

'INDUSTRY NEEDS CONFIDENT PRACTICAL WORKERS'

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICAL IDEAS CANNOT BE UNDERMINED. A COMPELLING THEORY IS OF LITTLE USE IF IT DOES NOT WORK. THE SAME NEEDS TO BE APPLIED TO CURRICULUM AS WELL. IT MUST BE PRACTICAL AND IT MUST BE ABLE TO MEASURE AND OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK TO ALL LEARNERS



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An overseas education offers an exposure that stands you in good stead. It gives you a broader perspective of issues and the ability to interconnect your education with the world you are living in. I remember when I went abroad it was a whole new experience for me. I used to stay up, do my research, sweat it out and constantly stretch myself.

With an MBA from XLRI Jamshedpur and an EDM from Harvard University, one of the things that I realised while being part of the overseas culture is the importance of practical ideas. You may have a compelling theory or attractive ideas but if it does not work, it is of little use. Also, emphasis on merit and candid feedback

gives you a clear idea of what is working and what is not.

When applied to curriculum, I feel, it offers some useful pointers. It must be practical, must be able to measure and offer constructive feedback to all learners.

As to how an education abroad has helped me identify the gaps in the Indian curriculum, I feel that the experience abroad gave me an insight into the loopholes of the Indian curriculum. It helped me figure out that though we have some enlightened directive and policy documents in India — the National Curriculum Framework (2005), for instance — we actually need practical tools and methods that could make these a reality in classrooms. I feel the same way about the existing BEd programmes, and the various progressive announcements made by the boards from time to time. The gap is between good theory and poor practice.

What made me come back to India was my desire to help create an education that would help realise the potential of all children in our country — rich or poor. Changing schools seemed to be a good place to start.

In order to address such concerns, iDiscoveri has developed a curriculum-cum-teacher training programme, XSEED that is built on principles of learning by doing. It is a contemporary education methodology that constantly challenges the status quo of the Indian education system. The curriculum is based on the guidelines of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and includes well-researched lesson plans aiding teachers to deliver a learning experience to students. It brings experience-based learning to life through its integrated approach towards

syllabus, teacher training and assessment.

Based on the latest research in the fields of education, the programme seeks to achieve all-round development of children, as opposed to the uni-dimensional curriculum of traditional academics.

At present, we need a curriculum that meets the academic, intellectual and industry demands of an individual. I feel that to be competitive in the workplace, today, you need to be a quick learner and be willing to adapt and meet the demands of constantly changing situations. This means that the industry needs confident practical workers who have a good grasp of fundamentals, are able to communicate, and go ahead and learn what they don't know.

