



DEI-DEP NEWS

When we tackle obstacles, we find hidden reserves of courage and resilience we did not know we had. And it is only when we are faced with failure do we realise that these resources were always there within us. We only need to find them and move on with our lives.

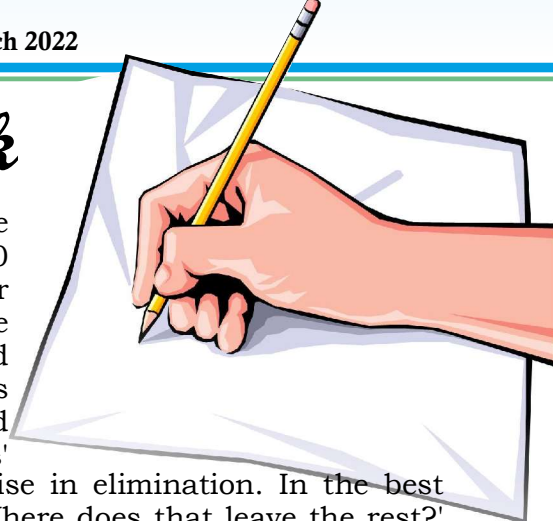


-Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

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From the Coordinator's desk



UGC has recently decided to give massive thrust to online education in Higher Education by allowing nearly 900 autonomous colleges figuring in the top 100 in NIRF Ranking or having a minimum NAAC grade of 3.26 to offer full-fledged online programmes without prior approval of UGC – a facility which had previously been extended only to universities. The Sunday Times of March 14, 2022, featured the question 'Whether this is a good idea?'. The Chairman of UGC, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar said 'yes' and added 'Our admission processes have become an exercise in elimination. In the best institutions, only 2-3% of the total applicants are selected. Where does that leave the rest?' Interestingly, an editorial captioned 'UGC Gets Bold' in the Times of India of February 22, 2022, provides the following answer to the query: Meritorious students may not be keen on an online degree. For them and for the country's future, India has no option but to continue creating more brick-and-mortar institutions focused on quality. UGC's proposal will however definitely help those with middling grades. Additionally, these online degrees could help India improve the gross enrolment ratio.

Supervised Full-fledged Online Programs (by a minimum of Five fully competent supervisors, approved by Deemed to be Universities, at par with Central Government Universities for more than last 40 years) should ensure Bonafide practices to succeed inevitably.

The aforesaid model recommended by DEI (Deemed to be University) has enabled us to steer clear of the Covid-19 Pandemic without any illeffects in providing a practicable Health-care-Habitat for the Headquarters of DEI (Deemed to be University) and its immediate surroundings of Neighbouring Community.

The UGC Chairman admits that a digital classroom cannot be an ideal replacement for a physical classroom but feels that the infusion of digital technology is perhaps the only option for solving the problem of accessibility. He further assures that there will be no loss in the jobs of teachers. Only their roles in digital universities will change from disseminators of knowledge content to creators of knowledge content.

Prof. Amita Rampal, former Dean, Faculty of Education, Delhi University, is not in favour of this move of UGC as according to her 'unregulated online education will compromise quality and equity. She cites the example of 400 engineering institutions that had to close down because of poor quality education and falling demand. She is critical of the National Education Policy 2020 which does not show any commitment towards enhancing affordable and good-quality higher education. On the contrary, some of the NEP recommendations make clear the direction of things to come. For example, school board examinations are to be made 'easier' so that all children pass. Fifty percent of students are to be directed to vocational education at both school and college levels.

As DEI (Deemed to be University) high quality affordable education has been imparted right since its inception. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Education (Non-statutory Body), Revered Prof. P.S. Satsangi Sahab was pleased to announce on May 16, 2020: At present, there is a Coordinator for electronic education i.e. online education*, which in our case differs from other places, in being supervised all through the academic session with the assured presence of at least Five academic supervisors (i.e. Domain experts), which is mandatory as stipulated by DEI. Accordingly admission to DEI is strictly limited, only to those JEE Centres for Joint Entrance Examination, as uniquely defined herewith (in contrast to JEE Centres, proposed by Chairman UGC in general).

*Presently we are conducting five UGC – entitled programmes online in DEI with a total enrolment of 288 students.

(Prof. V.B. Gupta)

Moving Towards Higher Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education in India

In 1950-51 the Higher Education scene in India was rather dismal with only 0.2 million students enrolled in 20 universities and 695 colleges and the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) being a mere 0.7 percent [1]. Seventy years later, by the year 2020, the number of universities had risen to 1040 and the number of colleges to around 40,000 and student enrolment stood at 3.74 crores. The GER now was 26.3% which was much lower than that for developed countries (54.6%) and slightly lower than the world average (29%) [2]. It has been pointed out [3] that this may actually not be so as a large population of youngsters in the relevant age group (18 to 23 years) is simply not eligible to enroll in higher education as they have not successfully completed higher secondary education. It has been suggested that calculation of enrolment ratio should preferably be based on the eligible numbers and the Eligible Enrolment Ratio (EER) so calculated would be more representative for measuring access for developing countries like India. The data provided by the authors [3] is shown in the following Table:

Table: Comparison and Inter Alia Difference between GER and EER
(All in Percentage)

S. No.	Country	Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) 2017	Eligible Enrolment Ratio (EER)	Inter Alia Difference 2017
1.	US	88.2	93.5	5.3
2.	Germany	70.3	91.2	20.9
3.	France	65.6	75.5	9.9
4.	UK	60.0	63.1	3.1
5.	Brazil	51.3	78.6	27.2
6.	China	49.1	72.9	23.8
7.	Indonesia	36.4	57.7	21.2
8.	India	27.4	64.9	37.5
9.	South Africa	22.4	46.6	24.2
10.	Pakistan	9.4	43.3	33.9

It may be noted that the gap between EER and GER is largest for India, which emphasizes the need to address the complex problem of school education with the view to reduce the drop-out and failure rates and also to make quality education more affordable.

The data on GER in India presented in the following Table [4] shows a steady increase in gross enrolment ratio, which arises, mainly from an increase in the number of conventional (face-to-face) Higher Education Institutions and to a lesser extent from Centres of Open and Distance Learning (ODL), online learning, etc., which make a small but significant contribution to GER.

Table: Gross Enrolment Ratio (in %)
(Higher Education 18-23 years)

Year	Boys	Girls	Weighted Average
2001-02	9.3	6.7	8.1
2003-04	10.6	7.7	9.2
2006-07	14.5	10.0	12.4
2009-10	17.1	12.7	15.0
2010-11	20.8	17.9	19.4
2012-13	22.3	19.8	21.1
2014-15	25.3	23.2	24.3

It was reported in the Times of India of 8th January 2012 that "As per the UNESCO's International System of Classification for Education, there are six stages of education. While stages one to three relate to school education, stage four is about vocational education and five and six are in the realm of higher education.

The strict view is to include only stages five and six in higher education, but in broader definition – endorsed by the erstwhile HRD ministry – even stage four is included provided that diploma/certificate course is of not less than one year".

This happened around the year 2010 and accounts for the relatively greater rise in GER in 2010-11, as shown in the Table.

The gross enrolment ratio in India for the year 2018-19 was 26.30% and [Bharath Kancharla](#) has made the following two noteworthy observations while discussing it [5]:

(I) The age group for [higher \(tertiary\) education](#) is 18-22 years internationally. When calculated as per the international standard, the [higher education GER](#) for India would be 30.6%. While it is higher than Pakistan (9) and Bangladesh (21), it is [comparatively less than](#) other countries in Asia – China (51), South Korea (94), Malaysia (45), Indonesia (36), Iran (70) etc. Globally, USA's higher education GER is 88, UK's is 60, Germany is at 70 and Canada's is 69 etc.

(ii) The distribution of GER state-wise in India in 2018-19 was:

- (a) Among the large states, Tamil Nadu ranks first with a GER of 49 followed by Delhi (46.3), Himachal Pradesh (39.6), Uttarakhand (39.1), Kerala (37) and Telangana (36.2). Other large states with GER higher than the national average include – Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab,

Haryana and Karnataka

- (b) Among the large states, Bihar has the lowest GER with 13.6, followed by Chhattisgarh and Assam with 18.6 and 18.7 GER respectively. Jharkhand, West Bengal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are among the states with GER less than the all-India average of 26.3 in 2018-19
- © Among the states, Sikkim has shown the highest change with an increase in GER by 16.5 within a year. In 2017-18, it was 37.4 while it increased to 53.9 in 2018-19. Sikkim is also the state with the highest GER in 2018-19.

The current value of GER for India is reportedly 0.32 [6]. It should appear from the data presented that the target of GER = 0.50 by 2035, set in National Education Policy 2020, can be achieved quite easily.

-Contributed by Prof. V.B. Gupta
Coordinator, DEI Distance Education Programme

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- [4] R.S. Bawa, University News, Jan 30 – Feb 5, 2017.
- [5] [https://factly.in/gross-enrolment-ratio-ger-of-higher-education-improves-but-challenges-remain%E2%82%AC%80but%20challenges%20remain%E2%82%AC&text=The%20Gross%20Enrolment%20Ratio%20\(GER,GER%20for%20the%20first%20time](https://factly.in/gross-enrolment-ratio-ger-of-higher-education-improves-but-challenges-remain%E2%82%AC%80but%20challenges%20remain%E2%82%AC&text=The%20Gross%20Enrolment%20Ratio%20(GER,GER%20for%20the%20first%20time) (Uploaded on October 22, 2019).
- [6] <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com> (Retrieved on 16th March, 2022).

News From Information Centres

Press Meet Organized at Dayal Nagar, Visakhapatnam

DEI Information Centre, Dayal Nagar, Visakhapatnam and India Yamaha Motors (P) Ltd. jointly organized a Press meet for the promotion of 2-wheeler Motor Vehicle Mechanics- One-Year Certificate course on 19 March 2022 at DEI Information Centre, Dayal Nagar. India Yamaha Motors (P) Ltd South Zonal Service Manager Sri M. Preetham and his team of four members participated in the Press meet. Centre In-Charge V. Dakshina



Murthy, & Branch Secretary Dr. I. Rajesh Venkat and also site engineer Sri K. Muralidhara Rao and staff members of the Centre and students participated in this Press meet. Press reporters from the local newspapers, 'EENADU paper', 'Sakshi paper', 'Prajasakti paper', 'Vaartha paper' and 'Andhra Jyoti paper' and TV reporters

participated in this meet. The meeting started with the prayer "Hey Dayal" and Centre In-charge gave full details about the new course of 2-wheeler MVM to the press people and also gave details about the DEI and Dayalbagh history to them. Afterwards, Sri. Preetham gave the contents of the course and briefly explained about the Yamaha training school while stating that this is the first Training Centre in Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with DEI and 16th in South India. A live link had been provided to DEI, Dayalbagh and Sri. Majer Singh, Course In-charge from DEI, interacted with the Yamaha Co. team and told that this is the 6th Training Centre of Yamaha set up by DEI. Sri. Singh informed that these types of Training Centres have already been set up in Amritsar, Rajborari, Timarni, MTV Puram and Derhgaon and now it has been established in Visakhapatnam. Sri. M. Preetham assured that the placements would be 100% after the completion of the course. The video of the Yamaha company and DEI Yamaha Centres were also played and shown to the press reporters.

After that, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks. The press reporters gave a positive response and encouraging reports were published in the local papers.

A Grand Event Organized at Information Centre Roorkee on the Completion of 15 Years



A grand function was organized at the Roorkee Centre on 20 March 2022 on the successful completion of 15 years of its service, in which the parents and ex-students along with guests participated in large numbers. The building of the Centre was bedecked with LED lighting and was shimmering with multi-colours. The celebrations of this memorable programme commenced with the University prayer, and University song, and was followed by the prize distribution function for various competitions held at the Centre. A "Light and Sound Show" was also organized, which covered the journey of the Centre from its inception in 2007, showcasing the progress, activities, and achievements during this period.

In his brief address, the Centre In-charge Prof. V. Huzur Saran welcomed the Chief Guest, Dr Rajesh Srivastava, senior Professor at the Department of Physics, IIT Roorkee, and shared the latest accomplishments of the Centre. For instance, taking inspiration from the application of Agroecology initiated at Dayalbagh, an Agro-Homeopathy based Organic Botanical Herbal Garden (AHOBHAG) has been established at Roorkee and is being maintained by the joint efforts of the staff and students, under the able guidance of a faculty member, Smt. V. Radha Kumari. Presently, this self-sustained ecosystem has an assortment of around seventy herbs and medicinal plants like Akarkara, Aloe Vera, Guru Samkru, Lata Kasturi, Lemongrass, Kala Vaasa, Kalmegh, Safed Vaasa, Shal Parni, Tulsi, etc. The project was conceptualized and initiated by Dr V. Guru Charan, an alumnus of D.E.I.

Another innovative initiative named PeRmaculturE Medical Forest And Garden (PREM FAG) is developed in consonance with the principles of the "trinity"-permaculture, zero-tillage and agro-homoeopathy. The above practices form a cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, and complete system of organic farming. In zero-tillage farming, there is a strong emphasis on mulching, which reduces weeds and water consumption and improves the soil quality. Here,

chemical pesticides and fertilizers have been replaced by homoeopathic medicines and these medicines are being used very effectively to control pests and unwanted weeds.

Based on the above concepts, a keyhole garden has also been established at the Centre. As the name suggests, it is essentially a raised-bed planter in the shape of a keyhole. It can be built in a small space with a composting bin at its centre. The kitchen waste and water are periodically filled in this bin, which decomposes and releases vital nutrients to the plants. The aim is to demonstrate the utilization of small urban spaces for growing plants organically with minimum effort. Thus, the rare combination of the above environmentally sustainable “trinity” could be an effective strategy for small and marginal farmers to grow crops healthy and pest-free and cost-effective and chemical-free.

The “Light and Sound Show” also received an overwhelming response and appreciation from the local public and the audience and received coverage in the print media.

AADEIs' Skill Resource Centre: Certificate Distribution Function Held

The Second Certificate Distribution function for III Batch trainees was held at SRC, Agra on 25 February 2022. Shri. Gur Pyara Satsangi, Secretary, Radhasoami Satsang Sabha presided over the function as the Chief Guest. Dr S K Satsangi, President, AADEIs was also present at the occasion. 31 trainees received training completion certificates at the function.

Dr Sahab Dass, Coordinator, AADEIs Skill Resource, welcomed the Chief Guest and informed that Skill Resource Centre (SRC) has so far trained 67 female students in three batches. Its trainees have time and again risen to the challenge of manufacturing quality products at very short notice. Shri. Saran Srivastava, Centre In-charge presented the progress report and informed that the concept of 'Earn while You Learn' is emulated here, which has benefitted the trainees immensely.

Addressing the trainees, Shri. GP Satsangi emphasized that now that the trainees have developed skills and completed the training successfully, they are well equipped to face the competition in the market and may rise to the expectations of the customers. He added that to gain customer loyalty one should pay special attention to quality. Shri.GP Satsangi praised the role played by AADEIs and its Skill Resource Centre in enabling the trainees to become employable or to initiate self-employment schemes. He advised that SRC should start a structured programme for further developing the entrepreneurial qualities of the trainees.

On this occasion Shri. Prem Swarup, Executive Committee Member, AADEIs, informed that interaction of trainees with Senior Officers of MSME has been organized. Efforts are also being made to obtain FSSAI registration for the Trainees and also to form SHGs.

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