

Heralding value-based education

In the third edition of the series on Education in Transition, Ujjwal K Chowdhury and Malini Banerjee talk to the founder of MAEER's Group of Institute in Pune (popularly Known as the MIT Group) Dr. Vishwanath Karad and its Executive Director Rahul Karad. Dr Karad holds a UNESO Chair on Human Rights and Peace.

UKC : How did the MIT Dream come about ?

PK : I had a dream of creating an institute which would be based on the time tested values that where discipline and character would build the foundation of every individual . IT and private engineering education was not imparted to students in Maharashtra till 1983. Chief Minister Vasantdada Patil Started the first eight engineering colleges in Maharashtra. The ninth on the list was MIT. It started functioning from 5th August 1983.

UKC : Why did you feel there was a need to start, something of this kind? Wasn't enough being done by the existing system?

PK : While the number of youngest passing out of schools till early 1980 in Maharashtra kept increasing, there was limited number of higher education opportunities for those school pass outs. There was too much of state interference that did not allow private capital to be invested in the education sector.

UKC : In your journey over the past quarter of century, what metamorphosis has taken place in the perceptions with which you started out on your own?

PK : Most importantly, India now has a globally recognized technically competent manpower. The first phase of changes in the education sector took place in the mind fifties, when the Kothari Commission sought to adopt the New Education Policy. Its new version was brought about in the early eighties. This gave tremendous impetus to education industry all over India. The IT boom that took place about a decade back gave new impetus to professional education in the country. The new generation has proved their talent, capability and capacity to the world and brought name to the nation. Also,

globalization has taken place only in the last few years. While it has made the world sit up and take notice of the technically improved Indian manpower, it has also diluted the understanding of the values that India stands for.

UKC : What changes do you wish to see in the education system in India in the near future?

PK : I wish to see the fourth phased of transition in education in India soon, so that India emerges as the knowledge corridor of the world. A value based management model should be developed from India for the whole world to understand and perhaps adapt with time.

Rahul Karad, Executive Director, MAEER's Group, speaks :

Vision of Business Education in the Indian context.....

The western countries formalized management education long back and developed a management culture of their own, which is being followed in our country too, almost blindly. We have an ancient history of knowledge and education, and have genetically inherited good management qualities, which needs further to be integrated with our existing management education.

Harvard background and its influence on your practice of business education.....

It has influenced me in some areas. Recently MIT started programs in Retail, Telecom and infrastructure management consisting the requirement of such programs in the present Indian context.

MIT group next, over the next two to three year....

MIT is respected and renowned education group of the country. It has evolved over the last twenty-five years through the sustained efforts of Dr.Vishwanath D.Karad. We are not looking at short-terms time frames like two or three years. Our vision goes much beyond that. It makes us proud that past students of our institutes are earning name and fame for themselves and for the country for a number of years.

