

DAILY POST

JOURNALISM OF HOPE

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." —JOHN DEWEY

Challenges for foreign students

To achieve efficiency in Indian universities for foreign students, we need a SMART (Simple, Moral, Action-oriented Responsive and Transparent) administration at all levels.

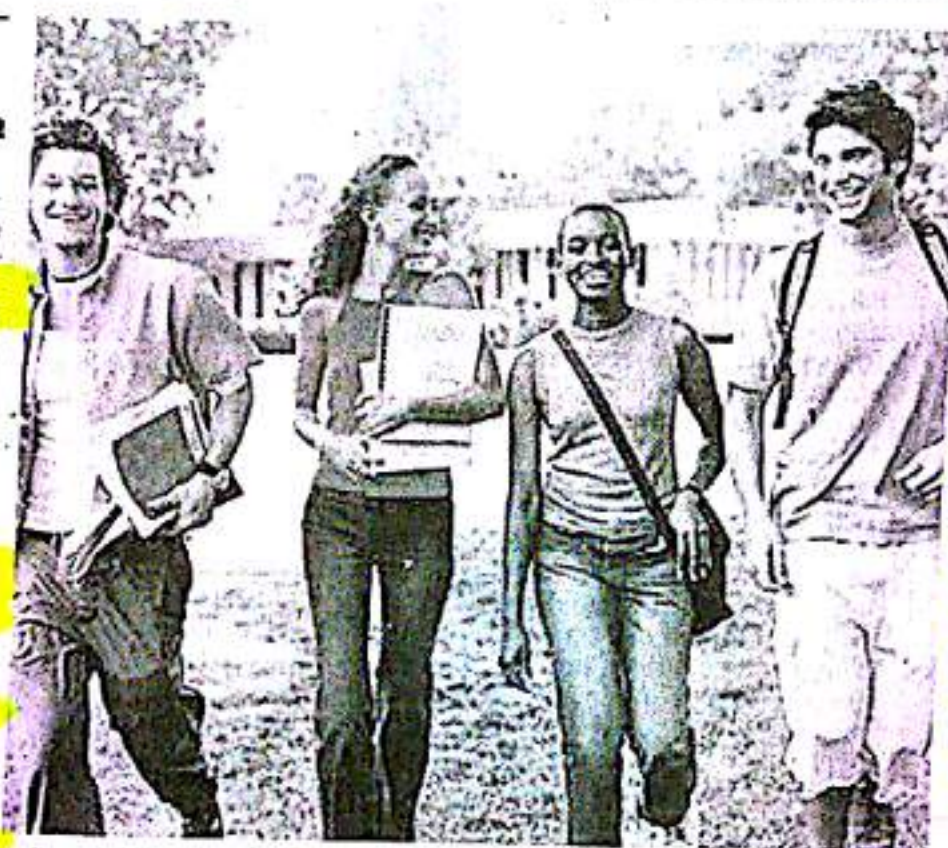
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To capitalise on the opportunity for foreign students in Indian universities including Kurukshetra University of Haryana, we need to identify the challenges in the light of New Education Policy 2016. It is necessary and sufficient to reverse the trend of two lakh students every year signing out of the Indian education sector to pursue the foreign degree which has been called foreign phobia which is still a challenge for the middle class mentality of all the stakeholders in Indian economy.

Being a humble teacher, I always believe in globalisation as internationalisation of Indianisation which is possible by foreign students coming to Indian universities. It is to note that the enrolment of foreign students in Indian universities has increased from 11,000 to 31,126 as reported by the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry in its head-count of foreign students in academic year 2013-14. It is pertinent to mention the data limitations in Indian economy due to financial year for resource allocations, academic year for teaching and calendar year for annual reports of the universities. We have to note that the foreign students population in universities across the world has been growing at the frenetic pace of 60 per cent since 2000.

According to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), we have to diversify our campuses with foreign students which is sufficient to remove the revenue deficit if not the fiscal deficit of the state universities like Kurukshetra. According to Association of Indian Universities (AIU) study by Professor Furqan Qamar and Veena Bhalla 'Internationalisation of Higher Education in India: Annual Survey of India 2013-14', the foreign students are mostly going to Central and state universities, but the private and deemed universities, with their hostel facilities, are catching up. The data of AIU reveals that most of the foreign students are signing up for distance education courses at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Delhi.



Indian educational institutions witnessing a spurt of foreign students.

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For full time programmes, however, the foreign students preferred going to smaller towns, where the cost of living was within their means, like Pune.

We in Kurukshetra University have made International Hostel for foreign students but have very low number of foreign students as non-vegetarian food could not be served. This is a moral question for us whether we should impose vegetarian food to the foreign students who have the life style to eat meat which cannot be served in most of the hostels, particularly in religious cities.

Kurukshetra as a place is the first ever university on the planet with sermons of Bhagwad Gita full of knowledge which is the objective of a university. It needs international marketing to get foreign students.

The universities are ranked according to their performances, research achievements, administration and infrastructure, awards and recognition. There are no credits for maintaining and sustaining campus for foreign students who deserve empathy (not sympathy). One of my research scholars Bahram Ramesh of Afghanistan studying in Kurukshetra University (KU) for the last six years believes that there is scope for attracting foreign students with measures such as the fee structure

should possess experience in relationship management. The quality of communication skills of teachers in foreign languages, particularly English, needs to be improved.

To achieve reasonable success in our endeavours for quality education to the students including foreign students, we need to understand, analyse, interpret and adopt the vision of globalisation as internationalisation of Indianisation through spiritual input with communication skills in English. There is a strong case for Graduate School of International Area Studies for achieving this vision as I have worked at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul in South Korea as ICCR Chair Professor of Indian economy.

To achieve efficiency in Indian universities for foreign students, we certainly need good governance which means a SMART (Simple, Moral, Action-oriented Responsive and Transparent) administration at all levels. To adopt normative approach for every human being to avoid white collar crimes, it is essential to understand SIMPLE model of human resource development (HRD) consisting of six human development activities such as Spiritual Quotient (SQ) development, Intuition development, Mental level development, Love oneself attitude development and Emotional quotient (EQ) development. The synergy of these six aspects of HRD in the beautiful word 'SIMPLE' is an essential requirement for all to emerge and realise the full potential in holistic sense. To increase the return on training investment (ROTI), we have to improve communication skills, time management with spiritual input.

We have to make serious efforts for promotion of rationality in economics flowing from NSS Logo 'NOT ME BUT YOU' - the altruism and by adopting spiritual mathematics 1-1-1. We should be pragmatic for creating sense of security among foreign students with crime free academic environment which is the need of the day. Let us avoid students' union election which will add fuel to the fire of unrest beyond control, the challenge for all including foreign students.

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