

World Education Congress Highlights

Prof Dr Chandra Mauli Dwivedi, Director, N L Dalmia Institute of Management Studies and Research; and Chairman of the recently concluded World Education Congress (WEC), shares his perspective on the evolving Indian education scenario

Several reports state that about 45% of Indian graduates are unemployable. This is primarily due to a lack of effective communication skills (oral and written), poor cultural etiquette and lack of perspective when it comes to the implications of global citizenship. While we can look at creating finishing schools to shape up our students to meet contemporary employability demands, students must also be proactive when it comes to enhancing their abilities in soft skills, as required.

A lot of our graduates are unemployable simply because our existing curriculum does not

prepare them for the jobs available in the real world. Some of the students are smart enough to study for industry-relevant certifications whilst they are still in college, but it's time that we make functional skill development and vocational training part of the core curriculum. While the private sector is taking the onus of training people specifically to meet its requirements, we also need to look at the upcoming requirements and create an



industry-relevant curriculum, whether with regard to innovations, business analytics, digital marketing or emotional intelligence.

An excellent education must go beyond ISO certification and National Board of Education accreditation. Creating an academic-industry advisory board to align the course curriculum with industry requirements and involving the industry in designing the curriculum, could make a big difference to both the quality of education and the employability of graduates. In addition, we

need to facilitate soft-skill education that will develop students' emotional intelligence, creative skills and personality, whilst teaching them how to be innovative, take responsibility for the future and become business leaders.

'If not now, when?' was the theme of the WEC, which was attended by global thought leaders and educationalists from over 75 countries. The 'role of technology in shaping the future of higher education', 'education for sustainable development', 'creativity and innovation toward an excellent global workforce', were some of the other topics discussed.