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Title : Multidisciplinary approach in education system must

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INFOSYS PRIZE 2016 Experts Stress On The Need For Change

Is creativity an inherent trait in a student or is it an ability that can be cultivated? Are students naturally equipped to explore arenas and domains out of one's comfort zone? At a panel discussion held at the Infosys Science Foundation event on Friday, experts deliberated on these and many other issues, pertaining to the country's education system.

Among the key topics that were placed on the anvil for debate was whether the Indian education system allowed a multidisciplinary approach. Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi Prof Ramgopal Rao said, "Earlier, students who joined IIT entered the institution with a set frame of mind to excel in a discipline of their choice. However, in research, while seeking to address major issues, a single discipline cannot answer all queries. A multidisciplinary approach, cobbled with a quality to adapt to a different medium, is essential in a researcher today."

The discussion was moderated by writer Gita Aravumudan. Founder of Parikrma Humanity Foundation, Shukla Bose was also among the panelists. "If the opinions of the young students were to be factored in, the issue of multidisciplinary approach would have been resolved long ago. The problem lies with those who design the curriculum, and refuse to take children's interests into account. In the process, we get divorced from what should really be taught to them," Bose said.

Recalling an incident with her student, Bose added, "Once, when I asked a student what he wanted to learn, he listed three interests - ecology, creative writing and photography. He said that he would learn to write about the environment, while simultaneously excelling in photography, which could perhaps help him land a job at National Geographic magazine." Member on the board of Infosys Science Foundation, SD Shibulal observed the trend of a large number of schools embracing specialisation. "The world is moving in a different direction. We need to inculcate in students, an innovative spirit, and an entrepreneurial drive, which will enhance their ability to foray into different disciplines," he added.



Pic: Chethan Shivakumar

DEBATING EDUCATION: Shukla Bose, founder, Parikrma Humanity, with Infosys co-founder SD Shibulal at the discussion on Friday