With around 432 seats reserved for the minority sub-quota, these students were assured of a college and course of their choice, but now they face the prospect of losing their seat altogether as the court decision will mean they will have to compete for the 27% OBC seats.
New Delhi: Law minister Salman Khurshid on Tuesday said HRD minister Kapil Sibal had told him that the IIT admission process was not complete yet, thereby implying that quota admissions may have to be scrapped unless the superior court intervened on the Andhra high court's ruling scrapping the 45% minority sub-quota.

Commenting on the fate of some 325 IIT aspirants belonging to backward sections of minorities, Salman Khurshid said, “The selected candidates can go to Supreme Court and seek relief.” Sources in HRD ministry said they were evaluating the situation following the HC order even as Khurshid said they would move the apex court against the high court ruling. But till such time that the government moves a vacation bench of the SC, and is successful in obtaining a stay to the HC order, the future of these candidates appears bleak.

In fact, sources in the IIT Joint Admission Board confirmed that the tech institutes had sought advice from the HRD ministry on the way ahead. Counseling for admission to 15 IITs and IT-BHU and ISM-Dhanbad is currently underway and the process will go on till June 10. The web release of the first seat allotment will be made on June 4.

The HRD ministry had asked all institutions to implement the sub-quota from January 2012. The IITs are the first to implement the government's decision.

Khurshid said the HC judgment had raised some interesting points and the Centre would challenge it in the SC.

He defended giving reservation to minorities, saying the quota was not given to specific religious groups but was targeted at a group of backward communities in the OBC list which belonged to religious minorities.

Expressing optimism, Khurshid argued, “It is no political setback to the government. We are in the process of helping the country discover the contents of affirmative action. We based our decision on the nine-judge Indira Sawhney judgment. If our understanding of the order is correct, then the Supreme Court will support us.”
अल्पसंख्यक कोटे से दाखिले की चुनौती बढ़ी

जगरण बुध, नई दिल्ली: केंद्रीय शिक्षण संस्थानों और सरकारी नौकरियों में अल्पसंख्यक के 4.5 प्रतिशत आवारण के खारिज होने से आइआइटी में दाखिला लेने वाले अल्पसंख्यक कोटे के छात्रों के समक्ष नई चुनौती खड़ी हो गई है। खास तौर से उन छात्रों के साथ जिन्हें काउंसिलिंग बनाया गया है।

आईआइटी ने सरकार से मंजूरी ली है कि अल्पसंख्यक छात्रों के लिए आईआइटी के छात्रों की संख्या में वृद्धि होगी। केंद्रीय सरकार ने इस प्रश्न में लेखा है कि आईआइटी द्वारा किए गए नये पद छात्रों के लिए उपलब्ध होंगे।

शार्टलिस्ट के छात्रों के साथ विभिन्न काउंसिलिंग बनाया गया है। ये छात्रों को सामान्यतः आईआइटी में दाखिला देने की चुनौती प्रदान करते हैं।

Deccan Herald, ND 30/05/2012

Post IIT-JEE milestone

12-yr-old scores 85 pc in Class XII exam

PATNA: After cracking the highly competitive IIT-JEE, Satyam Kumar, the 12-and-half-year-old boy from Bihar has now passed Class XII examination with 85 per cent marks.

Satyam has become the youngest in the country to clear the Class XII CBSE examination, family sources on Tuesday claimed.

Satyam, a resident of Balharapur village in Bhojpur district, cleared IIT-JEE from the Mumbai zone with an all-India rank of 137. He has been the youngest to crack what is considered to be the toughest qualifying exam in the country.

Satyam is currently studying in Rajasthan’s Kota town, well known for its IIT-JEE coaching centres. He stays with his younger brother and uncle. Satyam had also done his Class X from Kota.

“We are happy and celebrating his rare success. After all, it is a matter of pride for the family, village and the state,” Satyam’s uncle Ramprakash Singh told agencies over telephone.

Singh said, “CBSE officials informed us that Satyam is the youngest to clear Class XII. The entire village is upbeat because he has become a role model for others.”

The village celebrated his success by bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets when he cracked IIT-JEE on May 18.

Satyam is busy preparing for next year’s IIT-JEE. After cracking IIT-JEE this year, he made it clear that he would not join IIT because of his poor rank. He will attempt next year for a better rank. Kumar’s father, Siddh Nath Singh, a farmer, is proud of him.

Agenecies
Heat index: Sitaram Bazar on top
CP & Bhikaji Cama Place Also On List Of ‘Heat Islands’, Says IIT Study

Jayashree Nandi

New Delhi: It’s that time of the year when the scorching sun saps the energy out of you. But if you have been feeling hotter in certain parts of the city, blame it on the ‘urban heat island (UHI) effect.’ Heat islands — as they have been termed by scientists — are hot neighbourhoods which can record temperatures almost 1 to 10 degrees higher than areas with dense green cover. With the highest UHI level of 10.7 degrees Celsius, Sitaram Bazar in Old Delhi tops the list of such spots.

It’s a previous study called Delhi-I, conducted by IIT-Delhi and Meisei University, Consoung Place (CP), Sitaram Bazar and Bhikaji Cama Place emerged as the hottest places with a UHI level of around 8.5 degrees Celsius. The team’s latest study Delhi-II has found that even night temperatures in these spots are equally high. At Sitaram Bazar, the night temperature is around 10.7 degrees Celsius higher than the coolest spot in the city. Scientists say that night temperatures are more in certain areas because during the day, heat gets trapped in concrete structures like buildings.

Not only areas in Delhi, but places in Noida, Janakpuri, Badarpur, Lajpat Nagar also recorded a high UHI level. “The reasons are obvious. The built-up area at these spots is much higher than that in other parts of the city. Moreover, heat generation from air-conditioners in cars and emissions from vehicles is more here,” said Manju Mohan, professor, Centre for Atmospheric Science, who has led the study.

The team also compared Delhi’s UHI level with other cities like London (8.9 degrees), Beijing (7.9 degrees), and Tokyo (8.1 degrees). Though some parts of Delhi recorded a higher UHI level than that in other cities, Mohan said, “In most cities abroad, the effect has been measured for years before 2009 so we cannot say that Delhi’s UHI level is the highest. But Delhi’s figures are likely comparable to other cities globally. Most urbanized centres are facing the same problem.”

The team is now working on how the UHI level can be reduced. “To reduce the impact of the built-up area, we have to increase the reflectivity of surfaces. Buildings can be painted white and insulating material can be used on walls. Vegetation in these areas must be increased to minimize the UHI effect,” Mohan added. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) of the US also suggests increasing the reflectivity of roofs and pavements.

Meanwhile, residents of Sitaram Bazar blame cooling devices like air-conditioners for the extreme heat. “Houses in the area are very closely built and heat from the ACs don’t get enough space to flow out. May be that makes the area hotter than other parts of Delhi,” said Salim, a shopkeeper. “Scarcity of trees in the area also makes it warmer,” said a shop owner.

Those who frequent CP felt that the ongoing construction work could also be a factor escalating the heat. Bijay Mandal, a security guard at CP, said, “Delhi Metro work and the increased pollution levels have turned the area into a furnace. There are 5-6 machines running here which emit enormous amounts of heat everyday.”

(With inputs from Somrer Bhattcharya)

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Sibal asks students not to worry about DU cutoffs

New Delhi: HRD minister Kripal Sinha on Tuesday assured DU aspirants that there would be “no problem” of the kind they faced last year when the cutoff touched 100%. The minister was responding to a question posed by a reporter, a day after the CBSE Class XII results were announced. According to statistics, over 3000 students have scored more than 95% this year. The high cutoff marks, including 100% in one of Delhi’s famous colleges, had triggered panic last year.
Upgrading teaching and teachers to meet new challenges

Deccan Herald, 30/05/2012

T Uncertainty and change are the watch words of the 21st century. How can we prepare our teachers to deal with it? How can we make them relevant in an era where the pace of technological change is exponential? How can we make them aware of the latest research in their field?

The answer lies in continuous professional development. Teachers need to be equipped with the latest tools and techniques to keep up with the changing times. They need to be encouraged to think critically and creatively, to challenge the status quo and to question the accepted norms. They need to be given the freedom to experiment and to fail, to learn from their mistakes and to grow.

The government and the education system need to support the teachers in their journey of self-discovery and self-improvement. This can be done through regular workshops, seminars, and conferences. It can be done through the provision of resources, both in terms of books and journals, and in terms of facilities and equipment.

It is the responsibility of the government, the education system, and the society as a whole to ensure that the teachers are given the support they need to upskill themselves. Only then can we hope to prepare a generation of teachers who are not just knowledgeable, but also compassionate, creative, and aware of the challenges of the 21st century.
Indian B-Schools Now Attract Global Faculty

Mary faculty members from abroad have taken a pay cut to teach in India

RAJAGOPALAN RANJAN

In the quarter of 2012, Raj Deepthi gave up her job at the University of Rochester in the United States to join the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, as assistant professor in information systems. The triggers for relocation were personal and professional - the allure of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, which is currently ranked among the top 50 universities in the world, and the opportunity to teach at ISB.

"The structure here allows for higher levels of interaction between the resident faculty and the visiting faculty," she says. "The curriculum is designed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the students, which allows for a more interactive and engaging learning experience."

Other global faculty at ISB include Thad Bearden, professor of management at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and Ira Bergman, professor of management at the University of California, Los Angeles. These faculty members bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the ISB community, enriching the educational experience for students.

For those interested in teaching at ISB, the faculty recruitment process is rigorous and selective. Applicants must possess a strong academic background and demonstrate a commitment to excellence in teaching and research. The faculty at ISB are actively involved in various research projects and initiatives, and are recognized for their contributions to the field of business and management education.

ISB is committed to providing a high-quality education to its students, and attracts faculty members from around the world who are passionate about teaching and research. The faculty at ISB are dedicated to fostering a dynamic and stimulating learning environment, and are committed to preparing students for success in a rapidly changing business world.
Lifestyle can affect your memory

Dr. R. Vatsyayan

Giving due importance to various mental faculties, ancient Vedic literature has described good intellect, a sharp sense of discrimination and unfailing memory a basic necessity for a healthy and long life. When we talk about memory, it is described as a complex cognitive process involving stages of acquisition, consolidation and retrieval of information. To the contrary, forgetfulness can be understood in many ways as absenteeism, transient loss of memory and persistently failing to recollect something very usual or important.

In our daily life we come across many old people having a razor-sharp memory whereas we also listen from young persons, whether they are students or entrepreneurs, complaining that they easily forget a thing. Nevertheless, for most people occasional lapses in memory are considered to be normal, but if these become more pronounced affecting one's daily performance then it can be termed as a medical condition. In general falling memory has to be distinguished from dementia and Alzheimer's disease which are the progressively degenerative medical disorders affecting a person's cognitive functions.

Though various theories have been propounded to ascertain what makes good memory, it has been as equally well-researched fact that factors like our general health, working environment and lifestyle contribute a lot to making or reducing our brain power. Sometimes, even what looks like a significant memory loss can result due to many reversible factors. But before getting anxious and starting any treatment, it is important to look into some of the possible causes of failing memory.

Many patients complain of cognitive lapses or memory loss like side-effects when they are using some prescription or over-the-counter medicine for ailments. Common medicines that affect brain functioning are sleeping pills, antihistamines, pain-killers and anti-depressant mood altering medicines. Recent research has put the role of the much-used statins under scanner as they have been found to be one of the reasons for reversible memory loss in certain patients. Unbridled and overuse of some restorative herbs is also a cause for giving euphoric feeling to a person resulting in poor concentration.

Head injury, wasting diseases and conditions involving serious systemic infections besides old age, can lead to elective, generalized or more serious memory loss in susceptible patients. Of the psychological factors, chronic stress, anxiety and depression are known to badly affect a person's ability to concentrate and organize. Similarly, overactive or underactive thyroid can also make a person restless, confused or sluggish as the case may be. Vitamin deficiency and slower nutritional absorption rate damage the neurons resulting in further degeneration of the brain. Persistent abuse of alcohol is also a perceptible cause affecting the brain functioning, making a person temperamental, careless and less focused.

When we talk about the factors that improve memory, it is seen that the same practices which help us to live a healthy life and maintain vitality also contribute to building good brain power. Antioxidants found in abundance in fresh produce and the diet meeting the requirements of a given age is good for healthy mind and body.

Nutritional elements like vitamins, proteins and Omega 3 fatty acids are proven aids for keeping the grey matter rejuvenated. Avoiding the intake of unnecessary fat also helps reduce cholesterol levels, thus minimizing the risk of cerebral vascular problems.

Regular exercise boosts good circulation of blood and also reduces the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, the two main factors leading to stroke. Depending upon one's cardiovascular status, daily workouts or walks help maintain good functioning of the brain, as exercise is a highly recommended aid in managing stress and alleviating anxiety and depression. Adopting yoga, pranayam and meditation techniques improve concentration and tranquility of the mind which is a pre-requisite for good memory. Proper and timely sleep also refreshes the brain and the mind.

Shunning smoking or abuse of alcohol should be the mantra of persons who are prone to memory lapses. Smokers perform worse than non-smokers in cognitive and withholding skills. Similarly, heavy use of alcohol also impairs memory. Keeping oneself positively busy and focused whether it is the social work, social interactions or recreational activities and engaging the brain with hobbies like reading, writing and learning stimulates and sharpens one's recollecting abilities.

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Speed up technology use for studies

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O generation, which is now predominantly made up of "digital natives", is more at ease today with online education than generation. It has grown up in an immersive computing environment. Recently, both Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) joined hands to launch an ambitious $60 million initiative to offer free online courses to students, a collaboration that would be headed by India-origin professor Anant Agarwal. An organisation established by MIT and Harvard, EdX, will develop an open-source technology platform that will feature teaching designed specifically for the web. Features will include: self-paced learning, online discussion groups, Wikipedia-based collaborative learning assessment of learning as a student progresses through a course and online laboratories. The platform will also serve as a laboratory from which data will be gathered to better understand how students learn. Because it is an open source, the platform will be continually improved. EdX will support Harvard and MIT faculty in conducting research on teaching and learning on campus through tools that enrich classroom and laboratory experiences. At the same time, EdX will also reach learners around the world through online course materials. It will move beyond the standard model of online education that relies on watching video content and will offer an interactive experience for students. The EdX website will begin by hosting MiT's and Harvard's content, with the goal of adding content from other universities interested in joining the platform. EdX will also support the Harvard and MIT faculty in conducting research on teaching and learning. EdX will release its learning platform as open-source software, so that it can be used by other universities and organisations that wish to host the platform themselves. Because the learning technology will be available as open-source software, other universities and individuals will be able to help EdX improve and add features to the technology.

Several years ago, the New Media Consortium sponsored a white paper to the Economic Intelligence Unit on "The Future of Higher Education: How Technology Will Shape Learning". The white paper was based on a global online executive survey and in-depth interviews to gain deeper insight into the wider impact of technology on both higher education and the job-preparedness of today's graduates. The major findings of this research survey were that technology has had, and will continue to have, a significant impact on higher education and that online learning is gaining a firm foothold in universities around the world.

Well, today, it is a reality that large scale use of e-learning objects is now spreading across the world in spite of what was being talked about for the past one-and-half decade by technologists and scientists. The reactions were of academicians on the advantages and disadvantages of web-based learning in India and abroad. This is of great importance to India mainly because of past efforts of launching an exclusive education satellite, initiating countrywide experiments by the University Grants Commission (UGC), and enhancing the quality of engineering education through joint programmes initiated by IITs over the last two decades. However, there is still low use of technology in the learning process. The reasons are two-fold. First, we had a very weak connectivity infrastructure, and secondly, the teaching community was not literate to use e-learning in classrooms and more so because of our awareness of the use of technology and the expertise to create e-content. Over the years the scenario has changed. In the 10th plan, the UGC Network connected all universities with 100 mbps backbone and colleges were given a 64Kbps connectivity. Now, through a major initiative of the National Knowledge Commission, there is an emerging national network with a high-speed backbone and gigabit connectivity available for universities. There is strong support coming through UGC's Consortium of Educational Communication (CEC) and its network of 300 Educational Multi-Media Research Centre's and a strong foundation that the IITs are laying on creation of e-learning materials for engineering education. Both these activities focus on training teachers to use technology in classrooms, creating e-content and exposing them to the pedagogy of e-learning. They have truly made a big impact on the higher and professional education domain. But, they have not touched the tip of challenges that one faces in online education. At present, only 15% of teachers in the true sense are technology savvy and are using online education as a supplement to their face-to-face (F2F) education approach in the classrooms. Thus, the first challenge is to undertake a massive attempt to bring a larger number of teachers to take advantage of the efforts that are being made both by CEC and IITs. This would require large investments and both short and long-term strategies for it's alignment with overall leadership and policy setting. We also need to conduct intensive research on understanding e-learning pedagogy, and also, on facts such as possible rise of plagiarism and cheating because the academic community, as is prevalent in the US, may have discretionary behaviour, while operating in an online environment. So, there are human issues. These perturbations in no way reduce the importance of online education. What is important for India is to be alive to all shades of problems and issues, and work on the most acceptable solution for bringing online education blended with F2F education as a pivot for quality education.

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