



Podar Eduspace Times



August - October 2014

What's making Headlines?

THINK BEYOND TOMORROW, TODAY!

Australian PM launches 'New Colombo Plan' to boost educational links with India

Australian Prime Minister, Tony Abbott who recently visited Mumbai launched the 'New Colombo Plan' which aims at strengthening educational links in the Indo-Pacific region. As part of the plan, Mumbai University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Australia's Deakin University for student exchange programs. The Australian government has committed \$100 million for the education plan.

Source: Times of India (Sept 4, 2014)

A ranking system unique to India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani have stressed the need to evolve an independent assessment of Indian universities using a framework that is designed locally. Indian universities need to compete to attract the intellectual students and qualified faculty from across the world.

Source: Hindustan Times (Oct 8, 2014)

MoUs signed with USA on Modi's visit

In a number of initiatives announced on education during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to USA, India and the US will jointly work on higher education for implementation of a 'global initiative of academic network.'

An agreement was made for the cooperation and support to the Indian Institutes of Technology. Another agreement was made on a program for Indo-US partnership for 'active learning for young aspiring minds'. This will be an online education program and will be later integrated with national mission for education.

Source: Times of India (Sept 25, 2014)

All India Survey on Higher Education 2014-15 launched

The Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry launched the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2014-15, an annual, web-based, pan-India exercise on the status of higher education in the country.

Source: Zee News india.com (Oct 22, 2014)

FROM THE BOARDROOM

- ❖ Successful pilot run of our Books2Biz program at Sinhgad group of institutions in India
- ❖ Podar Skills, our Vocational training arm has successfully trained 12,000 students across India
- ❖ We have partnered with an Australian Government certified body, Dynamic Learning Services (DLS) for Vocational training to develop programs
- ❖ We have recently signed an MoU with a Government organization in China for a people to people exchange program
- ❖ In terms of internships, we have increased the corporates in our basket and this includes both SME's and very large businesses in India who have agreed to take interns from us.
- ❖ Application filed to partner with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Government of India initiative for skill development programs

Cable in India: more GREAT scholarships

The UK's Business Secretary Vince Cable has announced that the 2015 intake for GREAT scholarships for Indian university students to study in the UK will cater for 396 students, in an attempt to signal that the UK is 'open for business' as incoming Indian international student numbers plummet.

During a week-long trade mission to India, Cable aimed to combat the image of Britain as unwelcoming to foreign students.

The scholarships will be offered through the GREAT program, which provides financial support for Indian students at 57 universities in the UK, with the bursary ranging from 1000 to 7500 GBP.

"With no limits on overseas student numbers and scholarships like the GREAT awards, the doors are open to Indian students to benefit from our world-class universities," Cable said in a speech to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Delhi.

Source: The Pie News (Oct 15, 2014)

Rising number of Indian students head to Germany for higher studies

This year, there are many more science, engineering and technology students headed for Germany than previous years. The German government's efforts, through the German Academic Exchange Service, or DAAD, over the past few years to attract more students from India for higher education is paying off with more and more young Indians choosing Germany over more expensive destinations.

"With our network across India, we conduct information sessions at different universities and research centres. DAAD also offers very comprehensive scholarship programs and helps Indian and German universities to establish collaboration arrangements," a DAAD spokesperson in Delhi said.

With over 1,600 programs being offered in English by German universities, Indian students are now more at home there. But the biggest attraction is the fact that by virtue of being funded by the government,

higher education in Germany is free or comes at a very small tuition fee - around Euro 500 per semester.

"Germany is a great place to study technology, especially automobile engineering, both at the undergraduate and master's level," says Mumbai-based education consultant Karan Gupta. Besides, unlike the UK, graduates and post-graduates from German universities can stay back in the country after completion of their academic courses. In a bid to attract talent from across the world, the German government has simplified entry and residence rules for highly qualified workers.

Germany's group of top nine tech universities - TU9 - attracts many Indian students for postgraduate courses from top technology colleges such as the IITs. The TU9 network includes global leading institutes - RWTH Aachen, TU Berlin, TU Braunschweig, TU Darmstadt, TU Dresden, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, TU Munchen and Universität Stuttgart.

Source: India Education Diary.com (Sept 26, 2014)

Close ties between Cambridge and India having huge impact on language education

The Chief Executive of a department of Cambridge University has welcomed the close ties between Cambridge and the Indian government, organizations and key educators at a Cambridge English summit – which highlighted how collaboration is having a huge impact on language education across the country.

Saul Nassé, Chief Executive of Cambridge English, made the remarks at a summit organized by Cambridge English on Building Partnerships for the Future – attended by key players in education, the workplace and central and state governments in India. The event, also attended by Sir Leszek Borysiewicz Vice Chancellor of University of Cambridge, focused on English language skill development and how technology can be used to build a digital future for education in India.

Source: India Education Diary.com (Sept 19, 2014)

Indian employers see overseas graduates as more job-ready: British Council

Employers in India believe foreign university graduates have better technical skills for jobs, according to the India Employability Report unveiled by The British Council.

The research surveyed 200 foreign and Indian companies on ascertaining the attractiveness of Indian and foreign university graduates for jobs on parameters such as skill-sets, availability and quality of talent pool. It revealed that 39 per cent of the respondents deemed far more graduates from foreign universities as better prepared for the job than those from Indian universities, perceiving them to require lesser extensive training, according to 14 per cent of employers.

Source: Economic Times (Oct 14, 2014)

Accelerate private investments in India's education sector: Experts

Indian educationists have sought accelerated investments in academic institutions in the country, citing the government's target to double gross enrolment ratio (GER) to 30 per cent by 2020 and build a skilled workforce for the future. To achieve this target, private investment is important to increase the number of universities, higher education institutions as well as vocational training centres, they said at an event on education sector achievements in India.

Source: The Economic Times (Oct 10, 2014)



With Hon. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and former cricketers Sachin Tendulkar and Brett Lee

Podar Eduspace - Our Programs

Podar Skills:

Podar Skills is the skill development and vocational training arm of Anandilal Podar Trust which is over 90 years old. Podar Skills is establishing skill development centres where vocational courses are conducted. Our centres offer both government certified courses as well as advanced Podar Skills "proprietary" courses designed keeping in mind the needs of today's dynamic job market. Podar Skills has trained nearly 12,000 students in their first year.

Books2Biz - Research Program:

This unique program aims to aggrandize the research skills of a student of a university/college and provide them with virtual work experience, while still being at Campus. Student researchers are given the opportunity to work online on projects by eminent corporates associated with us. To improve the quality of research work, each student researcher is guided by an expert mentor and will be eligible to be awarded a certificate acknowledging their contribution and effort.

Train the Trainers:

We have developed a Train the Trainers initiative after understanding that today there is hardly any up-skill process happening for trainers delivering Educational Programs. This Program is all about upgrading the skills of trainers to match with the ever evolving industry demands and it reflects the roles of individuals delivering training and assessment services in the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

Online2Onsite - Internship Program:

This program gives students the opportunity to do real onsite internships with leading corporate & government organizations associated with us globally, prepare them for corporate challenges thus magnifying their career opportunities.

Job Able Program:

We have developed a Job Able Program (JAP) which comprises of 9 short modules that cover a wide range of areas that are of importance to employers. This is a novel concept which has been developed and written with the help of Industry and Education experts from Australia – DLS (Dynamic Learning Services) group which is an Australian Government certified body for Vocational Training. This program aims at young people all around the world who are looking to prepare themselves for full time employment and ease their transition into the workplace.

Advisory Services:

We provide various services ranging from market feasibility study to market entry strategy. We also play a key role in acting as a representative of the University. Our services would include assisting in student recruitment, right partner search and tie-ups, negotiate best terms for collaboration / tie-ups, provide regular reports on market opportunities for University programs as well as advise on education policies, government approvals, cultural and/or business practices.



With former Australian cricketer Brett Lee at the launch of the internship & research program in Sydney



With the team of Richmond University, The American International University in London after signing the MoU with them



Signing the MoU with TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's campus in Ultimo



With University of New South Wales in Sydney

Interview with our first Young Scholar Mr. Carlos Francisco Restituyo Vassallo, student at Richmond University, The American International University in London



FACTS

Companies said that four in ten positions being advertised for graduates in 2014 would be reserved for those with previous experience -Telegraph UK (2014)

2 out of 3 graduates feel they are not ready for the world of work and more than 50% say universities do not teach them the skills they need to find a job- Times Higher Education Survey (2014)

An average graduate applies for 12 jobs before finding 1 – Times Higher Education Survey (2014)

Q. You are now in your final year at University, how has it been so far?

A. My final year in university has been quite stressful so far. I have undertaken the job of Academic Chair of the Student Government at Richmond. Moreover, I continue my duties as a library assistant to sustain myself. I am also starting my application process to Graduate Schools, which involves preparing myself for the GRE, which I will take later on this semester.

Q. How did you hear about our Books2Biz program & what motivated you to enroll for our research program?

A. The program started in Richmond when I joined, and I was drawn to the possibility of doing real-world research from the comfort of my room. Coming from a developing country, my immigration status does not allow me work freedom so this sounded like a great deal.

Q. How was your experience during the program? Were you guided well by the mentors?

A. Overall I found the program well-suited for my level. The mentors were quite useful in pointing me in the right direction to where I can find information to make the reports.

Q. What did you like most about being part of our program?

A. I am very grateful to be able to do business research that would make an impact on someone. Especially for me coming into university, I believe this has set me on the right path for future endeavors.

Q. What was your gain from this program?

A. I was able to hone my research skills by looking up information as was requested by the mentor or the business I was helping.

Q. What are your plans after Graduation? Do you think the skills and knowledge you gained as part of our program will help you in the future?

A. Hopefully I will be able to pursue a master's degree in statistics and economics, to then continue to do a PhD. The work done with the Books2Biz program made me realize my love for research and because of this I would like to go and join academia at the highest level.

Q. Would you recommend this program to your friends and peers?

A. I would recommend the Books2Biz program to anybody looking for an opportunity to enhance their business research skills. This experience will give you a leg up when trying to find work in the future.

ASK THE EXPERT

Q. According to you why do most Indian students go abroad to pursue higher studies rather than studying in India?



Niles Kulkarni
Director,
International
Institute of
Sports
Management,
Mumbai

A. Today having an overseas education is the best way to prepare oneself to work efficiently. It is also important for students to develop a skillset that will help them do well at their workplace. Universities abroad help students to identify their passion and pursue careers in the field of their liking. Also, the level of difficulty and the limited availability of higher education programs in fields like Sport could be some of the reasons Indian students plan on pursuing their studies abroad.

From the Director's desk

It gives me great pleasure to give you the first edition of our Podar Eduspace newsletter – Podar Eduspace is the education and training arm of the 100 year old Podar Group. Having been in the education sector and running several institutes across the Indian subcontinent, we now also offer a range of programs and services ranging from Research and Internships programs, Study abroad opportunities to Advisory services for institutions looking to enter the Indian Higher Education market. In our first issue of our Newsletter, we will provide you with more information on this market - recent news and interesting statistics, along with information on our activities. You may wonder, why I am speaking about the Indian market here? The answer is quite straight forward - the Indian Higher Education market is one which is rapidly changing and evolving, and this presents many interesting opportunities.

According to recent data, India's changing demographic trend means it will soon overtake China as the world's largest population, and with an average GDP annual growth of 8% over the last decade, it

is also estimated that the demand for higher education will swell to over 500 million people in the next ten years. This means that the Indian higher education which is currently the third largest in the world is expected to surpass the US in the next 5 years and China in the next 15 years to be the largest system of higher education in the world. In addition to this, the Indian Government, in the Union budget (2014-2015), allocated Rs 27,656 Crore for higher education – this new figure is an increase of almost 13% on the amount allocated in the previous budget of 2013-2014.

In recent times, India has seen a dramatic shift towards private provision across the entire education spectrum, including higher education and these private bodies are playing a significant role in the development of education in India, and their influence and presence is foreseen to increase substantially. An increasing number of foreign institutions are also looking to set up in India to cater to this increasing demand, and there is pressure on the new Government to look into liberalizing the regulations relating to this sector.

The facts and figures speak for themselves, and there's nothing I can add except to say that it's time to put India on your Agenda and capitalize on these recent developments. On that note, I will now sign off and we hope that you enjoy reading this issue as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you. We would love to hear back from you with your views and suggestions.

-Vedica Podar



Vedica Podar is a Director at Podar Eduspace as well as the Founder of Young Scholars Inc. It was Vedica's experience of training in the family business from a very early age and doing research for many well known organizations which made her want to capitalize on the opportunity and develop her ideas. This process initially led to creation of Young Scholars Inc, and more recently, Podar Eduspace. Being a person who is highly motivated and invigorated by new challenges and learning opportunities, Vedica is currently simultaneously pursuing her studies in Business Administration (International Business) & Psychology in London. Besides academics and working, she enjoys Photography and Travelling to discover new places and cultures.

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