

Dayalbagh Educational Institute

Two Decade Strategic Plan 2012-2031



Executive Summary

“You see things; and you say, ‘Why?’ But I dream things that never were; and I say, ‘Why not?’ ”

– George Bernard Shaw

Genesis and Broad Goal In 1981, the Government of India accorded Dayalbagh Educational Institute the status of a Deemed University which brought to culmination the start of an exemplary system of education founded in the form of the *Radhasoami Educational Institute Middle School* in 1917, by the August founder of Dayalbagh Sir Sahabji Maharaj Anand Swarup. He mandated that the purpose of educational institutions in Dayalbagh would be to “...raise the general level of intelligence of our teeming millions, create in its future generations the habit of clear and deep thinking...” and to produce a community “...every member of which shall know his duty and do his duty...willing to live a life dedication, a life of service...” .

Commitment to High-quality Affordable Education with Values Committed to providing a high quality cutting edge academic environment for its students, DEI’s educational programmes provide opportunities for creativity and hands-on work experience on live projects, woven in with a strong value system. We prepare our students to provide leadership in all areas of human endeavor, and the scholarship of their faculties, along with dedication and values, make them transform the ways of people who live and work with them. Within a short span of three decades, DEI has established over its strong teaching base, state-of-the-art laboratories in different faculties that support various interdisciplinary research programmes that have made their mark at national and international levels. Areas where the institute has well established research programmes include Quantum Computing, Virtual Instrumentation, English Studies, Soft Computing, Photonics, Textile Design, Tissue Culture, Music, Multimedia Technology, and Theology. Today, DEI stands out as an institution that is dedicated to the service of the

people by providing low-cost high-quality education.

Six Pillars of the Strategic Plan Through rigorous and careful self-examination by its faculty and students, and counsel from alumni, friends, and employers, DEI has laid out a bold new two-decade strategic plan from 2012 through to 2031, to elevate its rank to be among the best universities. The six pillars of transformation on which the plan focusses are undergraduate education, graduate education, research, infrastructure, information and communication technology, and campus development. The plan builds on each of these pillars: *Institute Level Plans* dove-tail with *detailed Department Level Plans*.

Teaching Excellence, Cooperative Education and Research All undergraduate programmes will be enhanced extensively and regularly for currency and quality of curriculum and flexibility (including credit pacing), along with revitalization of the Institute-wide Core Programme. Regular top-level reviews of all programmes will be initiated along with the establishment of a *Centre for Teaching Excellence*. A top priority will be the doubling or even tripling of its current faculty strength through regular appointments, retention of Emeritus Professors, contractual appointments, and appointment of Adjunct Faculty from industry. Opportunities for student scholarships and Fellowships at all levels from UG to the Post-doctoral level are to be provided to help the needy on one hand, and to attract the best students on the other. In a bold initiative to weave education with on-the-job experience to enhance employability, the Institute will introduce the *Cooperative Programme* along the lines of the University of Waterloo model. The plan incorporates the setting up of a *Co-operative Education & Career Services Centre* which will liaison closely with students, faculty,

employer concerns, and alumni to facilitate the programme. The Co-op programme will enable students to be employed in industrial establishments every other term, dramatically enhancing their job skills with live training, while providing them with the enriched academic inputs while on the campus. Our Undergraduate Research Programme provides enterprising students with opportunities to work closely with expert faculty in cutting-edge research laboratories, exposing them to the latest technologies, enhancing their ability to think independently, lead design groups, and bring out their best creative thinking. The Strategic Plan will widen the scope of these programmes across all Departments of the Institute. On the anvil is an overhaul of our Ph.D. programme for quality enhancement.

Information and Communication Technology

Infusing information and communication technology into all aspects of education has always been top priority for DEI. We presently operate over 25 e-Classroom facilities on our campus, a 57 station EDUSAT network across the country for our Distance Learning Programme, and offer live webcast facilities free over the Internet to 1000 clients. Our new learning management system *Vidyaprasar* (vp.dei.ac.in) developed and maintained entirely by a team of DEI students, will be expanded. High speed leased lines connecting our campuses at Delhi and at outreach locations in Madhya Pradesh will be extended to Bangalore and other outreach locations in the east and south of India.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The plan incorporates regular enhancement of all teaching and research laboratory infrastructure, all computing infrastructure (including cluster and cloud computing facilities for research) and the campus-wide high speed fiber and WiFi network. A state-of-the-art and fully equipped virtual instrumentation facility which is now available to all students over the local campus LAN and the Internet will be continuously upgraded. Green energy which serves all DEI facilities through a 500 KW Solar Power Station will expand with demand. All cafeteria facilities

are to be retrofitted into meeting and discussion places for students, and sports facilities and hostels are to be expanded and upgraded regularly. Central to the entire endeavour will be the provision of a rich Central Library, with full on-line access to electronic databases and journals. Acknowledging the importance of arts in the development and enrichment of student faculties, the Institute will establish a *Centre for Performing Arts* which will strengthen DEI's already nationally recognized programmes in the area.

Widening the Circle The strategic plan of DEI widens the circle through the strengthening of its Research and Technology Park, Collaborations and Connections, Support from Alumni, and its Outreach Programmes.

Research and Technology Park (RTP) With the recent establishment of the *Quantum and Nano Systems Centre* (2010), the *Centre for Consciousness Studies* (2011), and forthcoming *Centre for Bio-Inspired Systems* (2012-13), DEI has put in place the foundation for bringing together a strong trans-disciplinary research programme in these leading fields of research. The Centre for Bio-inspired systems will also act as a development and incubation facility for intelligent information processing technologies. The RTP will also expand to include Centres in other disciplines such as agile manufacturing, hydrogen research, and green energy.

Collaborations and Connections DEI firmly believes that quality education and research both receive impetus through collaboration with other leading institutions and for several years our MOU's have reinforced this belief. These have provided opportunities for students through internships and advanced video-conferenced courses. Our present MoU's with the University of Maryland, University of Waterloo, Michigan State University, University of Missouri, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research will be strengthened in all aspects: teaching, research, and exchange of faculty and students. Other MoUs with Stanford University, MIT, and other IIT's are on the anvil.

Outreach In 2004, DEI launched a major social service initiative with an outreach programme that provides need based education and targets geographically remote areas and underprivileged and backward communities (particularly women). Our Distance Education Programme offers a wide variety of vocational training, diploma, and professional degree programmes at 76 locations in India. These programmes will be consolidated, updated and expanded. A bold new initiative slated for launch during 2012 is e-DEI-de (e-DEI distance education). This “Not-for-profit” modular on-line mentored programme will offer a variety of short 2-4 week Certificate Courses in diverse subject areas. In the plan, e-DEI-de will expand to provide opportunities for working professionals work towards obtaining diplomas or degrees after having completed the requisite number of Certificate credits. e-DEI-de will also open up for all on-campus students to provide them with new opportunities for skill-set enhancement and live training.

Critical Enablers for Implementation

Critical enablers of the plan will be the expansion and streamlining of the administration for efficiency and complete transparency, and the roll-out of a new ERP software that will encompass academics, administration and accounts. DEI has also mobilized complete support from its Alumni both in India and abroad. Continuous monitoring and feedback from our internal Academic and Administrative Audit Committee, as well as mechanisms for feedback from students, alumni, and employers are in place. Implementation of the plan will require the intense involvement of the entire University Community, clear partitioning of the proposed tasks, assignment of competent teams responsible for executing them, careful resource management, and the development of performance indicators. Our plan addresses all these issues in detail.

The DEI Strategic Plan is comprehensive, bold, and action oriented. The plan embodies the spirit of “Why not?” It is a road map for providing an environment in which we will produce quality students who are well-rounded men and women ready to take on challenges and be leaders with a blend of top quality academics, work-experience, and a strong value system. It is a plan that will transform the institution by setting high goals, raising expectations, increasing accountability, and energizing the community.

Our plan is transformational.

