

Teamwork Pays

India took a giant leap in its quest for technological excellence with the launch of its indigenously developed IRS-P3 recently. Pictures of the Earth and its physical features were available soon, to add to the euphoria of its successful launch. This is a feather in the cap for Indian space program, which has of late been in the top bracket of the global space research.

The intellectual supremacy and the technological competence of Indians, not only in space research but also in other fields of science and technology have never been in doubt. The fact that innumerable Indian scientists and engineers adorn top positions in the technical and research organizations in developed countries like the US and Britain provides ample proof.

If we observe carefully, Indians have always shown that they can be 'outstanding' individuals, in all walks of life. But they have rarely been united for a cause as in the case of Japanese--who have succeeded in raising from rags to riches with their hard work after the World War II. India with all its rich natural resources and huge manpower is still economically backward because of a lack of co-ordination and team spirit. This shortcoming is also compounded by many Indian intellectuals fleeing the country in search of greener pastures, resulting in brain drain. How are we going to inculcate this sense of team spirit in our people The process has to begin at a young age.

Students should be allowed to work in groups. The engineering education, which produces tomorrow's engineers and nation builders, fortunately has in its curriculum project work as a subject that help in developing this basic quality in students, apart from encouraging the development of a host of other qualities like trouble shooting and decision making.

The stage has come now for us not to lose any of our technical manpower either because of lack of encouragement, team spirit, facilities or political impact, as India has opened its doors for foreign companies with its globalization and liberalization policies. It will be increasingly important for the native engineers and technicians to keep pace with the latest in technology if they are to remain in contention against the global challenge.

Allowing students to work on live industrial projects not only serves the purpose of developing teamwork among students but also helps in providing an industrial exposure that is very important in the present scenario.

It is refreshing to note that people heading the education process in the country are taking note of this and are working towards a sustainable Industry-Institute interaction. Dr. N. R. Shetty - Vice Chancellor- Bangalore University in an interview to Technoworld has stressed that Industry-Institute interaction is essential for students, and project work is an effective way of achieving it. We are sure 'hat such efforts are being made in other Universities of the country as well. Technoworld is keeping firm steps forward in acheiving its objective of making the people aware of the technological developments around the world along with initiating a fruitful Industry-Institute interaction. We are confident of making a distinct change in the approach of students through this magazine, of course with your participation.

G.P. Vinayababu
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