Resurgence in Indian Education
For millennia, India has been the knowledge destination of the world. And its scholastic traditions pre-date all others in global history. As far back as 700 BC, the world’s first university was established in Takshila, where thousands of international students studied dozens of different subjects. Likewise, the equally renowned university of Nalanda was set up in the 4th century BC, which also attracted pupils from all over the world. Today, India seeks to recreate its glorious past by evolving a new academic order. By revitalizing the systems of learning and expanding the reach of education. And by making higher education more relevant and fruitful.

**Extract from World Bank Report**

“With over 300 million persons still poor, India is pursuing accelerated economic growth with equity. Liberalization with Indian Economists its gradual integration to the World Economy and rapid transformation into a knowledge based Society are increasing the demand for a well-trained work force - a work force that is not only literate and has mastered specific skills, but is also able to acquire new skills and knowledge independently.

The pace of change and the intensity of Competition are both likely to increase as the economy continues to reform and especially as global standards come increasingly to dominate a more outwardly oriented economy.”

“With the increased globalization of Indian Economy and the recent WTO General Agreement on Trading (GAT) in services, it has become imperative that the Indian Industry improves its productivity and offers goods and services in the International Market at International level of quality at a competitive cost. While achieving this objective, it would also require parallel effort on many front including reforms in Industrial Policy, Labour Laws, Trade Policy and tariffs. However, the most vital component in transforming the Indian Economy would be up-gradation of the quality of professional human resource:- that is the innovative and professional human resource, the innovative and creative abilities of the working professionals, the skills and attitudes of the work force and the vision, dedication, maturity of the managements.”
**Current Scenario**

India is fast emerging as a potential superpower, taking giant strides towards development.

This has put the education sector in sharp focus, since only acquiring knowledge and learning diverse relevant skills can fuel the creation of trained manpower - that, in turn, will power our industry and commerce, our growth and prosperity.

Today, an increasing number of Indian students are enrolling at foreign universities as well as institutions of higher and technical learning. Many of these subsequently also seek employment opportunities abroad. These two trends are together contributing to a substantial drain of India’s financial and intellectual resources.

It is a matter of national concern that while there is an acknowledged shortage of trained manpower for industry, the education sector is not turning out sufficient numbers of people with the required skill-sets essential for immediate employment.

The need of the hour is to re-orient Indian education, make it more professional and vocational driven, and make participating in it attractive, rewarding and satisfying for all concerned.

**The coming of EPSI**

Formed by a group of senior educationists, educational entrepreneurs, intellectuals, industry leaders and policy makers, EPSI has assumed a catalytic role in promoting the growth and quality of education in India. The Society coordinates between Government and institutional operators, between academia and industry, between the student community and beneficiary employers, and between national and international bodies committed to the advancement and improvement of education.

**How EPSI networks**

EPSI has a three-tier Management system consisting of: The Managing Committee which comprises of Educationists, Economists, Industrialists, Intellectuals and Researchers, elected through a democratic process; a Think Tank Advisory Committee comprising of eminent Educationists, Industry Representatives and Users with rich experience to take the country forward and a Secretariat to execute the desired objective.

**Vision**

EPSI strives to facilitate complete literacy, globally competitive and qualitative education, and generate skills and professionals for employment so as to foster socio-economic development.

**Mission & Objectives**

- Quality Education with Industry interface.
- Setting standards of quality for education.
- Exploring globalization opportunities emerging abroad and within the country.
- Effective co-ordination with regulator for employment oriented academic programmes.
- Accreditation efforts.

Over last six decades, India has built a massive system of education to create a vast body of human resources equipped with sound scientific and technological capabilities. We have achieved access and equity, but quality is under serious threat.

The universalization of education and employment have always remained a major concern of all Government.
Indian Education: The Quality Paradigm

Indian education institutions though have established strong foundation based on knowledge but are way apart from the internationally accepted accreditation systems. Most of them do not conform to accepted standards for delivery and thus there is a wide gap for our students to fulfill their aspiration and even meet the market requirements. More, so, in the last two decades with ever increasing participation of the private sector ( said to have increased around 75%) the quality of output has further diminished.

EPSI in its endeavour to address the issue of Quality on a national level and to bring cohesive strategy for raising standards of education at all levels has decided to work on the Theme “Indian Education - the Quality Paradigm”.

Quality in Education: The need of the hour

EPSI feels there is an urgent need of addressing the education sector and in particular the private education providers along with the academic and administrative incharges to meet the urgent requirement of quality and establishment of systems for accreditation benefits as they are important pre-requisite for positioning India in the globalised economy. The importance and the need for such delivery is the need of the hour, as at no earlier occasion these important issues have been addressed.

EPSI has therefore decided to have National Conference(s) / Interactive Sessions on Quality and focus on the following five issues.

+ Quality expectations and best practices from the education sector.
+ Relevance employability-customized education programmes.
+ Faculty development and their motivation.
+ Good education governance and assessment parameters for fair, transparent and merit based education.
+ International positioning of Indian institutions vis-a-vis international education providers.
SOME PROMINENT MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

+ A J Institute of Medical Sciences
+ Accurate Education & Research Society
+ Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sci.
+ Ajay Kumar Garg Institute of Management
+ Alliance University
+ Amrita Institute of Medical Science and Research Centre
+ Anand International College of Engineering
+ APG Shimla University
+ Aryans Group of Colleges
+ Balaji Institute of Management & H R
+ Bheemanna Khandre Institute of Technology
+ Binarius Institute of Management and Information Technology
+ BMS Institute of Technology & Management
+ Calcutta Business School
+ Centurion University of Technology & Management
+ Chandigarh Group of Colleges
+ College of Engineering Roorkee
+ Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences University
+ Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science & Technology
+ Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya
+ Dharmshin Desai Institute of Technology
+ DIT University
+ Don Bosco Institute of Technology
+ Dr. B R Ambedkar Medical College
+ Entrepreneurship Development Inst. of India
+ Erode Builder Educational Trust’s Group of Institutions
+ Erode Sengunthar Engineering College
+ Father Muller Medical College
+ Fore School of Management
+ Fortune Institute of International Business
+ G L A University
+ Gian Jyoti Group of Institutions
+ Gnanamani Educational Institutions
+ Goa Institute of Management
+ Great Lakes Institute of Management
+ Gulzar Group of Institutes
+ Gupta College of Technological Sciences
+ Guru Nanak Institute of Management
+ HMS Institute of Technology
+ I A S E Deemed University
+ IEC College of Engineering & Technology
+ IMS Unison University
+ Indira Group of Institutes
+ Indo Global Education Foundation
+ Indore Indira Business School
+ Indus University
+ Institute for Financial Mgmt. and Research
+ Institute for Integrated Learning in Management
+ Institute of Engineering & Management Trust
+ Institute of Engineering & Technology
+ Institute of Management Studies
+ Institute of Management Technology
+ Institute of Science & Management
+ Institute of Technology and Science
+ Integrated Academy of Management and Technology
+ ITM University
+ Jagan Institute of Management Studies
+ Jaggannath International Management School
+ Jaipur National University
+ Jaipuria Institute of Management
+ Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University
+ Jay Shriram Group of Institutions
+ JECRC University
+ JIJ University
+ Jodhpur National University
+ K R Mangalam Institutions of Higher Education
+ Kailash Institute of Pharmacy & Management
+ Karthikeyan Institute of Management Sciences
+ Kaziranga University
+ Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences
+ Kingston Engineering College
+ Kirloskar Institute of Advanced Management Studies
+ KLE University
+ Krishna Institute of Medical Science University
+ KVG Medical College & Hospital
+ Mahadevappa Rampure Medical College
+ Mahatma Gandhi University of Medical Sci. & Tech.
+ Management Development Institute
+ Management Education and Research Institute
+ Master School of Management
+ MCKV Institute Of Engineering
+ Mewar University
+ Mitcon Institute of Management
+ Mudra Institute of Communications
+ MVJ Medical College & Research Hospital
+ Nehru Gram Bharati University
+ Nehru Group of Institutions
+ New Delhi Institute of Management
+ Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology
+ NKP Salve Institute of Medical Sci. & Research Centre
+ Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education
+ Pailan College of Management & Technology
+ Pinnamaneni Siddhartha Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Foundation
+ Presidency University
+ Quantum School of Business
+ R D Gardi Medical College
+ R V College of Engineering
+ Rajalakshmi Engineering College
+ Rudrapur Institute of Technology
+ Rukmini Devi Institute of Advanced Studies
+ S J C Institute of Technology
+ S P Jain Institute of Management & Research
+ Sagar Group of Institutions
+ Saintgits Group of Institutions
+ Sampoorna Institute of Technology & Research
+ SAMIS Group of Institutions
+ Sanghvi Institute of Management & Science
+ Sant Baba Bhag Singh Institute of Engg. & Tech.
+ Saptagiri Institute of Medical Sci. & Res. Center
+ Saveetha University
+ School of Management Sciences
+ Sengunthar Engineering College
+ Shanti Business School
+ Shobhit University
+ Shree Venkateshwar Hi-Tech Engineering College
+ Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Educational Society
+ Shridhar University
+ Siddhartha Institute of Technology
+ Sree Gokulam Medical College & Res. Foundation
+ Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth University
+ Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya
+ Sri Krishna Institutions
+ Sri Nandha Educational Trust
+ Sri Siddhartha University
+ Srinandhanam College of Engg. & Technology
+ SRMS College of Engg. & Tech.
+ St Francis Institute of Management & Research
+ Sunrise University
+ Swami Vivekanand Subhath University
+ Synergy Institute of Engineering and Technology
+ T John Institute of Technology
+ The Oxford Dental College
+ Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth
+ United College of Engineering & Research
+ V R Siddhartha Engineering College
+ Varunav Vadivelan Institute of Technology
+ Vidya Jyoti Educational Society
+ Vignan University
+ Vignana Jyothi Institute of Management
+ Vishwa Vishwani Institute of Systems & Mgmt.
+ World College of Technology & Management
EPSI CORE ACTIVITIES

POLICY ADVOCACY

To represent the education sector and co-ordinate necessary reforms for raising quality of education at all levels. Each year EPSI identifies area of work and then dedicates itself for the delivery on the issue. EPSI under its Research based programmes organised several Conferences/Seminars/Workshops across the country under the theme “Revisit Indian Education - Vision 2020”, “Reinvent Industry-Academia Synergy”. Now it has been dedicated to “Indian Education - The Quality Paradigm” to look for solutions for education delivery.

PROJECT ACT

- EPSI facilitates INSTITUTIONS nationally in securing Accreditation from NBA and assists in acquiring International Accreditation to benchmark them vis-a-vis International education providers.
- EPSI works with UNIVERSITIES, to attain higher grades for NAAC and other Accreditation and facilitates International accreditation from globally acclaimed accreditation agencies like ABET, AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA etc.

EPSI is aspiring for establishing itself as a Certification Agency for knowledge and skill certification. It enables industry customised academic programmes, for employment through short term and long term programmes, besides creating centers of excellence for specialized industry sectors.

India’s first online Combined Entrance Examination for higher education
Positioned itself as an exclusive Examination Agency for disciplines across higher education through Online combined National Entrance Test (ENAT) for fair, transparent and merit based entrance test. It is the only agency in the country to offer entrance in all disciplines i.e. Engineering, Medical, Management etc. EPSI is now pursuing Entrance test for international/PIO/NRI students for facilitating admissions to Indian Institutions across the world like GMAT, GRE etc.

EPSI is aspiring for establishing itself as a Certification Agency for knowledge and skill certification. It enables industry customised academic programmes, for employment through short term and long term programmes, besides creating centers of excellence for specialized industry sectors.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

EPSI is developing Faculty Development Programme(s) with the support of Regulators, as an acute shortage of Faculty has been felt both by private and public sector Institutions. EPSI is concentrating on creating new faculty with industry orientation. The Programmes initially are planned for professional areas like Management, Engineering, Medical, Dental etc and commencing from July’09.

EPSI’s think tank consists of eminent Experts well endowed with enriched administrative technical experience to expansively shape up projects from schools to institutions in higher education i.e. technical, management, medical, dental disciplines, etc with perceptual, executional, operational supervision. Their support in modern and futuristic vision for new and existing institutions is uniformly harmonized for adapting industrial requirement. Hence, EPSI has been accepting innovative consultancy projects.

Education delivery is an outcome of research, to propagate finding on a bigger platform and thus deliverable for the use of society. EPSI is working to collate the requirement through research and make the same available through publications for information and usage.

Information on Indian education system and its stake holders is not available at any one place. EPSI is positioning an education portal enabling show case of all educational Institutions and information on Indian education system. The portal is under development and shall be hosted shortly.

The academic and administrative systems in the Indian institutions are yet to adopt uniform and efficient e-based solutions. The manual systems are time consuming, laborious and costly. EPSI has initiated with the support of TCS (Tata Consultancy Service) to provide configurable ERP solutions for efficient and speedy working of academic institutions.
EPSI is enabling Universities and institutions to have linkages with international Universities like Faculty/Student exchange programmes, Joint venture(s) in specialized areas, Centers of Excellence in exclusive sectors, international experience and know-how in areas for specialization, joint research & development with Industry support etc. It has already initiated several programmes in Middle East, East Africa, Europe and USA and now working on country like China, New Zealand, Australia etc.

There are limited sources from where students can have detailed information about the institutions and education programmes being offered. EPSI is creating this support though Exhibitions, Websites etc. so that information is readily available.

EPSI is positioning India International Education Fair New Delhi, to facilitate and acquaint individual institutions with international environment and development happening over time.

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Former Chairman, UGC
Raja Ramana Fellow, Sr. Advisor & Trustee
Science & Technology Park, University of Pune

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Prof. S K Khanna
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