

# INTEGRATING EDUCATION WITH INDUSTRY

- Utpal Mazumder

The author has 18 years of rich experience in Information Technology & Consulting in diverse areas like IT Project Management, Product & Delivery Management, Finance and Shop floor Management. He is a hardcore Techno-Financial professional-A Cost Accountant-(AICWAI) with an Engineering background-B.E. (Electronics). The author has worked in various global organizations like Microsoft, HSBC, Godrej Infotech and Steel Authority of India Ltd.

McKinsey, the topmost Consultancy firm, in their survey has found that only 10-15 percent of India's Technical graduates and 25 percent of its Engineering graduates are actually Employable. ITC finds 5 percent of students interviewed in rural colleges employable.

But if you work for any of the top Global companies like Microsoft, HSBC, Satyam, Infosys, TCS, IBM, Citibank etc. or if you work closely with Corporate India you will find that there is always huge requirement for good professionals. Companies have good projects in pipe-line but not enough skilled professionals to execute these projects.

C.Mahalingam, Sr.VP of a Bangalore based Engineering Services Company has said, "There is a three-year lag between Industry and Academia that needs to be bridged".

Hence this saying of Francis Keppel becomes very relevant, "Education is too important to be left solely to the educators."

To bring the Education System closer to the Industry there has to be a focused 3-Dimensional partnership model:

- Partnership with Corporate/Industry
- Partnership with Technology Leaders and
- Partnership with Academicians

Education encompasses Teaching and Learning Specific Skills, Imparting of Knowledge & Wisdom and Sharing of Experiences. If we go back to history we find that the same model was in place. The learning modes were Kinesthetic, Visual and Auditory. It means that the learning and imparting of knowledge had been through Hands-on-Work, Observation & Seeing and Listening to Instructions & Information.

Effective Education today would be the one which is committed in evolving the model of integrating the two worlds-Academia and Corporate for the Students as well as for the Corporate. The challenge in this model is availability of people from Corporate who are passionate for modernizing Academics.

But things are not that bleak. It is changing today. There are few professionals who, after spending several years in various corporations, have moved towards driving education. This is definitely enriching the academic profession. Such team comprises of leaders, entrepreneurs and successful professionals with illustrious background who can set the students on the right path and groom them to become Global Managers of tomorrow.

In order to be successful in this world you need these 3-Rights:

- Right Knowledge
- Right Attitude and
- Right Skill-set

A perfect blend of these 3-Rights in the education system is going to create Indian Managers for the World.