

University of Mumbai

Speech of Director, Garware Institute

on the Silver Jubilee Celebrations on 27th October 2009.

The Indian industry is growing in size, evolving in its sector composition and internationalising. In order to catch up with this diversified growth and the pace, the manpower needs change. We get from industry recruiters job-profiles and needs, which are changing year-over-year. The components of the candidate profile used to specify details of education, knowledge and skills; of recent, more emphasis is on specialisations in industry segments, and industry exposure in lieu of industry experience. Further, the profiles additionally specify qualities like : candidate should be passionate, innovative, achiever, learned to perform in groups of diverse culture and nationalities.

The fast changing environment demands that employed professionals learn new skills, improve their efficiency, learn to compete and think out of the box. All this requires education that is dynamic, intensive, comprehensive, teamed and closely linked to industry environment. Garware institute aims at these needs by design and implementation of courses through course committees with emphasis on development of student through 'experiential learning'.

The institute now conducts 30 industry specific courses of varied durations at UG and PG levels. Courses are designed by course committees with about 20 members from industry & academics. Each course has a Course Coordinator – who is an expert in the sector. All lectures are taken by visiting faculty from industry; because they know 'what' is required and 'how' it can be acquired, and serve as role model. There is extensive emphasis on outside the class learning, library work, field study, assignments, projects, internship etc.

The institute celebrated 20th anniversary 5 years ago. I am summarising our activities in 5 years thereafter.

- We were given academic autonomy by the university in 2006.
- We added 15 courses with total of 30 now. Visiting faculty increased from 100 to 300
- Increased students strength from 800 to 1500
- Started GOI scholarship and free-ship scheme for reserved category, and minorities students. Special individual attention is given to solve their problems

- We built associations with organizations in respective sectors eg with KEM hospital for Pharma, Tata Trent for Retail, Wockhardt and municipal and trust hospitals for hospital administration, with WRIC, IRR, Perkin Elmer etc for analytical chemistry.
- We added a new building of 20000 square feet, named Silver Jubilee building . We intend to start construction of another 20000 sqft, for which funds are available
- We added two modern PC labs with capacity of 60 each. The campus has Broad-band and Wi-Fi. A first on-line workshop was conducted by MUHS connecting to Upsala Stockholm, as a part of MOU of the two universities.
- Computer training is provided for all courses with emphasis on special applications eg CAD for interior design, Photoshop for Journalism, HMIS for hospital administration, SPSS for statistics, Financial Trading etc
- We were the first in the university to launch Credit system and Periodic Evaluation in line with European system. This has improved students learning standards, improved attendance and reduced drop-outs
- Introduced placement training and campus interviews; personal guidance to needy students
- There is increase in students from Rural areas eg in Agri-Business and Interior Design.
- We started Study Centres of our courses in colleges like Changu Kana Thakur, Rajasthani Sewa Sangh, Gogate College
- We received a development grant of Rs 26 lacs from UGC in eleventh plan
- Our research project on vocational supplementary courses for school students with University's Dept of education has been accepted in the University Project for Excellence
- The university has instituted this year 3 gold medals with donation from Garware Charitable Trust
- We are meticulously observing schedules for statutory meetings, exams, results, through computerized control
- We computerised monthly students' attendance, subject-wise course progress for faculty, teacher's honorarium system, GOI scholarship system.

The 15 new courses have been very popular. Our students in Agri-business have received jobs in banking, retail management students in retail corporates, Hospital Administration and Pharma management students in the industry. Alumni from courses like Customs, Tourism, Journalism, Paints, Environment, Hospital management, insurance are in positions of Managers, Heads, General Managers, Vice Presidents, Directors. Some alumni are placed abroad .

This year we started One year PGDM, on recommendations of the University delegation to UK and Europe. The then President, Abdul Kalam, on occasion of 150 anniversary celebration in 2007 brought out the need for a course in Film; as Mumbai is the heart of film industry. Inspired by this we started a PG course in Film and Television in technical collaboration with Digital Academy. Mumbai is also business hub of jewellery manufacturing and exports, which prompted us to start a PG course in collaboration with Indian Institute of Jewellery.

We have been blessed by the almighty in the last 5 years in our progress; which we could achieve with encouragement and support of University Administration, Finance Dept, Engineering dept, our staff, Union, Coordinators, Visiting Faculty, industry; and most importantly Garware Charitable Trust . I have, in my over-zealousness, on occasions been over-persuasive causing inconvenience to several people, for which I feel bad; but take a look at what all of us have achieved - growth, prosperity for the institute; jobs and careers for the students, and last but not the least 'a novel institute' so cited by none less than the NAAC evaluation committee, who visited the university.

I pray God on this occasion that the institute continues to grow, enhance in quality, be of service to industry, strive for employment-oriented education and serve the society.

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