

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Education on the occasion of the Founder's Day, January 31, 2021

Part I

Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Education held on January 28, 2021 at 12:10 PM during field work at Sikandarpur

Name	Designation	Affiliation
Prof PS Satsangi Sahab	Revered Chairman	Advisory Committee on Education, Dayalbagh Educational Institutions
Dr Vijai Kumar	President	Radhasoami satsang Sabha, Dayalbagh and Dayalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University)
Prof VB Gupta	Vice-Chairman	Advisory Committee on Education, Dayalbagh Educational Institutions
Prof PK Kalra	Director	DEI
Prof SS Bhojwani	President Technical and Financial Advisor	MCREI Department of Agriculture and Irrigation, Dayalbagh
Prof PK Kalra (IIT Delhi)	Professor	IIT Delhi
Shri V Prem Swarup	Adjunct Professor	DEI
Prof Gunjan Agarwal	Professor	DEI
Prof K Santi Swarup	Professor	DEI
Prof Sanjeev Swami	Professor	DEI
Prof Poornima Jain	Professor	DEI
Prof JK Verma	Professor	DEI
Prof Sukhdev Roy	Professor	DEI
Smt Sneh Bijlani	Treasurer	DEI
Prof Anand Mohan	Registrar	DEI
Dr Vishal Sahni	Retired Professor	DEI
Prof Gursaran	Professor	DEI
Prof C Patvardhan (Secretary & Convener)	Professor	DEI
Prof DS Mishra (Secretary & Convenor)	Emeritus Professor	DEI
Special Invitees		
Prof K Soami Daya	Professor	DEI

Item 1

To obtain feedback from the members of the Advisory Committee on Education and the Community regarding the University of Waterloo Alumni speaker Series Webinar held at 11:30 PM on January 27, 2021 (IST) wherein there was a discussion on the topic "Supply Chains at Times of Crisis: The COVID-19 Vaccine Journey".

Accordingly, feedback was sought from the members of ACE. A summary of the points made is as follows.

- (i) The Webinar was quite interesting and useful because it dealt with the Contemporary COVID-19 crisis which has left the world emotionally, physically and spiritually ailing.
- (ii) Immunization must be carried out on a massive scale all over the globe which throws up many challenges. One of the challenges is the Supply Chain. Supply Chain Management of the COVID-19 vaccine is a complex process. It involves procurement, inventory, transportation and last mile delivery. Quality of the vaccine needs to be maintained and it needs to be stored at -20° C temperature.
- (iii) It is a perishable product and there is a need to ensure users get a second booster dose. tracking the people for subsequent vaccination is also a major challenge.
- (iv) This is an unprecedented situation where the demand greatly exceeds the supply and, for this, many of the existing Supply Chain setups are just not ready. It is not possible to distribute the vaccine uniformly to the entire population of the globe.
- (v) Since there are many types of vaccine one is unsure of which is better than the other. For that we have to wait for a longer period to see which provides better defense against the infection.
- (vi) Acceptability by the population and the efficacy of the vaccine is not yet clear because not everything is known about these factors yet. As the time passes by and the feedback data emerges we can say which of the vaccines is more effective and how active and find out the side effects of this vaccine.
- (vii) There is always going to be a tradeoff between cost efficiency and responsiveness. Artificial Intelligence and Analytics can be used for tracking and tracing of who needs it, how much and when and where. Some of the key parameters that were listed were flexibility, robustness, resilience, transparency, trust and coordination and the issue of last mile transportation. Human factor is equally important. Government, Industry and participants have to coordinate.
- (viii) Training of para-medical forces is another major challenge. This vaccine is being administered to Medical personnel. If something goes wrong these people will be affected.
- (ix) The current response should be considered as a blueprint of the Supply Chain for the future and let all the components of the Supply Chain infrastructure be in place so that next time we do not have to prepare from the scratch.

- (x) The analysis presented appeared to be primarily for their local situation in Canada. There are some lessons for emerging countries like ours. But, largely, we will have to design our own systems for our own set of problems.
- (xi) It is very clear that Dayalbagh way of life, Dayalbagh Education Policy, Dayalbagh System of Management, Dayalbagh Post COVID practices and Sigma Six Q&V&A's including air and water quality are the only panacea for effectively facing the disruptions caused by COVID and such future catastrophes.
- (xii) Such Webinars should continue, and we should have the benefit of such intellectual activities.

Prof K Soami Daya presented the results of a "quick and dirty" feedback survey with the Community connected on the Satsang Cascade Network as respondents about the Webinar that was conducted. 292 responses had been obtained. The salient points are as follows.

#	Question	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
1	Was the discussion in the context COVID-19 pandemic useful?	90%	1%	9.2%
2	Were the points of discussion such that they would be helpful in prevention and as precautionary measure in Supply Chain Management of COVID-19 vaccine in India?	81.2%	2.4%	16%
3	As a Community should we volunteer in vaccination drive initiated by the Government?	71%	3.4%	25%
4	Participation in such Webinars of Social Relevance would be helpful understanding and addressing National and Global Challenges	97.6%	0	2.4%
5	The Dayalbagh way of life and, in particular, the Agriculture and Dairy activities can serve as a model for scaling up to address the issues of food security, health, safety and welfare.	99.4%	0.3%	0.3%
6	Rate the quality of transmission of video proceedings	82.9 % (Good)	18.2% (Fair)	0.3% (Poor)
7	Audio Quality	84.9% (Good)	14.7 % (Fair)	1% (Poor)

The respondents were contacted to better understand their feedback. For video quality, there was only one respondent who had said that the Video Quality was poor. Apparently, they were using very high definition video screen and they were requesting for high transcoding bit rate of the video frames. Currently the transcoding bit rate has been kept to the optimum to suit

both the low bit rate users and the high bandwidth users without choking the pipeline of the transmission. But this will be taken care of in future.

Dr Bani Dayal Dhir made the following points (including about the recent visit of Shri Amit Khare, Chief Guest in DEI Convocation on January 22).

- (i) It is a pleasure to report that Shri Amit Khare, Secretary, Higher Education, Government of India visited ICNC-TALL. He was very happy to see the lab and the Psycho-Linguistic Counselling cell. He wrote the following remarks in the Visitor's Book. "It is indeed heartening to note that this Centre is working on promotion of learning of different languages and that too using digital technologies. India is home to multitude of languages and their preservation and, also promotion is our responsibility. Such centres can go a long way in this direction".

The Revered Chairman was then pleased to remark as follows.

- (i) How have we fared broadly on this front of bringing into existence or updating the status of Agra as heritage city to modern healthcare cum self-defense habitat? How many cases, what statistics do you have and what air quality and water quality measurements have been, during this period of a few months. Professor Satya Prakash has some clue to this, who supervises and produces an index which is a weighted index on the parameters of what is known as Cumulative Grade Point Average. So, they weight the indices, cumulative weighted average which is well understood all over the globe. We cannot trust the percentages too much in distinguishing between two indices but it is easier to make choices among a few parameters and CGPA or weighted quality indices for that purpose have been long in vogue in the Western world and are now being followed by Institutions like ours on a very massive and faithful way where all records are maintained.

Prof Satya Prakash made the following points.

- (i) At Dayalbagh, we have a modern healthcare habitat with provisions for health security and personnel security with built-in self defense mechanism. We are monitoring Air and Water of Dayalbagh.
- (ii) For Air Quality we are doing regular monitoring of PM10 which means particles of 10 Microns size and PM2.5 i.e. particles of 2.5 Microns size using various Spectrometers at 6 different locations in the Campus.

- (iii) Air Quality Index (AQI) is calculated on the basis of globally accepted USEDA model. It is a pleasure to inform that in comparison to Agra City i.e. Sanjay Place where the main monitoring equipment is installed, we are most of the times in Moderate and sometimes Satisfactory category of AQI. This is achieved by misting and restricted movement of vehicles.
- (iv) On account of good air quality maintained minimal ill effects have been observed on human health.
- (v) Positive correlation has been observed between PM2.5 levels and the number of COVID-19 positive cases in Dayalbagh. A low number of COVID positive cases could be attributed to our practice of use of masks and helmets and hand sanitization as an integrated response.
- (vi) Under multi-Institutional pan-India study ISRO Geosphere Biosphere programme has equipped DEI with on-line analyzers like Ozone, Oxides of Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide which are recording ambient levels all through the year.
- (vii) The Institute is also involved in testing the quality of drinking water to ensure supply of clean and safe drinking water to the residents. Potable water from all the 10 wells is monitored every week to ensure that the water does not contain coliform bacteria. Subsequently wells are treated with Potassium Permanganate to maintain 0 or very low number of coliforms.
- (viii) Chlorine and Potassium Permanganate levels are monitored on a daily basis. This enables residents of Dayalbagh to consume water directly without passing it through an RO plant which results in a lot of saving of potable water.
- (ix) Other chemical parameters which are also important include Chlorides, Hardness, Total Dissolved Solids are also monitored fortnightly.
- (x) Dayalbagh has given the land for STP and the treated water is used for Agriculture fields. This has resulted in preserving the water table of Dayalbagh.
- (xi) DEI will now publish a Journal on Air and Water Quality Monitoring so that the results may be shared with leading National and International experts.

Prof VB Gupta presented the highlights of observations of Dr Sam Pitroda who had interacted with the stakeholders of DEI on September 19, 2021. Dr Sam Pitroda was quite impressed with the inputs given by DEI during the interaction and had remarked that "Every District should have a DEI". The detailed observations are listed in Appendix I.

The Revered Chairman was then pleased to remark as follows. Another hallmark feature is supervised mode of rendering the material and extending the learning process by ensuring that this is supervised and that there are no unfair practices which take roots into the system.

So, all are in virtual reality mode, presentations are effectively supervised by five chosen members.

Item 2

Prof K Soami Daya made a presentation on "Guidelines for Video Transmission from DEI and Dayalbagh". The main points were as follows.

- (i) Live video streaming on YouTube is strictly banned for all the events of Dayalbagh and DEI. We pray for forgiveness for having used YouTube.
- (ii) Basic Guideline to be followed always: Presence of FIVE initiated Satsangis is mandatory for receiving video transmission of any programme, be it from Dayalbagh or DEI.
- (iii) The above is applicable to all approved Video Nodes (Branches, Area Satsang, Private Group Satsang and micro Private Groups).

For various DEI events:

A) Conferences/Workshops/Meetings/ Special Lectures:

Presence of 5 initiated Satsangis on both (transmission and reception) ends will be mandatory. To follow this basic guideline, either 5 local initiated volunteers can facilitate by visiting the speakers or collaborators, or they can be invited to local ICT centre of DEI to participate in the event, where 5 initiated Satsangis will have to be present. Even students wanting to attend such events will be required to visit local ICT centres, and Centre Incharges will facilitate and monitor students.

B) Live Two-Way Video Transmission of DEI events (Open Day, Education Day etc.)

Such Video transmission will be made available only at the DEI ICT Centres, 476±1 Video Stations and 1577 approved mPGs. The coordinators of the video nodes will be given controlled and monitored access only if presence of 5 initiated Satsangis is ascertained.

C) For hosting of Videos on the DEI and Dayalbagh websites

All Video links will be masked and password protected and access will be given only under strict control with confidentiality.

D) For conducting online Viva Voce and PhD evaluation:

Outstation students will attend examinations from the nearest ICT centres, wherein Centre incharges will ensure presence of 5 initiated Satsangis and will facilitate student(s) with necessary facilities to attend the examination.

The Revered Chairman then made the following Observations.

Our consensus building process relies on Interpretive Structural Modeling, System Dynamics and Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP). Why don't you put up those diagrams and play the last slide which provides the union between sound current and light current as evidenced now by modern age scientists in terms of phonons or sound currents and photons as light currents; the latter have been known for ages to scientists i.e. for a very long time but they hadn't learnt the secret of phonons until very recently. Meaningful discussion followed and consensus emerged on the following points.

- (i) The Interpretive Structural Modeling explains about our Education system, our organization system, our Values and Qualities which are inculcated among the students, teachers, staff members and other stakeholders of DEI.
- (ii) Education at DEI starts from three weeks onwards and children come to the Agriculture field twice a day and in between these two shifts the educational activity in the University continues.
- (iii) This ISM actually explains the interpretation of the DEI Education Policy. Social Sensibilities, Physical development, mental development and Spiritual Development aspects have been covered.
- (iv) "Catch them young". There is no reason for education to start at the age of five years. We start right from the beginning in the Sant Superman Scheme. We start with whatever learning processes we want to use right from the beginning.
- (v) Whatever Education model we use should be in harmony with Nature. If we go too far from the Nature with too much of artificial existence we cannot acquire the best of education.
- (vi) We need to also tell people about our internal constitution e.g. how we can use the Radhasoami Faith meditational techniques to not only learn what the external world is but also learn what the internal path and what the internal education is.
- (vii) Referring to longitudinal section of the human brain, there is an entire Universe within us which we also have to know about besides the external world, the Galaxies and the external structures which we try to learn by sending satellites and capturing the radio waves and the other waves from the Universe.
- (viii) The human brain has many functions. It is the most complex processor of information in the entire Universe. Besides other features, it has certain apertures at the subtle plain through which the human entity can establish communion with the external world, the larger world i.e. the Spiritual region, the Spiritual-Material region and the Material region because the ultimate aim of education is to take us to the highest seat of learning and education i.e. the purely Spiritual Region.

- (ix) A lot of Institutions nowadays claim that they are developing Values and that they are giving Value Education but Visitors to Dayalbagh, while they appreciate the Value System that we teach to our students, also state sometimes that here is something special about Dayalbagh which they are not able to express in terms of words. Param Guru Dr MB Lal Sahab, in an address which He gave to the employees of DEI, stated very clearly that Dayalbagh was set up by Huzur Sahabji Maharaj. And, Huzur Mehtaji Maharaj, during His regime which lasted long was presented in Dayalbagh. And He said that the fact that our Sant Satgurus reside in Dayalbagh, means that there is something special about Dayalbagh. And that special thing, Huzur said, is the "Aura" (i.e. "HALO") that surrounds the Apex of the Head of Waqt Sant Satguru that exists here. And this is something that is so unique and cannot be replicated.
- (x) It is this "Aura" or "Halo" of Dayalbagh, the physical presence of the Sant Satguru. This is something that is very special to us. This land of Dayalbagh has been Sanctified by the Charan of our Sant Satgurus and our Waqt Sant Satguru. And this is something that nobody can replicate. What we get in Dayalbagh is absolutely something unique as Sahabji Maharaj has said in a chaupai:
"Dhanya Sudes Jahan Tum Baste
Bhoomi Pavitra Jahan Pag Dharte"
(Blessed is our country where Thou resideth
Sanctified is the Land trodden by Thy Holy Feet)

Announcement was then made of a lecture under New Faculty Lecture series of University of Waterloo to be delivered on January 29, 2021 at 5:30 AM (IST). The lecture was titled "The Good, The Bad and The Weird: talking about Viruses" and the speaker was Prof Jozef Nissimov, Associate Professor in Department of Biology, University of Waterloo. ACE members were invited to attend via Zoom link or physically in Multimedia / Computer Centre. The Revered Chairman was then pleased to remark as follows.

This would be quite in tune with our timing. We begin our morning prayers at quarter to four and they are completed by quarter past four and field work begins even earlier somewhere soon after three o'clock and continues up to half past five or so. Then there are safe and secure arrangements to convey people back to their homes or next place of duty. Thank you.

Part II

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Education held on the Founder's Day January 31, 2021 at 6:10 AM during field work at Phal Bagh

Name	Designation	Affiliation
Prof PS Satsangi Sahab	Revered Chairman	Advisory Committee on Education, Dayalbagh Educational Institutions
Dr Vijai Kumar	President	Radhasoami Satsang Sabha, Dayalbagh and DEI
Prof VB Gupta	Vice-Chairman	Advisory Committee on Education, Dayalbagh Educational Institutions
Prof PK Kalra	Director	DEI
Prof SS Bhojwani	President Technical and Financial Advisor	MCREI Department of Agriculture and Irrigation, Dayalbagh
Prof P Sriramamurti	In-charge	Divinity Study Forum
Prof PK Kalra (IIT Delhi)	Professor	IIT Delhi
Prof Pami Dua	Director	Delhi School of Economics
Prof Ravi Kanta Chopra	Retired Professor	NCERT
Shri V Prem Swarup	Adjunct Professor	DEI
Prof Gunjan Agarwal	Professor	DEI
Prof K Santi Swarup	Professor	DEI
Prof Sanjeev Swami	Professor	DEI
Prof Poornima Jain	Professor	DEI
Prof KC Vashishtha	Professor	DEI
Prof JK Verma	Professor	DEI
Prof Sukhdev Roy	Professor	DEI
Smt Sneha Bijlani	Treasurer	DEI
Prof Anand Mohan	Registrar	DEI
Dr Vishal Sahni	Retired Professor	DEI
Prof Gursaran	Professor	DEI
Dr RMM Singh	Retired as Registrar	DEI
Prof C Patvardhan (Secretary & Convener)	Professor	DEI
Prof DS Mishra (Secretary & Convener)	Emeritus Professor	DEI

Special Invitees

Name	Designation	Affiliation
Prof K Soami Daya	Professor	DEI
Dr Apurva Narain	Asstt Professor	University of Waterloo and University of British Columbia, Canada

Shri Radhakrishna Sharma	Senior Partner	Sharma-Wasson and Associates, USA
Shri Upinder Aggrawal	Group Head of Technology	Kmart Australia Limited, Australia
Shri Surendra Saketram	Professor	Seneca College, Toronto, Canada
Shri Gurpreet Singh Randhawa	Director, Finance	Light Speed Logistics INC., Canada
Shri Suryakant Sasan	Senior Partner	Aastha Lawyers, Barristers and Solicitors, Canada
Shri Anshul Manocha	Vice President-Technology Production Support	Morgan Stanley, Canada
Ms Divya Arora	Director	Elyzium Globetrotting and Elyzium Globenet, Hong Kong
Shri Sujan Dua	Product and Insights Manager	Amazon, Japan
Shri Ajay Saran	Managing Director and Partner	Arkiplan Consulting Architects and Engineers (Dubai)
Shri Khushiram	Director Chief Operating Officer	Destar Consulting System Guru, Singapore
Shri Deepak Ohry	Senior Sales Manager	Deloitte, London
Shri Gaurav Sinha	IT Service Delivery Lead	Nestle, Germany
Shri Avinash Singh	CEO Director	System Guru Destar Consulting, USA
Shri D Anoop Swarup	Digital Sales Leader	Marlabs Innovations GmbH, Germany
Shri Somyajulu Nemani	Lead Architect	Anthem Inc., USA

Item 1

The meeting started with the recitation of the prayer “He dayal sad kripal”

Item 2

A Worshipful Homage in the Lotus Feet of Gracious Huzur Dr MB Lal Sahab, the Founder of Advisory Committee on Education was read out by the Secretary and Convenor on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Education.

Item 3 (a)

The minutes of the Meetings of the Advisory Committee on Education held on November 28, 2020 were read out and confirmed.

Relevant portions of the minutes may be sent to the concerned Individuals / Institutions for their consideration.

Item 3 (b)

A consolidated Report (Appendix 1) of meeting concerning Tom Rand’s book held on December 4, 2020 and January 6, 13, and 20, 2021 was presented.

Item 4 (a)

Prof K Soami Daya, Convener, e-Satsang presented a report on the progress of e-Satsang and ISRO EDUSAT SITs since the last presentation of November, 2020 (Appendix 2)

Item 4 (b)

Prof K Santi Swarup presented a report (Appendix 3) on eDEIwww.education since the last presentation of November, 2020

Item 5 (a)

Dr Vijai Kumar presented a report (Appendix 4) on AADEIs activities since the last presentation of November, 2020 and

Item 5 (b)

Shri V Prem Swarup presented a report (Appendix 5) on Activities of AADEIs-APAC since the last presentation of November, 2020

Item 6

Prof VB Gupta presented a report (Appendix 6) on the progress of e-DEIwww-education since the last presentation of November, 2020. Meaningful discussion followed and consensus seemed to emerge on the following points.

- (i) With reference to Item 2 of Appendix 6, it is endorsed by ACE. There is no risk. We have fully complied with the regulations of UGC.
- (ii) We have supervised virtual reality session and occasional meetings at the Head Quarters in physical times. Right now due to the pandemic and its challenges in terms of corona virus, virtual reality meetings have been encouraged and found to be very cost efficient and cost effective.
- (iii) Ours is a supervised program all through. Students get a practise of doing things in their own laboratories under the supervision of trained teachers.
- (iv) So, in fact we have gone far ahead, and forged a unity among these different multiplicities of programs launched by us. And, this is succeeding like no measure before and our own assessment is that we deserve the grade A++ in all our endeavours.
- (v) So, from our side we have fulfilled all the requirements. It is a unique way of doing this and that's why there is difficulty in UGC in comprehending mixed reality, but they can come and inspect and verify themselves. However, they have to send a team which is proficient.
- (vi) The last time our experience was, that the members of the expert team did not even know how to interpret Software Engineering formulations and it was a great disappointment. So they have to send people who are really well versed in both

Software Engineering terms, in particular, as well as Hardware engineering involved in it. New and Renewable energy resources project endowed to us is also fairing very well and the assessors and assesses are all satisfied from the results delivered and being delivered throughout.

- (vii) So we have to improve their comprehension and satisfy their queries in whatever respect they raise it and wherever they raise it.
- (viii) We have also found that despite the pandemic we have not faced any major threat with failure. We have taken into consideration the health care habitat requirements in all cases fully. So this is a matter of going into detail by teams which are well versed in their Art, Science and Engineering of Evolutionary Consciousness and this is an acronym which is TEASE Conscious - Towards Evolutionary Art, Science and Engineering of consciousness and by teasing consciousness we continue to upgrade it even beyond all imagination.
- (ix) This incorporates system dynamics formulation of continually upgrading ourselves and realising the benefits at the least cost.
- (x) So it continues, we will have to continue educating both ourselves as well as the educators, as well as the administrators, so that they have a complete realisation of the deliverables which have already been delivered might even advance of the prospective dates and visits by the concerned bodies, Ministry of Education, UGC, AICTE.
- (xi) Professor VB Gupta may also mention that the requirements of funds to a reasonable degree have already been assured and their local staff would also be given orientation program and refresher courses from time to time to keep them practising state of the art at the frontiers of modern science of consciousness.
- (xii) Regarding upgradation of Infrastructure at ICT Centres (Item 3 of Appendix 6), Director, DEI assured that a Committee will be set up which will put up its recommendations to him.

Item 7

Prof K Soami Daya presented a report (Appendix 7) on the progress of "Centre for Consciousness Studies" since the last presentation of November, 2020

Item 8

Shri Soami Dayal Singh presented a brief report (Appendix 8) on "Proposal of Handloom Unit of Roorkee to revise wholesale prices". Meaningful discussion followed and consensus seemed to emerge on the following points.

- (i) The labour charges, which were earlier revised in 2014, would be increased suitably i.e. "quantity" and "quality" of life.
- (ii) However, as per Gracious Guidance of the Revered Chairman, there would be no enhancement in the wholesale prices. The increased labour cost shall be absorbed in the other surplus of the unit.

The Revered Chairman then asked that the names of DSC Awardees and Outstanding Alumnus awardees in various categories be announced by Prof K Soami Daya to refresh the memory. Accordingly, Dr K Soami Daya announced the names. The Revered Chairman was pleased to remark that DSC stands for Doctor of Science of Consciousness. Special mention was made of Shri Janak Raj who has been given the Outstanding Alumnus Award for his long and dedicated service as a Security Guard in Girls Hostel.

Item 10

Parshad was distributed to all the Members.

Any other item with the permission of the Chair

- (i) The next ACE meeting is scheduled on 13th March 2021.
- (ii) The Meeting ended with the recitation of the path "Ae Satguru Pita aur Maalik Mere".

Appendix I: Remarks of Dr Sam Pitroda

- (i) To learn you need motivation, time and content. The biggest problem today is motivation. People are not motivated. And if you are motivated to learn, nobody can stop you. But then you got to give it time. It takes time to learn certain things. You can't learn complex mathematics in two hours. You may have to spend two years. But all the content is available from the best of the best in the world on the Web. The key challenge is to curate the content. Today for me the biggest challenge in education system is to curate good content. It's like giving you 5000 paintings and say, "Select for me, ten good ones that describe this artist". How do you curate that? Who does that? What talent do you need to curate good content? If you go on internet, search for something, you get 5000 articles. But you really want 5. Who tells you, which 5 to read? So I think, curation is going to be a big challenge for teachers and mentors in the future. Because the material has to be relevant, timely, contextual, valuable, and suited to local environment conditions. This is a huge challenge.
- (ii) So how do we teach, in our education system? More about how to take care of our planet. And it's not just about global warming. It is about really connecting with your soul, everything around us, learning to respect others in our environment and we can see very little about this in our education system.
- (iii) And the second most important is people. People are the key. Irrespective of the race, religion, colour, income, status, urban, rural, old, young. How do we build an inclusive society? How do you respect every one's view? How do we create an open dialogue and have multiple identities? Unfortunately, I found that people have singular identity, narrow identity. I think it is important to have multiple identities. I am a father. I am an engineer. I am a businessman. I am a grandfather. I am a friend. I am a scientist. As you begin to expand your identity, you begin to dilute and enrich your interest. I think multiple identity as part of the education system, is very important.
- (iv) I am 78 years old and I am still learn every day. I find that I know very little about galaxies. I know very little about biotechnology, nano-technology. I probably don't even know 0.001% of what I would like to know, forget about what there is to learn. Curiosity is the key. And if we can kindle curiosity in our children, to learn, to explore new frontiers on their own, I think half of the job of teachers would be done.

- (v) In India, rise of religious mindset, curbing of freedom, hijacking democracy. These are all really serious issues. But people don't seem to get it. Social media has really fueled amplification of lies. Truth doesn't get the right coverage. And lies take people for (wrong) rides. And the price is very high.
- (vi) So, I believe it is time for all of us to really begin to rethink about our education system. It is not about classroom and teacher. It is about new tools and opening up the mind. It is about kindling curiosity. The world out there is wide open. You don't have to be a nationalist. You must be a globalist. You must be a humanist. You must worry about local conditions. But it is important to live in local conditions but think global.
- (vii) I believe we need to really deliver our schools and colleges to communities. The Government according to me has not delivered well on education. When we were growing up, communities took care of education. They hired local teachers. They made sure that the teachers did their job. And none in Delhi decided what will happen to the local teacher. I think education and health are two areas which should be really delivered to communities. Local communities, the district level, taluka level, should take care of their health services and not rely on central government. Of course, I am not saying they have to walk out of it. But more and more local participation in education is important like you all are doing.
- (viii) You have taken charge of your education system. You have defined what you want to do. And you are really the driver of what your Institute is going to be delivering. More and more institutions in India need to do this. And technology is available to all of us to really create a whole new paradigm in education.
- (ix) I would like to see a day, it may not happen in my life-time, where you make someone a self-learner and then leave them alone. And then don't demand graduate certificate when you hire somebody. You demand skills, expertise. And those skills should be defined by the course, the work that the student, your customer wants to take. There is no reason why as an engineer, I cannot take a course in painting. Because there is lot of technology in painting also. There is lot of technology in music. But today I am not allowed to do that. I can decide early whether I want to go in technology or music or art or culture or philosophy or anthropology. I want to do all of that at the same time. And I still want to be an engineer. I think that flexibility, technology will give us.
- (x) So, I don't want to take much of your time. I once again want to thank you all for giving me this opportunity. I will be very happy to interact. I do have some radical

views. So pardon me if I have said something that is not in line with what you all think. I am just expressing my own views. Not that I am right. Not that I have all the answers. But I am also learning and exploring. I do believe that education system is broken everywhere. It is too expensive. Why should somebody pay in America, US \$ 2,00,000/- to get an MBA? Why is the tuition fee that high in many parts of the world? And why 4 years? Why can't it be 3 years? Why can't it be 2 years? Or 6 years? I don't know. But give me that flexibility, as a student.

The second part of Dr Pitroda's observations contained his response to the various presentations that were made. These were as follows.

- (i) I would like to thank you once again for the opportunity. Wish you all the best. Compliment all those people who made excellent presentations, from professors, students, the guests, the alumni and others. You deserve lots of compliments, but we need another 2 hours of long conversation at some point in time, after you have done some work on how we can scale it. Why is it only in Agra? Why only 5000 students? Why not 5 million? Why not 5,00,000. I think that's the challenge going forward. Thank you. I really appreciate the opportunity.

Chairman, ACE, concluded the Meeting by quoting as follows:

Pithy remark of William Shakespeare from his well-known play Hamlet (Act 2, Scene 2, Lines 86 - 92) "Brevity is the Soul of wit" is spoken by one of its characters, Polonius. (wiktionary.org)