

M. R. Ravi: Professor of Mechanical Engineering, IIT

I have told myself that to feel frustrated is no solution. We have to sensitize these kids about the reality of this country, and see how many actually get inspired. If in a class of hundred, one gets inspired, that's good.



- The formula for high paying jobs is IIT, IIM and get into that high paying job in a Multinational firm.
- Aptitude is good, it's the attitude that's the problem. In a class of seventy, if I get ten students academically inclined, I should consider myself fortunate.
- Most of these kids are completely unaware of what's happening in their country. They hardly know anything outside their classroom and their homes. They just don't know what's happening on the streets.
- Very small percentage of these kids actually take to engineering as a profession. They go where the money is. About half of them make it into management. The rest take up jobs either in the software sector or investment banks. Core engineering jobs are not sought after at all, and very few core engineering companies actually come to IIT for recruitment.

The IIT- Indian Institute of Technology Students

Did you always want to be an engineer?

No! I had always wanted to be in IIT.

- India has a dearth of scientists. We have acquired hardly any new blood in the last decade and we are critically short of scientists. But, students don't stay in science today. It doesn't pay. And Govt. has done nothing to change that. We are short of scientists. We are short of engineers. And we can't afford to compete with Multinational salaries. Only if some outside companies start setting up research labs here, and pay well, the situation might change.
-Vikram Kumar: Director,
National Physical Laboratory
- **Our top choice is Computer Science. Fresh graduates can land packages upwards of eighty thousand dollars a year.**
- **I want to remain in India with a good paying job, even if it is not in my core discipline.**
- **If I could get a package that rewards my core job, I would go abroad to do it. But if I get a core job in my discipline that I like but it's not paid well, I won't take it.**
- **That's the problem. Civil Engineering jobs are just not paid well.**

The New World of Education Not a Single Losing Spin



Dr. Sindhu: Professor of Chemistry

I think that is going to create a problem- That everyone is running for money. They do not understand what are the needs of human relationships- what they are... They do not understand that. Those things are going to create problems in the future.

- Education should be moral, for the development of the mind. To see things critically. If these objectives are met, the society will change. That is why in western countries religion has lost its significance. Because you are giving moral education at the college level. If that is done here, many of the problems of India will be solved like that. Even the boys and girls sitting together, this is a sort of moral development. Openness and things like that! Students today are more critical, thinking more, and positive, and I appreciate that!
- They do Commerce or Computers, and they immediately get a job, and that too a very good job! Science students do not immediately get jobs. Lesser and lesser number of students are coming for science and I feel bad about it. Caliber of the students is very high. They understand. But they do not want to work. They feel bad that they have come for the Pure Sciences because of dearth of good paying jobs.
- At one time I told the University why not introduce some Applied courses in chemistry in the colleges? If somebody wants to go to the Applied, let him go. If somebody wants to go to the Pure science, let him go! Both streams are open. Everything will remain alright, and science will remain popular. But they don't want to do that because they feel that if applied courses are introduced, they will become more popular! It is hard headedness. It is not ignorance!

---P.Rajendran, COO, NIIT

Worldwide Mass Software Education Institute based in New Delhi

- **There are millions of people coming out of schools, just entering college. Even today if you do something, or many things, at the entry level, which supplements the way college works, atleast 3 years from now, you will get this bunch of people who are more employable then before.**
- We are a one billion country that today boasts of having the largest space in the world of young people - to say we don't have talent, we have every thing else. That part must never happen.
- We will take a student who is in college, studying in parallel with us. While he finishes his graduation, he will do a 1 year internship program with us. The concept came from things being done at MIT. So we put this student into a company and give him support for him to succeed.
- Something which could be slightly negative is that so much pressure has been there in hiring people from our engineering colleges into IT! By definition they are all meritorious students, they can be taught a skill. They're hireable.
- In the process, I think, probably, probably, we don't have very good civil engineers, and this nation is now booming in construction. So I'm not really sure if we have the right technicians and civil engineers available who are up to speed on the latest techniques.
- **I'm sure it's all there, but we have created a definition these last couple of years, where we have moved all of them into IT. Civil engineering in college, does a banking job after all. It's a good thing, bad thing.**

The Head Boy, the Head Girl and the Asst. Head Girl: J.D.Tytler School

Pratiksha, Ankita and Ankit

In school life, I have experienced each and every thing- and each and every moment has actually taught me a very great thing. Some people scold you, some support you- everything contributes in us to becoming a very great human being.



■ Can we all three- thank on this record- all our teachers? Okay! This is to all our teachers. We are so glad to have you as our teachers, and this is a message to all of you from us: **THANK YOU!!!**

- I don't think destiny is everything. I think with hard work you can change your destiny too.
- I really feel like fulfilling all the wishes of my mother. She wanted me to do science. She never pressurizes me, but she understands what I want to do and what I don't.
- In this area this is the only school that has vocational courses: Information technology, Travel and Tourism, Textile design, Stenography... The benefit these courses have is that directly after the schooling you're offered a good job, especially for those who are not good academically, or can't cope up with their studies.
- My target which I had set when I was in standard Six, is to clear the IAS exam. I am fascinated by it. Maybe, you take decisions for the good of the country as a whole- or maybe it's the idea of being an IAS.
- I need to exert myself beyond my capacity to get into the College of my choice. There will be other colleges, yeah- but I want to go to the best, you know. If the sky is there- you want to reach there.
- The way Mrs. Tytler talks all your tension just evaporates- and our Vice Principal, and our teachers, and especially Mrs Neena Andrews- please put this on record- She is Great! "The way she tackles us-Excellent teacher of the school!"

Mrs. Jennifer Tytler: Principal, J.D.Tytler School

Excerpts from her address to students after two young children in a school shot and killed their classmates in the first shootings in the National Capital Region of Delhi.

- The responsibility of the school has become even greater. If you talk to the press- the school must do everything. We are ready to do everything. But we can only do everything if the parent also supports us. And the child who's standing in the middle should also understand that he has his parents on one side and in school we take his parents place.
- Your parents have to reinforce what we say in school. Someone on TV was saying the other day- Schools must reinforce what is done at home. I don't know what is done at home. I don't know if what is done at home is good or right or wrong or misguided. I know that in school our job is to guide- to do the right thing.
- Those children's lives have been destroyed for ever. The sadness that's come into the home of the child who died will last for as long as they live. The sadness of these children who are in jail will last for ever. You cannot bring that to your parents! You cannot do that to your parents!
- If you have any problem, discuss it with mother or father or mausi or chaachi or friend, whoever, talk about your problem to somebody. Do not keep resentment in your heart. Do not keep hatred in your heart because it will burn you. It will only harm you. It will affect your mind. Fear will breed contempt. It will breed hatred, and you or any young child will do something drastically wrong, which will affect the rest of your lives.
- If the child who's bullied, keeps quiet, does not say anything, and keeps the resentment in his heart, it burns inside him and it eats him up. He feels ashamed that he has been bullied, that he has been laughed at. But he does not have the courage to speak. It's all bottled up inside of him. And whenever we keep anything bottled up inside, it becomes a poison inside us, and that poison then slowly spreads to the brain, and one day the brain says Enough! I will not take any more of this- and that is probably what happened to those two boys, and they took their father's gun and they shot the other child. They were children just like you. They were those who kept resentment in their hearts, and they were those who bullied other children.
- This is something that is happening in our society, where parents today are running away from their children! The child is in jail for heaven's sake. He has done something terrible, but he's a child. He needs his parents. But the parents have run away from their child. That is the tragedy of our society today.

Jennifer Tytler: Principal

I have been the principal for a good thirty years and I am still finding joy and enthusiasm in my job.



Mrs. Jennifer Tytler: Principal, J.D.Tytler School

This is an absolutely new challenge. One we haven't faced before.

- These two students who shot the other boy, I don't think they were aware of the consequences. They didn't think he would die. They just thought- I'll shoot him, because in the movies, sometimes a man is shot, he just walks off. So, I don't think those poor children really were aware of this...but it's something that's frightened all parents, frightened all students, I hope... But it's frightened all schools, all principals- made us aware of this- so that we can take care of the situation.
- About 12 to 15 years ago, we began to see that in every classroom there were about five percent of the children who were unable to study; or had some behavior problems. We identified them in our own school and began to work with them. It is only in the last three or four years that Delhi as such has become aware of this problem and has started the system of inclusive education, where we look after children with learning disabilities or physical challenges. Maybe in the next decade or so, the state will also begin to look after our specially challenged children, and give them all the advantages which the West is able to give their children.
- With today's twenty four hour news channels, the media repeats incidents and events continuously, reinforcing them. And the parent who should be there to rationalize, put it into perspective for the child, that this is okay and this you shouldn't be watching, is increasingly missing,. The children need someone to guide them, but today there are also children who are becoming latchkey children like in the West.

Meera Sarin: School Counselor

Indian parents are not open- I still face a lot of problems especially with the fathers- they don't think they are responsible for anything that goes wrong with their child. Majority of parents do not want to accept that there is something wrong with their child. They don't understand that it's not a disease but a disorder. They are in complete denial.



- I started counseling because there was no counselor in the school to whom I could refer. I visited many centers, but nobody was doing what I wanted to do. There were career counselors and social workers, but no school counselors. Principal was very open towards what I wanted to do, and that's how I started. In our school, I think we were one of the first ones to realize that Dyslexia was a problem.
- On the other hand, now there is also a problem of over prescription. Parents feel that their child is hyper. They take them to a pediatrician, and the doctors don't even think twice before prescribing the medicine, which I feel has a lot of side effects and just dulls the senses of the child.
- There've always been emotional and social problems- and nobody in India's bothered about them. There's a serious problem of joint families- fights going on at home and they don't realize how badly it affects a small child. And then marital discord which is becoming very common- because the women have suddenly woken up in India- they are becoming financially stronger. So the wife doesn't want to take a lot of nonsense from the husband. Then we also have the problem of too much money in the house , plus inter-relationships of boys and girls- that's become a major problem in India- and parents are not accepting it.
- There used to be more respect for the teacher earlier, but I feel that the whole equation has changed now. Gradually over the years, there has been erosion. It was a deeper bond. One of the teachers here was in my first batch of students. Even though I feel odd, she never treats me as a colleague. I am still a teacher to her. I don't think she can ever treat me like a colleague, even though I treat her like that. But today for the most part, students don't care. There's total indifference!

Delhi University Students

Vasudev, Samrat, Udit, Rachna, Saiyam and Abhimanyu

There has been a basic shift in sensibilities from our parents' to our own generation. There are many possibilities in our future. But parents' priorities are still different from ours today. I guess that's why there is such a gap of understanding between us, like a lot of things I do that they would never understand!



- Parents want to make sure we have a secure career. Traditionally what they know is Medicine or Engineering or Chartered Accountancy. So they wanted me to do those, but I know that other sectors are opening up. What has changed today is that our parents really lived a chalked out life- they did what their parents wanted them to do. But today we do what we want to do. What we find happiness in. I think my Mom didn't know that she could even think this way. That this life even existed for her!
- I don't think that my parents lived out a chalked out life. They took risks also and enjoyed life, but I think as time changes definition of risk changes.
- My parents are fine about letting me figure out my way in my own time because there are so many new avenues available today. Today in this age of globalization, liberalization, with new ideas coming from outside, it's no more limited to one field of study.

Kiran Bedi's Navjyoti/India Vision Foundation Educational Intervention Program Gali Schools: Schooling in the Alleyways of Slum Settlements



Gali School: India Vision Foundation

An alternative to Rag picking for 4 to 8 year olds

Harey harey patte, lal lal phool...chalo bhai jaldi, chalo ischool.

Green green leaves, red red flowers, Come on brother lets hurry, lets go to school.



- I want to be a Policeman to catch a thief! Me a Doctor to cure disease! I want to be a Teacher to teach studies so one can grow up to be a big person.
- I want to study, work hard- so I can be Something.
- A young man watching: “If I had studied, life would have been something else today! Want to buy belts, madam? Belts?”
- ‘Circus ka main haathi hoon, bandar ka main saathi hoon... sabko naach sikhata hoon. Hansta aur hasaanta hoon...iyaaaaah!’
‘Am an Elephant of the Circus, companion to a monkey. Teach dance to everyone. Laugh and make others laugh...iyaaaaah!’
- See Madam! See my “A”- first letter of the alphabet!

Basic Education & Vocational Training in the Alleyways of Slum Settlements

“I am thinking about CA, because I'm doing commerce right now. Papa does labor in Delhi in Chawri Bazaar. I want to move a lot forward. Now-a-days for young people there is opportunity, and parents say study with concentration.” –Student at the computer center.

I need to stand on my own feet, because when I get married and the man does not turn out okay, then I can stitch and earn some money by tailoring.

---17 year old girls at the Stitching Center



- Parents work in Delhi and surrounding areas in very low skilled jobs as factory workers, rickshaw and wagon pullers etc. Many children pick rags from the nearby dump.
- Balwadi for 2 to 4 year olds to provide early childhood care and education as well as a viable alternative to toddlers left alone in homes as parents leave for work..
- Gali school for 4 to 8 year olds- basic literacy and mainstreaming to government school.
- Learning centers for 8 to 14 year olds.
- Remedial help for ages 8 and above in various subjects to help with regular school.
- Computer Center for basic computing skills.
- Stitching and Beauty Culture center for training older girls.
- Adult education program for illiterate women.
- Night-time Schools for working children.

Munazzah: A young urbanite Muslim Social Worker

I think I have this dynamic thing- to adapt- because of the fact that I grew up in Old Delhi, and I studied there- in New Delhi

- See I see a lot of difference in outlook after education that you get. Maybe a Muslim family who is not educated will follow things rigidly without understanding it, while I believe that you should first understand the thing and then follow it. Give the entire information to a person, what are the pros and cons of doing a particular thing and then I accept or reject it, its on me.
- It gave me a very mixed approach towards life. I can talk with anybody I sit with. Credit definitely goes to my mother throughout and to my father because he tried to get me admission into Sardar Patel school for oh! how many years!
- What I feel is, because the 1st generation is not educated so they are not understanding the relevance of education. I know people in Old Delhi who have immense money, but they are not into education, the reason being that they consider education as only being a tool to fetch money, which it is not. Mostly the Muslim community, yes. Conservative in not other things- except Education! There are people who cannot afford much and their children are more well behaved and see education much more passionately.
- The problem is more in Old Delhi, but if you move to Jamia area, which is again a thickly minority populated area, the education level is pretty high, maybe because of the fact that the university is close by, and if one member gets into the stream then others continue to do that.
- These women made it to the university, and they made it a point that they are not leaving one single Namaaz which is excellent! They were balanced. They were studying. They did everything which is in Islam and they had a balance, which I should say, I should be guilty of which I sometimes didn't maintain.

Neha Sinha, MBBS: A Medical Undergraduate

Medicine is also a hindrance to girls, because in India the marriageable age of 24, 25, 26- that will be gone. And most parents wouldn't allow girls to enter a field which takes nine and a half years to finish!

- **Already we're doing five and a half year of MBBS. Then for PG- its three more years. So already eight and a half years you are dedicating to studies. Then, if you add another year of this rural internship, it does not make sense because one, you're forcing the students to do something they don't want to do. And two, there are people who would willingly do that. There are so many doctors who come from the rural areas who do want to go back and serve the people there.**
- Don't ask me. I don't know. Honestly, I don't have the vaguest idea why I became a doctor. It was more like I had taken science, what do I do next?
- There are about 1500 Govt. Seats for the Open Category in Medicine. And about six hundred thousand students apply for those seats. I have friends who went to these coaching institutes in 11th, 12th- there's a thing between schools and these coaching institutes in Rajasthan where you don't have to attend school, and all throughout the year you bunk classes and study for medical exams during 11th and 12th. I didn't do that.
- Parents are not ready to listen to things which might be different from what they already think. For example, they don't think there's a difference between Psychology and Psychiatry- and why I would ever want to become a Shrink? According to them, no-one goes to a Shrink!
- I think my thought has undergone a lot of change after I have moved out of the house, because I feel that as long as you are happy with yourself and you feel that you're right, you shouldn't care a damn about what others think. I don't think that's what my parents think.
- Women's literacy in India is pathetic. We need to have more respect for women and it has to be inculcated right from the beginning. Women need to be aware of their rights, and men need to respect women right from the very beginning. For that I think they need to see that happening right around them. If they don't see women being respected around them, I don't think they can do that themselves in the future.
- I'm just basically happy doing what I do. I don't know. Its a state of mind- I can't describe it I guess. It's nothing like if this happens- then I'll be happy. If it's good, it's good. If it's bad, it's bad.

Manju Saxena: Distance Education through Open University

There are many people in our country and Universities have not increased. New Colleges have opened up but still higher education is not within the reach of many. And since its expansion could not take place in proportion to the increase in population, Distance Education institutes invariably are the answer to provide higher education to our teeming population.

- We are locating our study centers in those regions where there is lets say a concentration of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe populations, or Muslim populations- so, disadvantaged populations in some way.
- Many homes do not like to send their women out to study. Since there is flexibility regarding attendance, these women need not come to classes if their family doesn't allow them.
- Students are of all kinds. Some are like me, interested in furthering their knowledge. There are others who had missed the bus, and were not able to educate themselves, so Open University offers them you can say, a channel or a forum, where they can once again pursue knowledge. Another category needs to upgrade their skills, or their qualification because they need promotion in their respective organizations. Not the least, are women, who are a neglected lot in our society.
- Lately our Open University under the direction of Ministry of Education as well as the Social Department of Govt. of India, are targeting Muslims, the men, and especially the women, whose education is far less considering their population in our country.
- We have developed various courses according to the region: which part of the country, which skill, and which course is more suitable- For instance in the North-East, bamboo is available, and many a times, these people are not able to earn the amount they ought to because of the middle man. So if management skills, arithmetic skills and language skills are taught to these people then they can market their product directly and it would facilitate them to earn much better than what they can now.
- In a very subtle way we're trying to popularize the diploma in HIV/AIDS and family education program among a cross-section of population, educators and so forth, who in turn will help us in spreading the message about sex and sex related issues, because such issues are generally taboo in our society.

B: A Young Woman from a Conservative Family

My choice is studies- To be successful in life. First settle your career, and then whatever else- whether marriage or children.

- I am doing BBA- Bachelor in Business Administration- because I want to do a job.
- My parent's choice is to settle down in life, get married and nothing else.
- To make them understand is difficult. Because in a way, ego clashes happen. There is much difference in our thinking.
- Our generation has now moved forward and our thinking has changed, but they are still walking with their old opinions- that if a good boy is found then get married.
- Until and unless I settle myself on the career side, nothing will be included in my life. Nothing!