

'Edu in India has become a commercial commodity'

Hyderabad: Rather than imparting knowledge, education in India has become a "commercial commodity", rued eminent scientist G Madhavan Nair, who also spoke out strongly against the tendency of parties to make campuses a training ground for budding politicians.

The former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said "real education" is not being imparted to children who in fact are being "spoon-fed", and most of the evaluation exams are memory-tests rather than gauging their understanding of the subject.

"That's why the education system has deteriorated considerably. People who come out even after graduation or engineering, they are not employable. They don't have the basic understanding of the subject, don't have the skills for applying knowledge for practical applications and this is resulting in a pathetic situation," he told PTI.

Quality is the "first casualty" at many of India's private institu-



tions, which are only interested in increasing student intake number and making money, according to him.

"I think basically education has become a commercial commodity these days rather than acquiring excellence in knowledge," Nair said. He, however, said institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru are maintaining their standards mostly because they get "best of the students" on their campus

but they need to raise their level from global perspective.

He expressed the view that one should not mix politics with education. Nair stressed that the thrust of education should be on improving observation, analytical and communication skills of students, in addition to cultivating moral values.

"These should form the basis of primary education. Once the foundation is strong and you show them the way how to acquire knowledge, that is sufficient. There is no point in just doing 10,000 answers by-heart, that will not take you anywhere. Education system should be an enabler, that kind of change is required," he said.

Nair also regretted that talented people are not coming into the teaching profession, adding, teachers are not being given proper and professional training. Nair advocated adopting basic lessons from "Gurukul system", particularly strong relation between the teacher-student and the parent. —PTI