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Web Savvy Futuristic Indians – TCS Survey 2010

EDU COLUMN:

HRD Minister advocates Open School Vocational Training

Source: Indiaedunews,
20 November 2010

HR Development Minister Mr. Kapil Sibal addressed the promotion of vocational training in addition to the XII class syllabus to students during the 19th general body meeting of the National Institute of Open Schooling Society (NIOS). He advised implementing strategies for states that need maximum support. NIOS is an autonomous institution formed by HRD ministry for providing formal education through open schooling system.

Confident, Optimistic, Career Oriented and Socially Connected – Yes, this article relates to Indian Youth.

TCS polled over 10,000 school students between the ages of 12 and 18 across 11 cities in India during 2009-10 to understand the emerging trends for their second annual "The Web Generation 2.0 Survey". Key results suggest that India's youth are more likely to possess a mobile phone, seamlessly progress towards mobile internet, prefer spending time online and embrace social networking sites in a uniquely Indian way.

In terms of education preferences, though they have a pre-conceived notion that the grass is greener abroad, many students have been considerable to the values of Indian education as well. Although young, they are focused on building key innovative skills and expect substantial salaries while considering future career opportunities.

Statistics illustrate that nearly half of India's total population are under the age of 20, i.e. about 459 million, and are classified as youth (source: NCEAR).

According to Mr. Ajoy Mukherjee, VP Head, Global Human Resources, this sizeable generation would play an incredibly significant role in taking the nation in a positive direction.

He stated that the survey would not only help TCS choose the cream of the lot, but also provide guidance on communicating with this part of socially connected India. ▽

Survey highlights elucidate that **Google (85%) and Wiki (77%)** are the ways of life for the students to source information. Home internet access is significant at **86% in the Metro and 79% in Mini Metro areas**. 85% of them are 'hooked' on to one or more social networking sites. It should be noted that there are more **Orkut users (71%) than Facebook (65%) users**. It is not surprising that **IT (81%) & Engineering (80%)** are considered as top career opportunities, followed by **Media & Entertainment at 66%**. **IT Software at 53% is most preferred followed by gaming at 38%**. **Internet ranks high on pastime (65%) followed by sports (56%)**. Another significant result states that **60% of youth get pocket money of less than 500 rupees**.



TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES



RESEARCH COLUMN:

TCS to sponsor 200 Research Fellowships

Tuesday, 16 November 2010

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading global IT services firm, has set goal to enlarge academic faculty talent pool in India by sponsoring research scholars working on the development of Computing Sciences through the TCS research fellowship program. TCS is committed in helping bridge the academic gap by offering real-world-solution-creation environment to research fellows. 22 candidates have been shortlisted and an additional 18 candidates will be announced in February 2011. TCS plans to financially assist 200 doctoral candidates over a 5 year period to take up PHD programs in reputable institutions of India. Research scholars would receive stipends, conference sponsorships, access to TCS Innovation Labs, interaction with TCS researchers and co-innovation network depending on their project requirements in addition to the research support offered to the candidates by TCS.

A successful year of NIIT's Innovation in Education

Not-for-profit organization NIIT was established with a vision of bringing about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society.

The second annual lecture was hosted by Dr. Karan Singh, Chairperson, NIIT University (NU) and Honorable MP at the NIIT University campus. Dr. Gurcharan Das, Acclaimed Author, Playwright and Former CEO, Procter & Gamble India, addressed the audience on "The Importance of Being Humane".

Mr. Rajendra S Pawar, Founder, NIIT University and Chairman, NIIT Limited, and Dr. Rajeev Shorey, President, NIIT University, were among the eminent guests present on the occasion.

Since its inception, NIIT has developed as an institute of excellence, which provides exceptional education based on 'Four Core Principles' that make learning industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless.

During the event, Dr. Singh stressed upon the holistic approach towards knowledge building and advocating inter-disciplinary approach of exposing students not only to the latest technology but also to the rich and multi-faceted heritage of India. Dr. Singh added that 'NU gives a glimpse of what future educational institutions can be.'

Dr. Das referred to his latest book "The Difficulty of Being Good" and addressed the importance of encompassing India's age-old moral and ethical values within the modern education system. He stated that education plays a significant role in nurturing individuals who would make Modern India's future bright with their responsible leadership qualities.

Mr. Pawar stated that India will gain pre-eminence owing to the undertaking of holistic and seamless educational approaches relevant to the current levels of innovation and research. He added that NU takes pride in nurturing thoughtful leaders of the future. Dr. Shorey appreciated the effort taken by NU in remodeling higher education. All the guests appreciated Mr. Pawar and Dr Singh for their vision and guidance in making NU a success story. They also appreciated the support of other stakeholders involved in establishing NIIT as an institute of excellence.

Located in the foothills of Aravali in Neemrana, Rajasthan, the 100-acre fully residential green campus is equipped with state-of-the-art technology facilitating a continuous process of learning.

Some of the programs offered by NIIT are: **B. Tech in Computer Science and Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Biotechnology and Electronic and Communication Engineering; M. Tech in Bioinformatics, Educational Technology, Embedded Systems and Pervasive Systems; and PhD in all the above disciplines.** ▽

Ode to ODL System

Dr. K R Prasad, November 2010

An award has been instituted by IGNOU to celebrate the success of 100 achievers who instituted the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) System. PCF 6 conference, which was jointly organized by IGNOU and Commonwealth of Learning (COL), focused on the theme of "Access and Success in Learning: Global Development Perspective".

71 countries participated to explore the ODL applications in widening educational access, bridging the digital divide and advancing social and economical development of communities and nation. ODL experience was showcased by IGNOU and other acclaimed institutions to demonstrate its stake in expanding the human resource base which would have a positive influence on the nation's growth.



IT CORNER:

West Bengal is the place for IT investment

Source: egov weekly, Delhi, Monday, 15 November 2010

West Bengal's IT Minister Mr. Debesh Shah stated that the government expects huge investments and creation of 25,000 more jobs in the IT sector by 2010-11. IT is the fastest growing sector with over 150,000 jobs created in 2009, only second to food processing in WB. Although issues related to land acquisitions had a minor impact, it did not stall the growth of IT in the state. Furthermore, Mr. Das added that recent considerable investments by Tata has burst the myth that Tata group of companies wouldn't make any long term investments after their pullout from Singur.

IGNOU in its Silver Jubilee year has set new standards in democratizing higher education and reaching those who have no access to conventional education. The university has achieved significant milestones by reaching out to people in marginalized sections of the society and remote areas.

Uniqueness, user-friendliness and ease of knowledge development of ODL system have played pivotal roles in the tremendous growth in facilitating today's emerging knowledge society.

Distance learning has been growing vastly with almost half of the students opting for it. Emphasis on education for sustainable development, quality knowledge and skills learning and diversification, have been the ultimate objectives of "Wake of the Millennium Development".



Dr. K R Prasad, Regional Director, IGNOU

The Program Chair of PCF6, on the recommendations of Honorable Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, had constituted a sub-committee for identifying 100 ODL Achievers. The terms of reference for the sub-committee lies in the mandate of identifying ODL Achievers across the open and distance learning institutes and universities in India and abroad.

ODL Achievers have been identified as belonging to the following categories:

People with little or no formal qualification who took ODL and achieved success in terms of better job opportunities/social status/higher self esteem/sense of fulfillment;

Women who achieved success through ODL;

Geographically disadvantaged people who did not have access to higher education nearby but took advantage of ODL and achieved success in terms of better job opportunities/social status/higher self-esteem/sense of fulfillment;

Differently-able persons who achieved success through ODL;

Old/ aged people who fulfilled their desire of intellectual enrichment by acquiring higher qualification through ODL.

100 names with diverse academic interests were selected among the 250 shortlisted by the sub-committee. Some of the prominent ones are listed below:

> **T.N. Ramanathan**, IAS, Secretary of Backward Classes, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, pursued Bachelors and Masters of Commerce through Distance Learning.

> **Charles J Kithu**, Director of Finance, Spice Board, Cochin, pursued Management Degree from IGNOU.

> **Hari Singh and Vikas Ahuja**, HIV victims, associated with Delhi Network of Positive People and successful in spreading positive influences to other victims, completed Diploma in AIDS and Family Education (DAFE) from IGNOU.

> **Gandkota Laya**, Telugu Heroine, pursued Masters in Computer Applications through ODL.

> **Ravula Chandra Sekhar Reddy**, former MP, Andhra Pradesh, pursued Masters of Arts and Rural Development (MARD) through ODL.

> **Rohini Sharma**, hailing from a remote village in Punjab, pursued MCA through ODL.

> **Rupa Rai Chowdhuri**, specially assisted (severely disabled), completed Mathematics with Applications in Computer Sciences (MACS).

ODL candidates from India and other parts of the world are not only inspiring others to pursue their success path but are also being preferred for superior employment opportunities across the globe which would in turn assist in enhancing the economic development of their countries of origin. ▽

Envisioning Equity in Global Development Agenda

Ms. Sheena Joseph in conversation with Prof. P R Ramanujam



Prof. P R Ramanujam

The Pan Commonwealth Forum (PCF) brings together more than 70 countries and about 1000 participants to address the key issues relating to access and equity in education through application of open and distance learning.

This article addresses the key facts of the 6th PCF event (PCF6) and its significance for IGNOU.

Vision:

“PCF6 envisioned an immediate possibility of combining the experiences of the developed and the developing worlds in providing equal opportunities with the global agenda of development implying equitable distribution of benefits through innovative open distance learning methods and programs.”

Mission:

“To give an opportunity for practitioners, researchers, planners and policy makers in the field of open education and development to share their experiences in shaping the future policies of open learning with a view to achieving Millennium Development Goals by 2015 as committed by the UN.”

Significance of the four themes in current global scenario:

According to Prof. Ramanujam, Social justice should only answer the highly complex and contradictory picture of tremendous prosperity vs. extreme poverty. Democratizing education and skill set development would empower people leading to community development.

Empowerment, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity are the four themes which go hand in hand with mutual respect, dignity and social justice for every person.

Key Functions of PCF Committees:

Prof. Ramanujam believes that expertise and guidance provided by several international committee members on strategic planning and implementation of the events are keys to success of PCF ever year. The diversified local committees play a significant role in integrating, evaluating, selecting abstracts & papers and reviewing the conference progress. Moreover, they provided expert advice to the PCF6 secretariat on performing complex tasks on a daily basis. Their combined effort helped carry forward the simultaneous pre conference events and the grand finale in Cochin.

Significance of PCF6 for IGNOU:

IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) and COL (Common Wealth of Learning, Canada) jointly organized PCF6. This event coincided with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of IGNOU that concludes on November 19, 2010. Several pre-conference workshops were conducted by Commonwealth of Learning, IGNOU and many other institutions which commenced on November 18, 2010.

According to Prof. P R Ramanujam:

India as an emerging power should significantly focus of education. PCF6 will gain more importance in the wake of three major bills to be passed by the Indian Parliament on *The National Council for Education and Research, Educational Tribunal Bill, and the Foreign Universities Bill.*

In today's world, PCF6 can offer considerable insights on reforming the educational agenda at all levels after passing the Right to Education Act.▽

JOB MARKET:

It's raining IT Jobs in Tamil Nadu

Source: The Hindu,
Monday, December 20 2010

IT companies are on a hiring spree as the demand for young, fresh and bright minds keeps increasing. Although the past few years were sluggish, software giants including TCS, Wipro, CTS and HCL have been on a hiring spree this year. From Oct'09 to Sept'10, there has been large addition of about 27,500 employees at Cognizant Technologies alone and they are soon expected to reach 100,000 headcount mark. Pondicherry University in Tamil Nadu has reached 100% placement in IT field. Even science graduates recruitment in Wipro increases every year by 5-8%, and is expected to spike to 15-20% in coming years. These fresh graduates are given special training in BITS Pilani through a PG program administered by Wipro Academy of Software Excellence.

Universities referred in this article: SASTRA University, Thanjavur; SRM University, Chennai; VIT University, Vellore; Anna University of Technology- Trichy (AUT-T); Bharathidasan University. Trichy.

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- IC4E is one of the leading international conferences focusing on *novel* and *fundamental advances* in e- related activities.
- IC4E helps foster *communication* among very knowledgeable researchers working in the key development areas of e-related activities.

Conference Details:

Date: Jan 7-9, 2011

Location: Navinchandra Mehta Institute of Technology and Development
Mumbai, India

Website: www.iacsit.org/ic4e/index.htm

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