

■ SMARTHVEER SIDANA & RAJESH KHANNA

Influencing success

Adopting a holistic mentorship model in colleges can benefit both students, as well as the companies looking to recruit them

What are educators doing to ensure that students in Indian universities are ready to excel in the world outside college? The need of the hour is not only to focus on the intelligence quotient but also on the emotional quotient.

Most students are unable to capture the different philosophies that drive expectations for academic excellence and ideal career pathways. Isn't it the responsibility of educators to ensure that students receive the necessary resources to achieve what they are capable of?

This is where mentorship becomes important. Mentorship is an opportunity to provide a student with the necessary academic and emotional support. Most colleges don't have a platform to provide holistic mentorship to students. What does this involve?

Content for learners
Today, the resources that are part of classroom teaching are not enough for real-world requirements. One solution is to have a platform that gives access to

and guide them to achieve a defined goal. This should be continuous rather than one-stop. A student's career goal is evolutionary and a good mentor can assist him/her with his/her professional evolution. So, chalking out an end-to-end path, developing milestones and keeping it flexible can help one land his/her dream job/university.

Psychological support
Students face many challenges including academic pressure, relationship issues, parental pressure, ragging, cyber bullying ... all of which affect their mental health. Unfortunately, most people are not willing to seek help because of the stigma attached as well as the lack of psychological

support systems in schools and colleges. One way to resolve this is to have tech-enabled solutions since there will not be a need for the counsellor to be physically present and to maintain anonymity. Equally important is to conduct awareness drives to sensitise people towards mental health issues. Students need to know how important it is to seek help and not ignore their mental well being.

Skills enhancement
The current job market needs people who have good leadership skills, enhanced soft skills and are capable of innovating. Universities provide opportunities in the form of clubs, activities and managing fests but soft skills training

Career guidance
How many actually know which

career path to pursue when they enter college? Some get some guidance from family members, others find mentors in seniors and teachers, but most are clueless. Career guidance should be mandatory and personalised to each student. It should help learners decide which career paths are most aligned to their interests

SCHOLARSHIPS

■ **Schaeffler India Hope Engineering Scholarship**

Schaeffler India provides financial support for engineering studies.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to first-year engineering students from Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu who have scored more than 60% marks in class XII (Science) in the academic year 2019-20. The annual family income should be less than ₹5 lakh.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Up to ₹75,000 per year for the programme's duration.

APPLICATION: Online

DEADLINE: October 18

www.b4s.in/edge/SIHE2

■ **Department of Physics Post-Doctoral Fellowship, IIT Roorkee**

The Department of Physics, IIT Roorkee invites applications for the project "Development of High-Efficiency Stable Perovskite Solar Cells and their Photophysical Studies".

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates who hold a PhD in Physics/Chemistry/Materials Science with good publications.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Up to ₹60,000 per month

APPLICATION: Through email or by post to Professor and Head, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee, Roorkee - 247667

DEADLINE: October 15

www.b4s.in/edge/DPF3

■ **INSA Medal for Young Scientists**

Indian National Science Academy (INSA) invites applications for notable contributions to any branch of science or technology on the basis of work carried out in India.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to young scientists who are Indian citizens and below 35 years.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Bronze medal and a cash prize of ₹50,000

APPLICATION: Offline to the Deputy Executive Director-I (Scientific), Indian National Science Academy, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

DEADLINE: October 31

www.b4s.in/edge/INS3

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