

INDIA BEYOND 2020 CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

DIGITAL CONFERENCE



PROF. R. S. S. MANI

Vice President - Institutional Development,
ITM Group of Institutions, HRD Specialist

**HIGHER EDUCATION
& CARRIER DEVELOPMENT**

Prof. R. S. S. Mani started his speech by highlighting about: 'Increasing the scope of employability of students coming for Higher Education.' He pointed out that, "this is the major responsibility of the educational institutions. But institutions of higher education even today perhaps are continuing to teach in the school mode that is they will continue to give you the text books; you learn the subjects and you write the exams. And sometimes at the end of the whole course on higher education be it engineering, be it management, be it design, be it paramedical sciences, there are a lot of industrial professionals who tell that the guys have got a degree but they haven't learned anything.

This is the big problem we are all facing. Even the teachers who are in the institutions of higher education, though extremely qualified, their ability to translate theory into practice, their ability to build bridge between academia and industry is often lacking. Infact in the ITM group we always

INDIA BEYOND 2020 CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

HIGHER EDUCATION & CARRIER DEVELOPMENT

promote a very very interesting concept that is just like students can do internships in companies, we encourage our faculty to do internships in companies. So the practical knowledge is something that we need to focus our energies upon.”

Dr. Mani adds that, “We need to have a robust system where the student has to be told from day one that you have got into the institute but there is no guarantee you will get out of the institute unless you add value to yourself. This if we are able to enforce, it will tremendously add value to the process, tremendously add quality. As it is rightly said, we have all perhaps an equal amount of talent but the question is do you have an opportunity to develop this talent. Dr. Abdul Kalam use to say that India will be that kind of a proud country where every Indian has an equal opportunity to develop his talent whether he is in urban India, rural India, highly privileged or under privileged.”

Dr. Mani suggests to develop soft skills as ultimately when the students get on to corporate world, they need to work in teams, they have to learn to support each other, they need to develop philosophies like 'will win' and they need to be able to cope with stress. And finally he concludes with his favourite quote of Dr. APJ. Abdul Kalam that is “you should confirm that you become successful when your signature turns into an autograph.”