

Conference Agenda

Day 1:19 Sept 2012

Inauguration : Setting the Stage

10:30 hrs. – 11:30 hrs:

The session will address the macro issues, achievements and challenges in achieving the UN Millennium Goals on Education at the Global and National level and provide direction to the three-day conference. The objective is to create a Thought Leadership platform facilitating discussions & strategies that effect & initiate policy matters leading to Educational advancements in the country.

11:30 hrs. – 11:45 hrs. Tea Break

Session 1 : Education Leaders Forum

11:45 hrs. – 13:30 hrs:

Theme : Technology resolving endemic issues: Outreach, Access & Quality in Education

A report by Microsoft Corp brought out that approx 270 Mn people aged 15 years and above still remains illiterate in India. Illiterate young women between 15 to 24 years are twice as high. Education deficit is not getting filled by TVET as only 6% of urban and 3% of rural youth attend TVET at the secondary level. More disturbing is the decline in the school attendance rates for girls since 1999 and less than 25% girls opting for vocational education. The ASER report for rural India revealed that 51.8% class 5 students cannot read class 2 books; 20.6% class 8 students cannot read class 2 books; 75.9% class 5 students cannot identify numbers till 99; 43.2% class 8 students cannot do simple maths. The positive side is the promising ICT applications for delivery of education. However, such initiatives must be available, affordable, regionally aligned and teacher friendly for any hope of success. Where do we want to see India in 2020 and how?

13:30 hrs. – 14:15 hrs. Lunch Break

Parallel Round Table 1 A : Discussion on Higher Education

14:30 hrs. – 16:30 hrs:

In a drive to strengthen the knowledge-based societies, there is a need to ensure an adequate supply of researchers. A dip stick survey carried out a few years back indicated “job” as the first preference amongst students of various IITs. How is this being currently managed by the leading countries and what changes are being brought to mould the system for the future? What is it that countries can learn from each other?

Parallel Round Table 1 B : Discussion on K-12

14:30 hrs. – 16:30 hrs:

The push for expanded primary education will have the knock-on effect of requiring extensive resources to provide “quality secondary education” to increasing numbers of young people. The large potential in K-12 segment is a result of huge quality and quantity gap. Thus the percentage of private schools is expected to witness a sharp increase in the future. Is there a need to lay down minimum criteria in terms of infrastructure including sport facilities and quality including teachers and technology?

Session 2 : Developing the Education Policy

10:30 hrs. – 10:00 hrs:

India has moved on the path of redesigning the education policy framework in the form of NVEQF/NVQF and integrating the industry by articulating the National Occupational Standards through Sector Skills Councils. This session will take stock of achievements, opportunities and challenges, discuss the co-existence of Education and

Vocational Training; Education Qualifications and Vocational Competencies and aim to percolate as well as capture the thoughts of the educationist and students at the ground level.

12:00 hrs – 12:15 hrs. Tea Break

Session 3 : Managing Diversities

12:15 hrs. – 13:30 hrs:

Industrialization and knowledge based society has had its impact on the culture of developing countries. What is this impact? What needs to be done to retain the individual identity of each society? Do we know what we need to protect and what is right to sacrifice for the future in shaping the students as global citizens?

13:30 hrs – 14:45 hrs. Lunch Break

Parellel Round Table 2A : Discussion on Sports in Education 14:35 hrs. – 16:30 hrs:

Parellel Round Table 2B : Discussion on Gender Parity & Special Needs

14:35 hrs. – 16:30 hrs:

Global education patterns are changing; opportunities are expanding, literacy levels are improving and enrolments rising. But are these changes advancing the goal of gender parity and equality in education across the regions and countries? Is there a role here for media including the now powerful social media? One important aspect of Education for all is to provide equal opportunities to the differently-abled. More than 100,000 teachers will be needed in the next ten years to cater to the educational needs of disabled children in schools. We have not even achieved a satisfactory level in this area. How does India fare with the rest of the world? What are the global benchmarks and success stories to inspire the change?

Session 4 : Vocational Training : Focus on Ground Zero

10:30 hrs. – 10:00 hrs:

Skilling 500 Mn by 2022 is a tall order. Efforts are being made by all. Framework is being put in place. Strengthening of delivery infrastructure is still out of focus. The Govt. it is are being upgraded through PPP mode, but the backbone of the system, the private it is are in a pitiable condition. Most of them fail to even create a learning environment. What needs to change and how? Can we in our lifetime witness students opting for vocational courses by choice rather than by change?

12:00 hrs – 12:15 hrs. Tea Break

Valedictory Session

14:35 hrs. – 16:30 hrs:

The session will sum up the macro and micro issues debated during the course of the conference. It will attempt to articulate the way forward / course correction if required to refocus and realign the resources, energy and funds towards achieving the UN Millennium Goals.

End of day 3 and the conference