IITs remain big daddy of fund-raisers, Bombay leads the pack

Business Standard ND 14/11/2011

Newspaper Clips
November 14, 2011

KALPANA RIKHAR
Mumbai, 13 November

IITs, with a total of $1.5 billion in endowments and donations, are the biggest fund-raisers in the country, according to a study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-based National Institute of Technology, Mehta (NITM). The study found that IITs have raised a cumulative $1.5 billion in endowments and donations, with the majority coming from the Indian government and private industry. The study also found that the majority of the funding was used for research and development, with a smaller portion going towards scholarships and other student aid. The study is significant as it highlights the importance of funding for higher education in India, and the role that IITs play in driving innovation and research in the country.
The tablet as a pill

Using technology alone won’t improve India’s quality of education

Madhav Chavan

The launch of the Aakash tablet has attracted a lot of attention primarily because of its price and also the role the government seems to be playing in making it available initially to college students at a subsidised rate. Of course, we recall that the ‘R’ lakh car in the end costs twice as much on the road and the $100 personal computer that made news a few years ago was beaten by the $300 notebooks in the market. Yet, the idea of giving students access to a reasonably priced personal tablet is exciting.

So, what do we expect Aakash to actually achieve? It is certain to drive the prices down but will its use be restricted to higher education and in upper income private schools? Or, will it also find utility in government schools in the secondary, upper primary and primary sections? Clearly, affordability of the technology will not be a major issue in about five years. Will it drive the quality of education in the country?

Most enthusiasts of using information and communication technology (ICT) in education often miss the crucial new element that the technology introduces: PCs, the Internet, cell phones, and now the tablets together with cloud computing are all about random access to information and knowledge. Add to this the availability of direct-to-home (DTH) TV technology that can allow streaming of ideal classroom lectures at affordable prices. Further, knowledge is not only becoming freely available but has a tendency to become available free or at rapidly dropping costs.

Wikipedia is an example of a knowledge ‘movement’. There are sources and projects that make books and information available free of cost. The Khan Academy is an example of cost-free access to academic learning, and a little organised search on YouTube and other sites can throw up a huge amount of non-academic but valuable knowledge that anyone can access. This random access and already overwhelming body of knowledge outside the education system is in complete contradiction with the centralised system of schooling and certification. The mindset is the main block. The education system of today has a linear assembly line mindset of the early 20th century, while the technology spreading outside this system among young people in all economic groups is encouraging a different non-linear mindset.

Although technological and economic barriers are breaking down to make knowledge accessible free or nearly free of cost, up to a certain level, there are several barriers that are not easily surmountable for more than 50% of India. First, most of the knowledge available on the internet is in English. It is not a matter of mere translation of English content but also a matter of creating indigenous content in Indian languages.

Second, the school system does not teach children even the basics of reading, comprehension and writing to be able to freely access and absorb any knowledge. It does not encourage curiosity and kills all enthusiasm for learning. Third, which is related to the second, is that the education system does not acknowledge anything outside the textbooks as knowledge and it has no regard for skills. While universities and colleges are dead places where creation of knowledge is concerned, innovations and enterprise are growing in practically every field outside the education system.

Fourth, the education system tries to fit the technology to serve its dead content and dull processes that deliver a linear curriculum rather than taking advantage of the randomness of access to live knowledge that the technology facilitates. Using ICT without changing the mindset about education will not improve the system of education. The tablet alone is unlikely to cure the patient. It requires a change of lifestyle as physicians often say.

Madhav Chavan is CEO, Pratham Education Foundation
The views expressed by the author are personal.
No. of Indian Students Enrolled in US Colleges Falls in 5 Years

ISHANI DUTTAGUPTA
NEW DELHI

The number of Indian students enrolled in the US colleges and universities fell for the first time in five years in academic year 2010-11, according to a US report.

Indian students, the second largest international cohort in the US, decreased by 1% to 104,000 while the Chinese grew to 158,000, or nearly 22% of the total international student population, the Open Doors report said. International students at US colleges and universities rose 5% to 723,277.

For Institute of International Education, the organisation which publishes the Open Doors report in partnership with the US department of state’s bureau of educational and cultural affairs, the fall in numbers of Indian students in the US is not very significant.

IEE president & CEO Allan Goodman said there are twice as many Indian students enrolled in higher education in the US than in the next leading host country, the UK.

They include the total number of Indian students who are currently in the US, including those who finish one level and move on to the next, and others who are on their two-year optional practical training period.

“A drop in this number shows among other things, a larger number of students leaving the US after their higher studies and a drop in the total graduate enrolments from India,” says Vijaya Khandavilli, an education consultant in Delhi. She said students going to US are now becoming more cost-conscious, choosy and brand aware.

Goodman said the trend was probably a result of the economic slowdown and low employment rates in the US.

“The US economy is now picking up and so are international student enrolments in the US. This is likely to show up in next year’s report,” says Rahul Choudaha, a New York-based education expert.

The report said China stood first for the second year in a row, South Korea came third with more than 73,000 students. “One reason for an increased flow of Chinese and Korean students to the US is probably their willingness to fund their own studies. Indian students, who enjoy a huge advantage over most other countries, in terms of English language skills, however are looking for scholarship options and could sometimes drop plans to study in the US if funds are not available,” says Daniel C Levy, distinguished professor at the University of Albany. For the 10th straight year, the University of Southern California topped with 8,615 international students in 2010-11.

University of Illinois was second with 7,991 followed by the New York University with 7,988 foreign students.
HRD website misleads students

The department of higher education under the ministry of HRD seems to be doing quite opposite to what it is supposed to do — prevent students from going to unauthorised institutions. A website page talking about the National Accreditation Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) gives the council URL as naacin-dia.org. The URL takes you to a window showcasing many unknown educational institutions. Hope at-least by the next admissions season, the department babus wake up to change it to naac.gov.in the official website of NAAC.
iCon Steve

Jobs now part of B-school curriculum

Sreethy Susan Ullas

Bangalore: As the world is still in awe of Steve Jobs' innovation, a B-school in Bangalore is exploring the managerial skills that made him the 'best CEO of the decade'. Institute of Finance and International Management (IFIM) has introduced Steve Jobs as part of their curriculum.

The life and works of Jobs will be studied in detail by the management students as a part of their topic on leadership. "The institute has earlier introduced a topic on Indian cricketer MS Dhoni. The students will study the qualities that made Jobs an iconic businessman who transformed the lifestyle of people around the world with human technology interaction. "Every single business comes down to the product. Breakthrough innovation requires creativity and creativity requires that we think differently. Steve Jobs constantly tried to explore and innovate to change the world," said Shaji Kurien, assistant professor, IFIM.

The paper says that he had a salesman's enthusiasm for the product and an evangelist's Bible-thumping passion. Calling him a brand fanatic, the paper explains, "He has based the leadership culture of Apple on brand fanaticism and radical customer devotion. The unalloyed loyalty often involves brand-centric fan groups. Steve Jobs and Apple not only created a great Apple community, but Steve himself was a great brand fanatic."

When Steve rejoined Apple, one of his first moves was to lay off dozens of Apple products to focus on just four. Steve's customer orientation was different. He had been very effective at putting himself in the consumer's shoes but at not afraid to decide what the consumer actually needs or what is best for them. Understanding his limitations and inviting people to join his team was also his trademark.
AAI chief bags IIT Roorkee distinguished alumnus award

NEW DELHI: VP Agrawal, chairman, Airports Authority of India was conferred the Distinguished Alumnus Award by IIT Roorkee under the category of “Corporate Development/Entrepreneurship”. Agrawal is the first from the 1976 batch to be conferred the award. ENS

Pioneer, ND 14/11/2011

Airports Authority of India Chairman VP Agarwal receives the IIT Roorkee's Distinguished Alumni Award 2011 from Prof Pradipra Banerji, Director IIT Roorkee. He has been conferred upon this award in the category of "Corporate Development / Entrepreneurship".
दिखाई देगी हाइड्रोजन से चलने वाली गाड़ी

* प्रश्न के मैदान में प्रदर्शित होगा भविष्य की विनियमी

हाइड्रोजन से चलने वाली गाड़ी बार आम लोगों के बीच उठायी गई है। इसे भविष्य की गाड़ी कहा जाता है। लोग इस गाड़ी को प्रश्न मैदान में लगने वाले व्यवस्था में देख सकते हैं। हालांकि ट्रांसल के उपर गई इस गाड़ी को संभव, पर उत्तर के अभी बढ़ गया। लेकिन वही बाद प्रश्न मैदान में इसका ट्रांसल आम लोगों के बीच किया गया। गाड़ी के इंधन के लिए प्रश्न मैदान में हाइड्रोजन पेट्रोल स्टेशन का निर्माण जारी है।

हाइड्रोजन गाड़ियों और इंधन के रूप में हाइड्रोजन उपलब्ध कराने के लिए अभियांत्रिकी कंपनियों एयर प्रोफेक्ट, आइडिली इलेक्ट्रिक, आईडेनटिकल कंपनी गैस एंड गैस और एक अन्य भारतीय कंपनी इलेक्ट्रिक प्रोफ्ट स्टिम्बोट संयुक्त रूप से कार्य कर रहे हैं। इसे लेकर आज दिल्ली के प्रीमियर लाइन गैस एंड गैस के निवेशक की सुबह, इलेक्ट्रिक एयर प्रोफेक्ट लिमिटेड के महाप्रबंधक इसके जैन और गैस एंड गैस के रंगे ने रिवाज की बैठक की।

उन्होंने बताया कि हाइड्रोजन से चलने वाली गाड़ी का लगातार ट्रांसल चल रहा है। इस भारत में पहली बार ट्रांसल के तीन पर प्रश्न मैदान के व्यवस्था में उत्तर आ रहा है। लुकावात तीन पर पांच भी बड़े व्यवस्था में लाई गई है। इसके ज्यादा सुरक्षित हैं हाइड्रोजन गाड़ियां पेट्रोल, डीजल, सीडीटी और पेट्रोलियम के वाली गाड़ियों में आम लगने का खतरा नहीं है। हाइड्रोजन गैस से चलने वाली गाड़ियों की सुरक्षित है।

बुध एक सुरक्षित गैस की जागरूकता ही है। इस जगह से तीन होटल ही जहां वाला खेल लगा जाता है। इस सुरक्षित की जागरूकता की है।