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Bengal Chamber organizes "Millennial Learning-Educational Strategies for Gen Next"

Kolkata, May 5 (UNI) The Education Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday organised the annual conference –an eclectic meeting of minds at the “Millennial Learning- Educational Strategies for Gen Next”.

It is the age of the millennial. They are a generation born between the early 1980s to mid 90s and India is home to the largest pool of Gen Next population or millennial. The hopes, aspirations and reasons for motivation of the millennial are far removed from those of preceding generations.

To address their needs and development the education system has to discard old methods of rote and theoretical systems and be open to experimentation, innovations and creativity in training methods.

In 2015 Skill India Mission was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had envisioned that in decades to come, India would be the producer of the largest work force in the world.

By 2022 the government has hoped to create 500 million skilled work forces.

Although there have been dynamic changes in many educational system with coming of age of the technology era and concept of virtual class rooms slowly seeping in, much of the education system is still stuck in theoretical learning and old system of curriculum that has no room for experimental application based education.

Many studies have shown that the lack of practical learning is the main reason in skill gaps raising that incapacitate students to work in different domains.

"Society is changing more rapidly than ever before, generating unprecedented opportunities and challenges in its wake. Most employers seek job specific skills; many recruiters also desire general skills which is also known as employability or soft skills," stated Suborno Bose, Chairman, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Employability training is very essential to a graduates' job search and prepares the new work entrants for better placement. In this context, the Bengal Chamber's Education Committee has endeavored to create the 'Vision ' for Higher Education in India," Bose said.

"The Millennial Learning is a forum that aims to bring together thought leaders and experts from the private sector and Government to discuss the innovations and opportunities. The aim is to also put forward its thoughts and vision for creating and promoting not only industry-ready individuals but also "Life Ready Professionals," stated Satyam Roy Chowdhury, Vice Chairman, Education Committee, the Bengal Chamber.

"We have been extremely fortunate in having an impressive group of eminent personalities and speakers from India and overseas who will share their views and visions in making this meet a truly enriching one. The Bengal Chamber's Education Committee's vision for higher education is the value based excellence which will be leading to innovation, employment and entrepreneurship" he added.

Dr. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), stated, "Education is fundamental for everyone . Our education needs to unearth the talent. Institutions are either started by Private or Governmental bodies and its thereafter sustained by governmental support and corporate and regulators are then responsible for its quality control. As far as government is concerned with regards to education there is three important aspects-Access, equity and quality. The Central government has added three other parameters –Affordability, Autonomy, Accountability /Self declaration. To have a global outlook or ranking exchange programs are a must."

" We have a new program called GYAN where any foreign faculty can come and teach for either a week or fortnight. Another important emergence is the National Digital Library that can be accessed anywhere, anytime by anyone. Already 17 million members are accessing this for free. We also have been facilitating Smart India Hackathon for software solution where undergraduates form teams to crack real problems facing governmental departments. Following this A Smart India Hardware Hackathon is being launched in June this year," he added.

"While education aided by technical skill is needed in the millennial era, the importance and role of personal skill development is very important for employability. Mere education is not enough, the skill to speak correctly, communicate effectively, discipline and timeliness are prime requisites if you are talking about export focus of work force from India", stated Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata.

"Today if you look at it from point of view of students, the entire model of education system is shifting. Many institutes are allowing changes from old system and allowing students to take a break and get work experience and come back and resume learning. We need to create multiple exit and entry options in our education system. Also systems should be open to concept of students learninf from multiple sources in real time," stated Dr (Prof) Rajan Saxena, Vice Chancellor, NMIMS.

"To prepare them for work life students need high level of skills and cognitive knowledge beyond classroom training. We are moving towards a competency based education model that instills skills of problem solving, critical thinking, people management, coordination and collaboration with others, decision making . Present systems should strive to create flexible models of learning that is supported by industry," Mr Saxena said.

Other speaker's were: Leonie Muldoon, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, Australian Trade and Investment Commission, New Delhi, Dr (Prof) Prof. David Foskett, MBE CMA FIH Bed (Hons) FRACA HMCCC; David Foskett Associates; Emiratus Dean, University of West London And Chairman, International Hospitality Council, Dr. Suranjan Das, V.C. Jadavpur University, Dr. Ashok Thakur, Chief Mentor & advisor, Sister Nivedita University among others.

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"Taking English out of curriculum was one of the biggest and saddest decisions of LF": Bruce Bucknell



Kolkata, May 6 (UNI) Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education(AICTE) said, "Institutions with highest level accreditation's should become autonomous in decades", while addressing reporters here in an event organised by Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss 'Millennial Learning Educational Strategies for the Gen Next'.

"Taking English out of the curriculum was one of the biggest and saddest decisions during 35 years of governing", said British deputy high commissioner Bruce Bucknell. He also slams earlier state government for the lack of competitiveness in Bengal than the other region of the country. "Be it at the state level or at the Union government level, English needs to be developed and most of the education should be for masses," added Bucknell.

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Mr Sahasrabudhe also marked the problem of some state universities is in mindset as going autonomous definitely will increase responsibilities as well as work load. Some staffs are not willing to do so like setting their own questions and curriculum's."Some of the government institutions think that if they goes autonomous then the government funding will be stopped but this is nothing but an uncalled fear", added Mr Sahasrabudhe.He also said about AICTE's teacher training programmes and encouraging response in past half of the decade.UNI XC RN