

SOM-LALIT INSTIUTE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

10TH CONVOCATION, AHMEDABAD

CONVOCATION ADDRESS BY :

HON'BLE MINISTER FOR STATE FOR H.R.D

SMT. PURANDARESWARI

DATE : 27TH APRIL, 2007.

Prof. K.S. Shastri, Chairperson of Som-Lalit Education & Research Foundation, Mr. P.K. Shastri, Managing Trustee of the Foundation, members of the Governing Body and Advisory committee of the Foundation, Faculty Members and other Stake holders connected with the Institute, students of the Institute, ladies and gentlemen,

At the very outset, I congratulate the students who have successfully completed two years full-time programme and three years Part time Programme of POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT. You are now entering into the world which is full of promise and opportunities. With the accelerated economic growth of 9%, lots of opportunities are being created at the employment level in Business, Industry and

Service sectors. Sectoral composition of the Service Sector has crossed 50 per cent of G.D.P. and is likely to reach 60 per cent within a decade. This will create large number of employment opportunities in the areas of Finance, Insurance, Tourism, Health & Hospital Management, Commercial Agriculture, and other Service sectors. I.T. and I.T. enabled services, Transport and Communications, will also throw large openings for the employment. Outsourcing work through B.P.O. and K.P.O is also fast developing and helping us in creation of jobs for the knowledge workers. However, we have also to take note of the fact that Public Sector Organizations will continue to shed jobs for quite some time. Private Sector Organizations, though contributing significantly to the growth of the economy, its contribution to the employment generation is quite modest. The total employment in this Sector at present represents only 2.5 per cent of all jobs. The largest number of new jobs will be created by Small and Medium Enterprises (SME Sector). International experience of U.S.A. Japan and Korea also confirms that SME Sector not only contributes in a big way in offering job opportunities, but they are also insulated from the external shocks, more resistant to the stresses and more responsive to the demands of the changing world. It is estimated

that 150 to 200 million jobs will be created in this Sector during the next decade. I, therefore, urge to the passing students that you also develop Entrepreneurial skills to help create more jobs. To convert them into realities, you will have to meet the challenge also. You will have to work as diligently as you have done so far to shape your career. I have full faith in your capabilities. You will be able to do it.

In my today's theme, I shall dwell upon the present scenario of education. All the growth and prosperity which we wish to achieve by the year 2020 is dependent on employment generation for the age group of job seekers which is estimated to be 450 million people. Very stupendous task ahead. This human force of the country will have to be enabled by education system through knowledge, training and skills formation.

We are aware about these challenges and getting prepared for the same. Infrastructural arrangements for greater coverage and better quality education are being made. If I give you the overview of the size of Indian Education System, I would say that –

- We are targeting about 40 crores of individuals who are in the age group of 6 to 24 years.

- To cater to their educational needs, about 11,00,000 of schools, 18,000 colleges 350 Universities, deemed Universities and Institutions of National Importance, are busy to meet with the educational needs at various levels.
- Besides, following two main Organizations have been established for setting norms and standards and to monitor the developments in the field of Higher and Technical education.
 - 1) For University and General colleges, University Grant Commission (U.G.C.) is taking care of Universities and General colleges.
 - 2) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is taking care of Technical and Management Education.
- For taking care of the quality level of the Institutions, National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) under the umbrella of UGC is actively working. Likewise, National Board of Accreditation (NAB) is actively engaged in improving upon the quality level of Technical and Management Education.

- Further, the following Institutions of Excellence were also established or substantially funded. They include :

7 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)

6 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

19 Central Universities

Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad

3 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IITs)

20 National Institutes of Technology (NITs)

Thus, elaborate infrastructural arrangements are made to enable the students to shape their career. However, we are also facing challenges of access to be made available to all the sections of our society. We also want 100 per cent participation and enrollment of the students at various levels. For maintaining the quality level, we are also striving to provide adequate physical facilities and infrastructure, making available adequate Teachers of requisite quality, effectiveness of Teaching-learning processes etc. We are also concerned about the relevance of our Education which should provide more skill-orientation, both in terms of life-skills and livelihood skills. We are also trying to decentralize the Management of Education to provide flexibility

and to manage optimal utilization of available resources. I am confident that with the participation of all the Stake-holders of the Education Systems, we shall be able to achieve our ends.

Concerted efforts are also being made to abolish illiteracy, achieve 100% enrollment at primary and secondary levels education, broaden access to higher education and vocational training through both traditional and non-traditional delivery systems.

Successful Education Policy forms the bedrock of all fields of national development – political, economic, technical, scientific, social and environmental. Education is the foundation for a vibrant democracy, growth of productivity and income and employment opportunities. Literacy must be considered the minimum right and requirement of every Indian citizen. Presently, the country has about 300 million illiterate adults. A 100 per cent literate India is of a paramount importance for realizing the greater vision presented in the document of vision 2020.

Literacy is an indispensable minimum condition for development, but it is far from sufficient. In this increasingly

complex and technologically sophisticated world, 10 years of school education must also be considered an essential pre-requisite for citizens to adapt and succeed economically, avail of social opportunities and develop their individual potentials. The current enrolment rate for primary education is around 77% and for secondary education about 60%. Achieving 100 % enrolment of all children in the 6 to 14 age group is an ambitious but achievable goal for 2020 that should be pursued as a top priority.

Increasing enrollment to cover the entire school-age population needs to be combined with efforts to increase the quality and relevance of school curriculum to equip students with not only academic knowledge, but also values and life-knowledge..

Concentrated efforts are needed to tap the potentials of alternative methods of knowledge delivery for both school going and non-school going children and adults, including television, computerized self-learning and internet-courses. Given the huge number of young students that will quest for all levels of higher education and a severe shortage of qualified instructors, and given India's outstanding expertise in the IT Industry, the

country should embark on a massive programme to convert progressively the higher educational curriculum into a multi-media, web-based format and to establish accredited standards for recognition of courses taught under distance education programme.

Our vision of India in 2020 is predicated on the belief that human resources are the most important determinant of overall development. A more than doubling of investment in education from the current level of 3.2 to 4.4 per cent of GNP is the soundest Policy for quadrupling the country's GNP per capital.

Referring to the Professional Management Education in our country, 85% of the Management Institutes are working in the Private Sector. I am glad to note that Som-Lalit Institute of Management Studies is actively engaged for the last 11 years to prepare Management Graduates who will act as a change-agent in professionalizing the practices in the fields where they work. I highly appreciate your role as one of the pioneers in supporting the mammoth task of higher education in the arena of Management. I wish and expect that Som-Lalit should play a greater role in Sectoral area of Management and also proliferate into the area of Primary & Secondary levels of education. On

our side, I extend full support to your endeavors of spreading education and supporting the Government programmes in this direction with your vision and efforts. Before I conclude, I once again congratulate the Graduating students and wish them all prosperity in their lives.