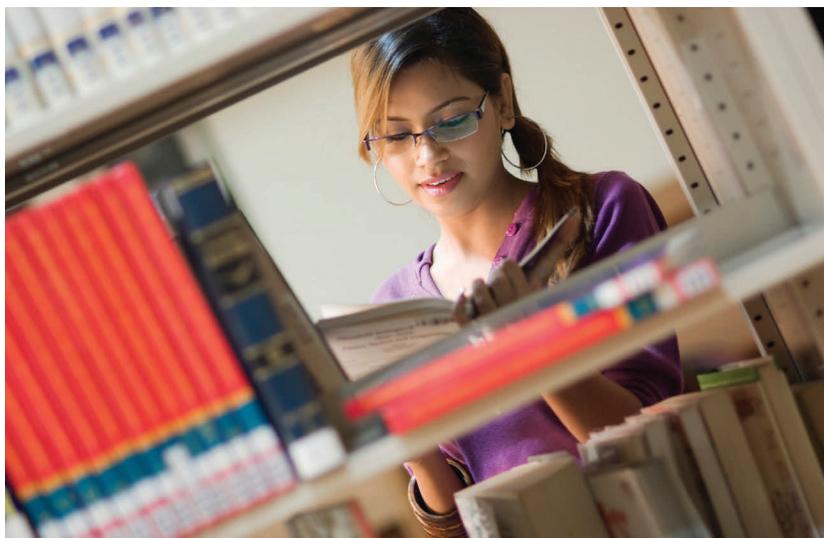


SPOTLIGHT **TEACHING**

Professor and Faculty Dean, Meghnad Desai, Academy of Economics (MDAE).

Yogesh Mehra, MD/ CEO, Tribe Student Accommodation has another take. "In India there is a huge dearth of decent and secured exclusive student accommodation which certainly leads to many parents not feeling comfortable in sending their children to other cities to study even though there might be a better opportunity for the student in another city university. Today the basic standard of living has risen hence it is very difficult for students or parents to move cities unless they do not get bare minimum facilities and amenities as the stay is not short - it can be minimum of a year going up to 7-9 years for medical students."

The higher education system in India is churning out millions of graduates and post graduates with very little knowledge, skill or attitude required by the industry. "The curriculum designed by the universities is either outdated or a poor copy of syllabus being taught in universities abroad. The students are in the digital age while the course designers live in the 'chalk and talk' era. There is little interaction between the faculties and the industry," says Dr. Sandeep Bhardwaj, Dean Academics, VESIM Business School. Many industrial experts complain about the quality of students that are seeking a job in the industry. What they majorly lack is job skills. "Sadly, In India, more than 60 per cent of the working population is engaged in low-skilled jobs in the unorganized sector. Hence, bridging this gap is a major challenge that needs to be addressed at the earliest. In fact, nowadays industry requirements are not given enough space in the educational training of



students. A lot of attention is given to theory and books and practical knowledge is completely ignored," adds Amit Agrawal, Founder & Chairman, Times & Trends Academy.

To overcome these challenges the system should initiate a process that enables enhancing the quality of education being provided. "The professors should change their way of giving lectures. The teaching style should include the methods that might help the students to understand the world along with the curriculum. New age learning tools will definitely bring a paradigm shift in the country's education system. Most importantly bringing equality in education will act as a powerful tool in eliminating the income disparities amongst various classes of the society," says Dr. Nikhil Chandwani, Founder, Writers Rescue Centre, Mentor and Speaker.

Nikhil Barshikar, Founder & Managing Director, Imarticus, adds, "Higher education should build employability skills and focus on practical learning. Industry and academia connect is necessary to ensure that curriculum and skills align with industry requirements." The remedies for the above challenges

are within the challenge itself but that might take some time to resolve.

"Thanks to the Indian startup ecosystem, hundreds of private institutes have been established to help you learn necessary practical skills and become a pro at the job at hand. Entrepreneurs and startups and businesses are looking for dynamic individuals who are multi-skilled instead of a person who's good at one specific task only. For example, digitization is on the rise and so it has become important to become tech-savvy and learn digital skills," avers Karan Shah, CEO & Founder of Indian Institute of Digital Education. The focus needs to be on how we can make higher educational institutions in India offer to be more valuable, more industry relevant and makes the students employable. "Make research here more relevant and more practical. We have among the world's largest young population so there will be many who will still go overseas but that is for a reason. It should not happen for lack of better or equal alternatives in India. That should be our goal and objective," says Dr. Sandeep Pachpande, Chairman at ASM Group of Institutes.