
Book Reviews

Remaking Higher Education

Essays in Dissent

by Amrik Singh

PUBLISHED BY Harper Collins

PRICE ₹ 275. PAGES 196

This is the latest in the series of books written by Amrik Singh which deals with a lot of issues in higher education. The book has a foreword by Kuldip Nayar and is divided in 10 chapters.

The author goes down the memory lane, recalls his experiences and becomes analytical and suggestive in this polemical study of state of higher education in India.

The author strongly feels that the two serious mistakes which India made were to continue with the legal and educational system more or less as they were before 1947. The major issues highlighted in the introductory part is negligence of teaching profession and its management. He comments that having neglected constructive role of teacher education has resulted in poor syllabus for teacher education and non-availability of the right kind of education.

Drawing on his vast experience as an academician he deftly portrays the issues of in forms of questions related to hike in fee, passivity of teachers and effects on teacher performance which need serious thinking. He candidly suggests improvement in this flaw.

The author states that still only 4 per cent of the GDP is being utilised for education and feels that how difficult it is to find more funds and spend them purposefully. The author in subsequent chapters deals with the trivial issue of urbanisation, increasing pressure on professional colleges and growth of private universities. He analyses the functioning of Medical Council, AICTE, NAAC and the UGC between and plainly minces no words in telling what they could do and have not done.

He laments on the problem of our country that by continuing to be traditional in our thinking and ways of functioning we have not embarked upon the path of self governance and self growth and say

that once this is enforced upon the doors of quality will be automatically opened.

Shortcoming of B. Ed course and NCTE, training and retraining of teachers, statistical information on some open universities and dealt within the subsequent chapters. The non-uniform spread of open learning system is also probed into the issue of leadership in education, financial management and restructuring system is discussed at length, questions raised and measures suggested.

The book ends with a note that the coordination between different agencies cannot be overlooked and suggests financial and procedural changes essential for improving and to make India stand at par with more progressive nations of the world. Suggestion for teachers to take proactive role in training of policies has been emphasised upon.

SHARAD SINHA
Associate Professor
Department of Educational Research and
Policy Perspectives
NCERT, New Delhi

Career Growth and Joy at Work

by Ashutosh Pandey

PUBLISHED BY India gen NEXT Publication

PRICE ₹ 180 PAGES 269

The present book is about building an enriching and motivating environment around human beings that make one possible to develop strategies around strengths. The book has adapted various concepts of management being practiced in the cooperative word like motivation, creative thinking etc. to individual's concern for career growth and joy while doing work. The book has tried to help individuals visualise and reflect on their strengths and key advantages for working out their unique strategy for career growth. The book has tried to explain an individual's ability to open new avenues for personal growth and career advancement by designing their generic project that may help them in being flexible and responsive to new opportunities. The book begins