



## “Higher Education & Sustainable Development: Emerging challenges & Mahamana’s Vision”

### ∞ PANEL DISCUSSION ∞

*Organized by*

**Faculty of Management Studies  
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY**

on 30th October, 2010



### ∞ A REPORT ∞

## “Higher Education & Sustainable Development: Emerging challenges & Mahamana’s Vision”

In pursuance with the desire of Alumni cell, Banaras Hindu University, a panel discussion on “**Higher education & sustainable development: Emerging challenges & Mahamana’s vision**” was organised in the faculty on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010, Sat at 12 Noon. The discussion was attended by following distinguished speakers.

**Prof Shiv Raj Singh**, Director, Institute of Agricultural Studies

**Prof T M Mahapatra**, Director, Institute of Medical Sciences

**Prof A K Jain**, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,

**Prof R S Dubey**, Coordinator, Alumni Cell, Banaras Hindu University

**Sri V Vishwanathan**, General Manager, Export Credit Guarantee Corp., Mumbai

**Prof Harikesh Singh**, Faculty of Education

**Prof A K Sarang**, Institute of Technology

**Dr B K Singh**, Faculty of Commerce

**Prof H C Chaudhury**, Faculty of Management Studies

**Prof D Barman**, Faculty of Management Studies

**Prof R K Pandey**, Faculty of Management Studies

**Prof Usha Kiran Rai**, Faculty of Management Studies

and other faculty members of Faculty of Management Studies.

The discussion was presided over by Prof S K Singh, Dean Faculty of Management Studies and was coordinated by Dr Alok Kumar Rai.



Though the topic of the discussion was Higher Education but the discussion held in the faculty conducted the discussion in special reference to management and professional education. A group of experts drawn from various professional education area ranging from medical, agriculture, Technology commerce, economics were invited to have a comprehensive opinion about the theme so that greater value could be imparted to the discussion and sufficient input may be provided to the seminar being conducted by the alumni cell.

**Prof.S.K Singh, Dean FMS BHU** first offered tribute to Mahamana and welcomed



the guests. Laying his opinion on the issue, Prof Singh talked of various components of sustainable development, i.e. economy, society & environment and emphasized on striking a judicious balance among all the three. He said that universities need to be more open to the society. Raising the question on the existing system he tried to ask if the increase in no. of colleges been able to ensure

the sustainable development?



He recalled Mahamana’s vision of using indigenous technology that is presently called as green technology. Stressing upon the ethics and values, he pointed out that this is an important imperative for sustainable development of higher education. Students need to be exposed and imparted with ethics and that has been a fundamental principle that Mahamana laid emphasis on. He suggested that stress should be given on striking a judicious balance between economic and social development. He also suggested that Universities need to be more open to the society and corrective and this can be achieved through social innovation.



**Prof R S Dubey, coordinator, Alumni Cell, BHU.** While setting the theme for the discussion said that this Theme for alumni meet could be the same to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of mahamana which is on 25<sup>th</sup> December and the day will be celebrated as ‘Sustainability Day’. Prof Dubey termed education as changing process depending upon the time & requirement of the society. He quoted studies that say India will have to become a knowledge superpower in order to be the mightiest nation.



Elaborating upon the components of higher education:-

- 1) Access: - We have more than 500 universities, 20000 colleges, but only 12% of all have access to higher education.
- 2) Equity:- in economic prosperity.
- 3) Quality :- severe quality crisis in higher education.

He informed the panel that United Nations has declared the years 2005-2011 as ‘education for sustainable development’.

He also said that a youth should inculcate values and should be rooted in the culture. He quoted Mahamana by saying that progress can be achieved when youths are deeply rooted towards their culture. He also said that growth shouldn’t be unidirectional. There is a need to reengineer the present foundation of education.

**Prof. S.R.Singh Director, IAS** added another dimension by saying that the term education is in itself sustainable & many things are lopsided. Ethics & values emerge from parents .Accessibility of education should be linked with capability and quality The advocated interaction to be the best medium for learning.



He emphasized that ethics and value can not be imposed. It emerges from the parents and get developed over time. There is lack of interacting wisdom in the higher education which is hampering the quality of education. He also added that University provides great diversity, wider reach and strong alumni links. Accessibility to higher education should be linked with capability and quality. He also stressed upon that Self regulation is the best principle of education.

Elaborating upon the current Requirements in present scenario Prof Singh suggested following mechanism:-

- 1) Up gradation of colleges and universities.
- 2) HR development i.e. what kind of faculty do we need to develop? Work performance should be the criteria for recognition.
- 3) Academic and administrative reforms as Funds are available but processing time is very slow.
- 4) Building Industry- institute partnership and revising the course curriculum at a regular interval to keep pace with the changes.



**Prof T M Mahapatra, Director, IMS, BHU**, talked about ethics in the field of Medical



sciences. He also quoted various examples of how ethics is followed rather imposed on citizens in various countries. After 63 years of independence, we are still not able to eradicate some common diseases due to the low literacy level in India.

Prof. Mohapatra cited example of Kerala which has highest literacy rate this has resulted in lowest maternal death rate in Kerala among all the states. He said ethics at times has to be imposed on people & then only next generation will inhabit it as culture.



**Sri V Vishwanathan, General Manager Export Credit Gurantee Corporation,**



Mumbai:- Sri Vishwanathan brought forth the perspective of Industry for which the output of management Education is build. General Manager of Export Credit Gurantee Corporation (ECGC) talked about inculcating right attitude towards work and creativity. He emphasised on industry institute partnership. He said that there is a need to understand



the melody of the students in india. Young generation is turning out to be more of a

... ethics needs to be learned rather taught ...

disappointment. We should not teach ethics rather should be made to learn it. He also said that Education has to have a meaningful purpose.



**Prof A K Jain, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences** presented facts and figures of the



current state of affairs of higher education in the country and management education in particular. Comparing the state of higher education in India than that of China, he said that Gross enrollment ratio in 2000 in india 10% china 8%. In 2008 India remained more or less at that level but china 23%, an exponential increase.

He said that In 11<sup>th</sup> plan, investment is doubled in higher education which is a good sign. He also said that Free trade is good for middle class. Inequalities have increased. Financing now a days is a key problem. He added that Recruiting top quality teachers is the key requirement because there is a shortage of them. He also stressed on the need of increasing public private partnership.



He emphasised that Increase of women education can lead to sustainable development.

Commercialization of education has resulted in establishing institutes for profits. Teachers are considered to be the bearer of moral values. People should behave properly and in an acceptable manner and if they are not, they should be made to behave.

**Prof C Lal, Former Dean FMS BHU, Director, Institute of Management Studies,**



**SHEPA, Varanasi** laid emphasis on need of understanding Meaning of sustainable development.

It aims at making the development all inclusive, improving the lives of people and makes the world more livable. He said that during the course of development, one must be careful about the generation of tomorrow. He also said that there is no point in making reckless use of resources for increasing GDP. If you have a selfless concern for others, you are a human being. In higher education concern for environment was never given weight.

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**Dr B.K.Singh, Faculty of commerce:**



He talked of four pillars of education as propounded by Ms Annie Besent viz.

1. Physical element of education (body)
2. Emotional element( impulse training)
3. Intellectual quotient
4. Spiritual .Quotient

He said that Mahamana’s vision encompassed all the above said four components and that

would only bring in sustainable development in the system. He supported commercialization of education by saying, “it is not the commercialization but the ulterior motives of corporates which is harming the society.”

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Discussion was concluded by Prof. Harikesh Singh, Former Dean Faculty of



Education, BHU, who said that Mahamana’s name in itself tells the kind of education that we need to impart. He analysed the name of mahamana as mad+na means without ego and moh+na means free from attachment.

He also said “science of development must be over coated with conscience of development”. He stressed upon institutionalisation of education out of institutions. He said that by stressing upon the need of a judicious balance between economic & social development only



He said that the development should not be made at the cost of future generation. Wisdom has to be assimilated.

There is a need to recontextualize the education for people. He said that the youngest Bhutanese king has proposed gross national happiness index for the first time.

Elaborating on the motive of education he said is it fulfilling the self or filling the shelf? He talked of 5 essential characteristics of education :-

- Interconnection
- Interdependence
- Integration
- Intra-subordination
- Intra-cooperation

He also said that the very concept of LPG has destabilized the economies.



ASK i.e. Attitude, Skill and Knowledge and DNA i.e. Discovering Natural Ability Approach. He said that If these 6 are taken into consideration Malviya ji’s model can be achieved.



Coordinating the discussion, **Dr Alok Kumar Rai**, Associate Professor, FMS BHU thanked all the guests for having spared time and providing meaning to the discussion.

The discussion was followed by a workshop by the students on the same theme. This workshop was attended by Prof Shri Singh, Chairman Students’ Council and Prof Asha Ram Tripathi, Dean of Students BHU. Which was also followed by presentations by the students. Faculty offered three best presentations with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes.





The main points covered under paper presentation was present state of Management Education, employability of management graduates, their sustainability, recent changes in the management education, social responsibility, and vision vs. short term goals of the management graduates.



**Prof. Asha Ram Tripathi**

Shri Nidhi Mishra bagged the 1<sup>st</sup> prize, while 2<sup>nd</sup> prize went to Rajiv, Varun & Shraddha. Tanuj and Ritu stood 3<sup>rd</sup>.

<p>Shri Nidhi Mishra I Prize</p>	<p>Mr. Rajiv &amp; Mr. Varun II Prize</p>	<p>Mr. Shraddha, Mr. Tanuj Mr. Ritu III Prize</p>