

From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

India will be the youngest developed nation in 2030 and we foresee a major shift in the paradigms of education and research by 2020 on account of the dynamic social, economic, political and cultural changes which our country is currently undergoing and making its prominent place on the world map. In 1991 when Dr Ashok K Chauhan, Founder President of Amity Universe envisioned India as education power by 2020 and a super power by 2030, nobody imagined that, but today India is emerging as a regional hub of education and is attracting scholars from across the world to pursue higher education. Keeping the progressive scenario in mind, the vision 2020 of India is to conquer the world in the field of education. No doubt, the vision is aspirational but not unachievable. A decade back, countries like China, Korea and Singapore besides few others transformed themselves from developing to advanced economies due to high level strategic planning based on a vision which correlated economic development with the education sector.

During the last two decades, India has achieved the hallmark of low cost yet high quality university education meeting the needs of students at all levels, transforming them into researchers, leaders, entrepreneurs, and executives who are industry-ready. The Universities do not today face the shortage of faculties who are talented and dynamic. The report of FICCI, 2013 states that in less than 20 years, the country has created the huge capacity for a mammoth 40 million students.

However, the other side of the reality is grim and despite the high progress, India's higher education system is in a state of flux. In order to achieve the vision 2030, a systematic planning and approach is required, which unfortunately is yet to be implemented at a larger level. For instance globally popular and proven Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), where a progressive University like Amity has implemented it last year but majority of Universities including the Delhi University is very slow to accept or implement it. No clear guidelines have been framed due to which a lot of confusion and chaos is pervading the young minds. The students are running from pillar to post to understand the CBCS for even the teachers are not having any clarity about the system. The colleges have not come out with the prospectus or a handbook, which clearly shows lack of strategic planning.

The ministry of HRD has been making efforts to implement the new academic system in the country for quite some time. Emphasizing it as a student-centric system, the government opines that that the system will permit the students to undertake multi-disciplinary subjects and complete courses in different institutions. However, keeping the chaos in mind, I believe that it is quite difficult to predict the success of the system. The content will have a serious impact on the education system. The road to meet the vision 2030 is not impossible but requires meticulous strategic planning.

I have an ardent hope that you will enjoy reading all the articles in the current issue and will revert with your valuable comments.

Happy reading!

Sanjeev Bansal