

In This Issue

ITEMS	PAGE
Articles	
Graduate Attributes: Hallmark of College and University Students	3
Backdrop of Introducing Two Year B.Ed. Curriculum: It's Vision and Desired Changes	6
Challenges of Motivating Students	11
Reflection of Multicultural Education Goals	13
Convocation	
Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi	21
Campus News	24
Theses of the Month (Science & Technology)	29
Advertisement	33

The Subscription Tariff

	Inland	Foreign		
	Institutions	Academics/	Annual	Surface
	Students	Students	Mail	Mail
	<i>(at residential address only)</i>			
	Rs.	Rs.	US \$	US \$
1 year	950.00	375.00	210.00	170.00
2 years	1700.00	700.00	400.00	330.00

Subscription is payable in advance by Bank Draft/MO only in favour of Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi.

Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Association.

Editorial Committee Chairman:

Prof Furqan Qamar

Editorial Committee :

Mr Sampson David

Dr Youd Vir Singh

Dr Sistla Rama Devi Pani

Editor :

Dr Amarendra Pani

Graduate Attributes: Hallmark of College and University Students

A Joseph Dorairaj*

What kind of students should our colleges and universities produce? What should be the attributes of those passing out of higher educational institutions? What should be the hallmark of these students who have had the benefit of higher education that is denied to more than 75 per cent of the Indian youth? In short, what should be the graduate attributes?

Though institutions and educationists have been earnestly trying to address these questions for quite some time now, a consensus has eluded them. Almost all institutions have their own specific vision, mission and charter and therefore every college or university has institution-specific attributes that are handed down to students religiously. Just as there are institution-specific attributes, there are discipline-specific attributes as well. For instance, while technical institutions expect their students to be scientifically and technologically-oriented and gadget-savvy, medical institutions prepare students who will not only know but treasure the value of life and be acutely aware of the implications of mortality—sometimes the slender difference between life and death. A Gandhian institution would emphasize values like truth, peace and non-violence in its students.

The mission statement of Yale University reads as follows: "Yale is committed to improving the world today and for future generations through outstanding research and scholarship, education, preservation, and practice. Yale educates aspiring leaders worldwide who serve all sectors of society. We carry out this mission through the free exchange of ideas in an ethical, interdependent, and diverse community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni". The mission statement of Gandhigram Rural Institute reads as follows: "To provide for instruction and training in such branches of learning as will promote a classless and casteless society; to provide for research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge; and to function as a centre for extension work leading to integrated rural development campus".

While it is true that we should not lose sight of institution-specific attributes, which basically stem from the founder's vision and dream, all institutions should be absolutely clear about the general attributes their students should possess and these should be articulated unequivocally. There are seven attributes that all students should possess irrespective of the institution and discipline they belong to.

Multicultural Perspective

Today's world is fractured in terms of religious, linguistic and ethnic differences—"clash of civilizations". Surprisingly, even as the world has come together and its geographical borders are shrinking, thanks to

*Professor of English and Former Vice Chancellor (I/c), Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram 624 362 (TN) josephdorairaj@gmail.com