

Role of Students in Management Education

Deep Agrawal
NMIMS Mumbai

Can management be taught? Or is it something which comes naturally? This is a question which has been a subject of discussion since long. Over the past few years, a number of new B-Schools have mushroomed across the breadths of India. Although the pace and the quantity haven't really been replicated in other countries, there has been a visible impact on the number of students enrolling for post graduate management programs. Amid this changing scenario, there is an apprehension whether the quality of the education will be hit. Also, management education is incomplete if it cannot be utilized effectively by managers to deal with everyday challenges and issues. Hence, management teaching, methodology needs to be updated on a regular basis in order to keep up with the ever-changing requirements and environment.

So, who are the stakeholders for a post graduate management course?

When I conducted a random poll among some of my acquaintances, the results were not too unexpected. Students were ranked as among the most important stakeholders in management education. However, is the voice or opinion of students really being taken into account while designing the pedagogy, the course content, etc.? We are not sure about this. Individual faculty members, institutions have taken steps to accept and incorporate the feedback. Nevertheless, concentrated focus towards involving students and considering their perspective is missing. It is this gap we intend to fill in this section.

Change is something which is constant – and the earlier we recognize this fact, the better equipped we would be to convert it into an opportunity. This column will be targeted towards inviting articles primarily from students with their perspective on the present scenario of management education and their suggestions to improve it. So, are we happy aping the processes and methods being followed by the Western schools? Or is there a need to change them? The space is now open for some insightful discussion.

Students are invited to send their views and short articles on issues that concern management students to Deep Agrawal (agrawal.deep@gmail.com) for publication consideration.