

Reinventing management education

We still have significant distance to travel to be able to meet the global standards set mostly by universities in the West



ASHOK MITTAL

In recent years, Indian Business schools have been working to re-invent their teaching models and pedagogy techniques with an objective to make students

more ready to enter the industry and take its challenges head on. Yet, we still have significant distance to travel to be able to meet the global standards set mostly by Universities in the West.

It is not to say that our teachers and students do not have it in them to make a mark internationally. However, our style of pedagogy and teaching techniques have perhaps not kept up with the changes brought about in the field with time. Having visited more than 15 top universities of the world providing management education, and looking at the kind of infrastructure these possess, I do realize as a visitor that in

comparison to these institutions Indian Universities need to further shore up their infrastructure and education dispensing styles. More institutions have realised the same today and working to step up their standards. Some factors that are currently being worked upon in Indian management teaching are:

■ Teaching &



evaluation techniques: The field of business and management has undergone a sea change in the past two decades. With start-ups becoming the new buzzword, entrepreneurs across the globe have re-written the rules of the business game. However, some of our teaching methods are still stuck in the past, and institutions are

working today to modernise them. Evaluating students on theoretical knowledge and not doing enough to make them industry ready have been key lacunae in our teaching methodology.

■ Theoretical vs practical teaching: While theoretical knowledge of the subject of management is essential, we must be doing more to equip students with practical skills of running businesses. When they establish their businesses or work as top executives, they will not need the theories of management to see them through; what they will need are smart

ways to get their work done. Being street smart, as they say comes from having practical skills and experience.

■ International exposure: In a globalized world, we need greater cultural exchange and international exposure for our students. Unfortunately, both our teachers and students lack the same. We need to have more exchange programs with international Universities; also we need to have more international faculty in the country to inculcate in students global best practices. For example at

Not doing enough to make students industry ready is a key lacunae in our teaching methodology

LPU, we have almost 200+ international tie-ups from across world, the students of Indian universities are able to get international exposure as well.

Having said all of this while interviewing a lot of students graduating from foreign institutions as well those from Indian universities, I feel that the kind of work being done at Indian institutions in management area is certainly phenomenal- be it pedagogy, zeal to study or dissemination of managerial skills. I understand that the new age institutions like LPU, ISB, Lake-City have proved their strength through unique pedagogy and ideas that students graduating from these are no less than those of their foreign counterparts.

The author is Chancellor, LPU