

## Conventional Education turning to Contemporary Education

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Once there was a time when food, shelter and clothing formed the basic needs of human beings. However, with the development in the industrial age, another important factor that got added up to the list of basic needs was **education**. Currently, one of the important industries worldwide is definitely the **education industry**. It's through education only that transmission of tradition and culture, running of politics and economy is made possible.

With a number of educational options existing before the students at present, newer trends are seen to emerge in the field of education that has entirely changed the *traditional system of education* prevalent in **India**. Many career alternatives, which were previously not regarded as important or popular are now among the sought after career options for students. Among these are radio management, radio jockeying, program anchoring, news anchoring, news reporting, fashion designing, event management, content writing, hospital management, medical transcription and many more that have opened up new vistas for education. Though many traditional courses such as engineering and medicine are still in high demand, yet in keeping with the changing trends at the national and global economic scenario, new educational programs are emerging fast, thereby depicting the deviation from the older trends.

*Online Education* has become an important mode of education. Since the regular **courses in India** are getting very expensive and highly competitive, distance and online education is fast developing as an amazing option for the students. *E-learning* opportunities are immense in India. Even the *distance education* programs are serving wonderfully, by offering a chance of getting educated, especially for the less advantaged segment of people. Distance learning can be availed through various types such as postal correspondence programs, pocket PC or

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mobile learning programs, interactive CD-ROM programs, tele-courses or broadcast course via television or radio and many more.

**Recent trends and developments in education** highlight the vital and salient role of education in effectively meeting the growing political and socio-economic challenges in the society. With the fast developments and many variations, conflicting trends can be noticed in the educational system in India.

One of the major conflicting trends that can be noticed is the *cost of education*. As the expense of formal education in the educational institutes is increasing very fast, the expense of education via the internet is comparatively low and affordable. Students can have an easy and cheap access to Internet with the help of cyber cafes and the various other cheap internet home connection schemes available these days. Students here also get the scope to download many e-books, free of cost.

Another differing trend can be traced in the *methodology of education*. Yet another conflicting tendency can be found in the **results**. Roughly in every part of the country a problem that has been raised is that the type of education followed by the educational system in India does not always result in offering jobs to the graduates. Our education system does not provide the students with any assurance that they will get a job on completion of their educational degree. However, jobs are definitely being generated by the medium of internet. Writing articles, web designing, programming, writing reviews etc are among the many job opportunities offered by the internet.

The **education sector in India** has received significant attention from different quarters like the investors, policymakers and media. It is filled with passion and all the enthusiasm on one hand and many anxieties on the other.

### **Internationalization of the Education Process**

As one of the strategies for building up of reputation, Internationalization will get more importance. It may consist of international collaborations for the faculty members and also the students, joint research tasks or offshore campuses. Since many European universities are

anticipated to show their interest in India, so the collaborations will not only be restricted to American institutes and Universities only.

### **Stress on Quality above Quantity**

Quality of the education system in India has been lagging for quite some times now in comparison to the quantity. In the coming time few changes are expected regarding the matters of transparency and norms. The educational institutes in India would need to fulfill certain basic norms. The institutions are expected to participate more into information sharing and of course accountability. The upcoming educational institutes are expected to be trend setters in adopting several standards related to the quality of education.

### **Increase in the Adoption of Technologies**

With the increase in the number of institutions, there will be growing need for reorganization and the process of controlling. Different technology based solutions such as the campus managing software packages is expected to gain prominence. Program management tools will also gain prominence among the faculty members who look forward to efficiently organize the class.

### **Increase in the Need for Professional Talent**

Indian education industry lacks both in quality and quantity when it comes to administrative staffs and faculty members. This might pose serious threats regarding the availability of good faculty members. The expansion of the educational institutes as announced by the Government of India would demand for more faculty members. If the shortage of talented and efficient faculty members persists, then quality of education will suffer immensely.

Education is the groundwork based on which any country can progress and develop. Without educated personnel, sustenance of a vibrant economy is not possible. Some of the recent trends in education are quite apparent while others are still to make its presence felt. Some are yet to emerge and therefore subject to evolution and change. One way you can master the change is by spotting the trends and keeping yourself flexible enough to get ready for the changes.

Indian education sector has gained significant attention from policymakers, investors, and media in the past years. It was filled with enthusiasm at one level and anxieties at another level. The coming years will continue to be important with increasing demand for education and corresponding new ways of meeting those demands. Some of the top five trends I expect for coming years

**1: Internationalization would become more glamorous:**

Internationalization as a strategy for building reputation will gain more prominence. This may range from establishing international collaborations for student/faculty exchange programs to joint research projects and offshore campuses. Increasingly, international collaborations will go beyond American universities as more European universities are expected to show interest in India. Innovation universities planned by the Indian government may also attract some big names. Both the Indian and foreign universities are eagerly awaiting policy clarifications on the foreign university bill, which would help in formal campus-based presence for foreign universities (not-for-profit will not be welcomed).

**2: Policy landscape will become tougher, wider spectrum of institutional quality:**

Quality of Indian higher education system has lagged behind the growth in quantity. Given the unfortunate state of regulatory mechanism in India, there are several changes expected in the direction of transparency and stricter norms. Several institutions need to shape up to fulfill the norms.

**3: Growth of multi-campus model, not-for-profit will not be welcomed:**

Competition and opportunity would compel institutions with resources to gain scale, move beyond their traditional markets and innovate the educational offerings. Multicampus models led by institutions like Amity, IBS and IIPM will continue to thrive. Even reputed institutions will be expanding. For example, Symbiosis expanding and Narsee Moonjee entering Bangalore.

Despite significant interest from the "for-profit" sector both in India and abroad, coming years are unlikely to bring any change in the policy that would openly support for-profit sector. Even the foreign universities bill is not expected to provide any easier opportunities for "for-profit" universities. Having said that entrepreneurs/investors with "for-profit" models will have significant opportunities in the informal education sector (skill development, e-learning) or support services (technology, test prep).

#### **4: Technology adoption will increase:**

With the growth in scale of the institutions and multi-campus models, there will be increasing need for streamlining and controlling processes. Technology solutions in the form of campus management software packages will gain ground. Even course management tools will become prominent among faculty for efficiently organizing their classes.

Companies like Educomp and Everonn at one level would continue to grow with the adoption of technology-enabled learning and support systems for educational institutions. On the other hand, e-learning organizations, like Tata Interactive serving corporate training and development segment would also continue to grow. At the student level, test prep websites like ndvtutor.com and learnhub.com, which are leveraging social networking and technology platforms for improved assessment, information sharing and learning will also become popular.

#### **5: Demand of professional talent in education sector will increase:**

Indian education sector is growing at a fast pace but the professionals including faculty and administrators are lagging behind both in quantity or quality. This will pose even more threatening scarcity about the availability of faculty. The expansion plans announced by the Indian government and entry of many more private players would require faculty members and given the shortage of faculty either the institutions would further start compromising on the quality of teaching or projects would delay/abort.

On the administrative front, the issue is not only about the availability of education managers, but more so of the lack of recognition of the “profession of education management” in itself. More institutions, who are aiming for high quality offerings, would adopt and recognize that building world-class institutions requires world-class talent. Efforts of FICCI, EDGE and magazines like EDU would sensitize and advance the professionalization of higher education management.

Overall, I am optimistic about coming years and expect many new players and innovative models in the sector that would attempt to disrupt the inefficiencies and quality concerns.

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