

SCODET ASIA 2007

POSTER PRESENTATION INAUGURAL SPEECH

SITARAM DIXIT

Respected dignitaries on the dais and my dear friends, Good Evening

Education is the key component, in the dynamics of civilization, in all countries and cultures. A Sanskrit Shloka states, that true education, leads to liberation from ignorance, superstition, and prejudices, which blind the vision of truth. Once you are educated, you can grasp the problem better, and be aware of its implications.

Education makes you a right thinker, and tells you how to think and make decisions productively, adapt and apply new knowledge skills, successfully to face changes and challenges. Learning empowers individuals and organizations, to make wise choices, solve problems and break new ground, to serve people. It helps you anticipate and adapt, to evolving values, technologies, performance standards and essential expectations.

Frequently, industrial organizations criticise, traditional models of college education, for emphasizing memorization, and their push to cover content, at the expense of deep conceptual understanding. Industry says that, learning should be active, goal-directed and oriented, toward making decisions and resolving problems. It should embed, real-life tasks and activities for thinking and communicating, and should build on students' prior knowledge and experiences.

Education should focus, on core concepts and treat them in-depth, so that students acquire a firm, conceptual base for organizing the content, they learn into coherent knowledge structures. Industry advises educational institutions, to implement standards that would help, develop students become learners, who are knowledgeable, self-determined, strategic, and empathetic.

You will agree that, only when students implement guidelines, emphasizing their own experiences, of process contents and develop their ability to look, at subject areas from multiple perspectives, and communicate their knowledge clearly, they qualify to become, competent 'knowledge workers' in their chosen disciplines.

Information and knowledge, is central to our growth, but understanding and synthesising it, into something useful for others, is an art. We have to nurture and cultivate this art. Every one of us, are looking for radical changes, to resolve our social and psychological problems, and history reveals that, radical changes and transformation of values, into social perceptivity, is possible, only when we are able to enlighten people, about both the merits, as well as the limitations, of scientific advancement. However, the challenge lies in putting across this advancement, to every section of society, in a meaningful and a useful way.

Ancient Greek philosopher, Socrates argued that, education was about drawing out, what was already within the student. As many of you know, the word education comes

from the Latin e-ducere meaning "to lead out." Poster presentations for students, instituted for the first time by SCODET ASIA do exactly this.

Posters, conceptually teaches students to think, to understand, to integrate, the essentials of knowledge discovered, and learnt in the past, to live life-by developing and equipping one's mind, to deal with reality. Presenting posters, also equips students, to acquire further knowledge, by one's own effort. It aims at students, forcing them on as to "how to think", rather than "what to think", improving their minds, enabling them to think for themselves, rather than, to load their memory, with the thoughts of others.

My sincere thanks, to Wadhera Publications, for agreeing to shift, the focus of education, from the college curriculum and classroom assessment, to a professional set up. Thanks are also due, to the college faculty, for encouraging their wards to participate and all students, actively participating in this endeavour.

In continuation, and with a view to recognise the efforts of student's, taking part in the poster presentations, the organisers have instituted three prizes, to outstanding posters displayed. The identified panel, of judges will rate the posters, in accordance with the guidelines of the poster evaluation sheet, published on the last page, of the Special SDTR Issue and give their opinion. We will declare the results, of the poster assessment on Friday 19th October, evening.

We are pleased, to inform you all, that registered delegates can also, send in their opinion, on the top three posters displayed, as per the same guidelines, and win prizes, in case their assessment matches, with that of the judges. We have issued Poster evaluation sheets, along with the delegate kit or alternatively, can be collected from the organisers stall.

Lord Shri. Krishna in the Bhagavat – Gita said,

यस्य सर्वे समारंभाः काम संकल्प वर्जिताः ॥

ज्ञानाग्नि दग्ध कर्माणं तमाहुः पडितं बुधाः ॥ १९ ॥

॥ श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता ॥ ४ अ.

‘Whose all undertaking are devoid of desire and wish (and who has) consumed (his) work in the fire of knowledge, wise men call him a Pundita (a true learned man)’

(Shloka 19 – Chapter 4)

May I take this opportunity, to wish and pray that, the fire of knowledge, devoid of unholy desires, engulf us all during the next three days, at SCODET ASIA 2007 and enrich us, with newer insights in our chosen field, to make us learned and wise, like a Pundita.

Thank you & Namaskar