

**INNOVATIONS FROM INDIA, IN ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY --- SOME GLIMPSES FROM PAST
TO THE PRESENT.**

MS. MUNMY CHHETRY BARUAH,

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,

LALA LAJPATRAI COLLEGE,

MAHALAXMI, MUMBAI - 34,

ABSTRACT

Despite all the possible comments and criticism along with all the artificial gap being created by the popular culture and the people around, to antagonize the relation between Academia and Industry. It is a fact, well established since time immemorial which is revered highly, even today that Academia and Industry still have a very distinct correlation and both continue to co-exist enhancing and facilitating each other.

Almost every well-educated Indian like his counterpart in the western world thinks that the systematic thinking on management started only in the 20th century. Whereas the actual fact is --- treatises on management were actually written in the ancient past keeping in mind the smooth management of the administration, wealth, law and order, the management of the subjects (people/citizens) and even to maintain smooth international relations. The management literature written in India and in the world continues to yield fruitful results even today and is as relevant today as it was in the past.

My present Paper based on secondary sources attempts to see correlate the ancient knowledge that led to glorious past that boasted of our enlightened and efficient administration based on the sutras of the administrators of the time who were out and out academics first.

KEY WORDS: ANCIENT, SUTRA, MYTHOLOGY, CHANAKYA, ARTHSASTRA

INTRODUCTION

When we talk about INNOVATIONS --it is an undeniable fact that We Indians have been far more advanced and have been Great Innovators in ourselves since time immemorial.

For instance we have Insurance Companies and Policies today which is a big industry in itself but their innovation goes back to *the Geeta* and the lines that occur there through Lord Krishna saying ***Yogchemam Wahamyaham*** meaning *put all your liabilities on me and do your karma. Once again meaning obviously for insurance. Be it for life, family or goods. For Human Rights credit is given to the Magna Carta signed in England but actual innovation goes to ***Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam***, which means the whole world is one family. The lines from our epics.... ***Asto ma sadgamaya, tamso ma jyotirgamaya***(meaning *oh, Lord lead us to the path of virtue and righteousness and from ignorance to light*) that finds its origin in the Upanishad for Education, Teaching and Learning a*

true blue print of India. Accordingly, the idea of **Media and Communications** finds its expression in the **Rig Veda** as “Let noble thoughts come from all sides”.

Finally, above all for the origin of Tragedy as a special genre of Drama for the credit is given to our Greek masters –actually finds its origin in the articulation of the great sage Valmiki as **“Manishad mithunadekam, samagah sashwali samahyat (oh, ill-fated hunter you have killed the bird in its lustfull bliss hence hereafter you will be ill-reputed for generations to come).** These lines were uttered by Valmiki in a traumatized state when one of the bird groans in utter pain seeing its partner being killed in the midst of their blissful state. It is here, in the Indian soil that tragedy was created not by the Greek writers and philosophers of the classical time who are credited with the invention of this art called, TRAGEDY.

Similarly, be it medicine, mathematics, politics or theology everywhere our impression is found. There has been no dearth of innovations. Yet we lag behind today! Why and how that is a very pertinent question. And today’s this very conference of ours will perhaps try to answer some of these issues and questions pertaining to teaching learning innovations.

It will not be wrong to say **“Industry without Academia has no root and Academia without Industry has no fruits”** while defining and establishing the correlation between Academia and Industry. Despite all the possible comments and criticism along with all the artificial gap being created by the popular culture and the people around to antagonize the relation between Academia and Industry. It is a fact, well established since time immemorial which revered even today that Academia and Industry still have a very distinct correlation and both continue to coexist enhancing and facilitating each other.

GLIMSES FROM THE PAST

Almost every well-educated Indian like his counterpart in the western world thinks that the systematic thinking on management started only in the 20th century. Whereas the actual fact is --- treatises on management were actually written in the ancient past keeping in mind the smooth management of the administration, wealth, law and order and even the management of the subjects (people/citizens). The management literature written in India and in the world continues to yield fruitful results even today.

Some of the well-known and classic works on management written in India and across the world and culture in the ancient past is real eye opener and deserve our special attention. Some of them are listed as follows:

AUTHOR	COUNTRY	TREATISE	TUTORED	APPROXIMATE PERIOD
Confucius	China	Analects	Prince of Lu	430 BC
Aristotle	Greece	Politics	Alexander	350 BC
Chanakya	India	Arthasastra	Chandragupta	330 BC
Visnusarma or Bidapi	India	Pancatantra	3 Princes	200 BC
?	India	Hitopadesa	3 Princes	200 AD
Machiavelli	Italy	The Prince	?	1532 AD

The above table shows and authenticates that these ancient academicians were the actual architect of the ancient past who through their ideas and wisdom created the refined administration of the time. Yesterday's limited aspect of administration has diversified and grown up independently as Industry which is rooted in the academia of the relevant and related fields. Today's Human Resource which is portrayed and shown as an out of the world product is absolutely foolish and ridiculous at times.

The Pancatantra written approximately around 200 BC by Visnusarma who is also referred as Bidapi sometimes, consists of 69 case studies compiled by guru to teach "Management of People" to three grown up sons of the king in a six-month residential training programme. Even Hitopadesa is a similar treatise written in around 200 AD appear to borrow heavily from the Pancatantra and has the same identical narrative style. Both *Pancatantra* and *Hitopadesa* deal basically with managing people. But unlike, these two treatises Chanakya's *Arthasastra* is the one which deals with the different aspect of managing a kingdom, administration, wealth, law and order and even the punishment for the guilty, the training for the administrators including the international relations.

The *Arthasastra* is the earliest known and available treatise in the history of the world. Chanakyas's sutras are actually the principles of management on how a country/state should be managed. In all his sutras apart from giving his own view he also refers to several ancient Indian on management prevalent over 600 years.

As a result, the successful installation of Chandragupta, whose regime was fair and just, as opposed to the tyranny and partiality of the Nanda kings, is an eloquent and established testimony of the prowess of the management principles propounded by Chanakya that had produced a fine line of pedigree of rulers from Chandragupta to Samrat Ashok, the great emperor.

FROM GLORIOUS PAST TO THE DEPLETED PRESENT

From ancient India when we step into modern India it shows a very dismal scenario where Academia and Industry stand antagonistic to each other as Theory versus practice. The Press Trust of India on 21st June, 2016 through Mumbai Mirror reports that the MPSC had released an advertisement for the recruitment of five porter's called (hamaal) posts in December, 2015 and in

return got 2424 applications. The minimum qualifications required for this post is just fourth standard pass but out of 2424 applications received there were 5 M.Phil holders, 253 PG Degree holders and 984 were graduates among others. Surprisingly it poses a very **crucial question to every thinking mind that what does it connote about our Education System and its future specially in India?**

Once again, this very dichotomy parallels the agony of the architect of the Indian Constitution – Dr. Ambedkar. Five decades ago, after drafting the constitution of India Babasaheb openly disowned and condemned his own drafted constitution as a useless document for which he could explain the reason in few lines as saying ---“We built a temple for the God to come in ... but before the God could be installed ... the Devil had taken possession of it”.

How rightly he had predicted and echoed today’s complete chaos that all of us are enduring today, almost fifty years back from now.

In comparison to present and the immediate past we find ancient India far better than it is today. In those days, education in India was always considered as the most important wealth to be possessed by an individual and was always cherished as *Vidya dhanam Sarva dhan paradhanam* and no wonder we have had many foreign admirers as well. The great scientist Einsteine was one among them who openly pronounced saying ... “we owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.”

But if we just contemplate on today’s academic scenario specially the various examination reforms that we all teaching and learning fraternity are subjected to, actually confirm a very dismal picture. For, it is not only stressful but equally ridiculous at times. As a result, we see more and more people with ability (people posing with all possible and highest degrees and certificates as eligible) but actually with no ability or depleted ability. As a consequence, three crucial questions come to the front. They are...

- A. Eligibility,
- B. Ability and
- C. Employability.

MYTH IS NOT ALWAYS MITHYA(LIE)

Devdutta Pattanaik’s extensive and in-depth research on the relevance of mythology in management is an eye opening in itself. His Business sutras draw heavily from the mythologies that connects the myth with the present day business and its application into business situation has proved alchemist’s stone. His Business Sutra an Indian approach to Management is widely acclaimed and referred in the business circle as the modern Bible.

He emphasizes that the lessons from the Mythologies, from the ancient past which were rejected as mere myth still have their relevance in the contemporary Business. Referring to *the Mahabharata*(Pattanaik, Devdutta. *The Times of India*, 2015) warns the present day Managers (CEOs) that they must keep in mind certain things as Follows:

Firstly, do not be a Bhisma. Do not try to be perfect. Nobody likes someone who is always perfect.

As Bhisma had no expiry date so kept on living, from generation to generation, hoping to solve all problems and create a perfect world.

Secondly, do not be a Drona. Do not have favorites. As one exists for the organization not to create and nurture favorites.

Thirdly, do not be a Karna. Do not try to belong to a club where one feels unwelcome. One does not need other people's approval to feel validated. Focus on task at hand.

Accordingly, he narrates some more case studies of Arjuna and Bheema along with Yudhishtira from the Mahabharata to draw a parallel between myths and the present day world which appear absolutely relevant and apt even in the 21st century.

CONCLUSION

In today's context, Education is looked on as a source that transforms the wealth of knowledge and skills that bridges the gap between Academia and Industry thus producing a fine pedigree of learned men and women who are fit in terms of their employability while their value based education makes them socially responsible and sensitive contributors to the society. Once again between Academia and Industry it's the Academia which has to mentor Industry as Industry is a species of the genus Academia. Late Prime minister of India, Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru's quote on University serves as the fitting epilogue to this paper:

"A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward arch of the human race towards ever higher objectives. If the universities discharge their duties adequately, then it well with the nation and People."

REFERENCES:

Carde, Ashok R. 2006. *Chanakya on Management*. Mumbai: Jaico Publisher.

Reddy, VV.2009. *History of Economic Thought- Ancient Times to Modern Times*.New-Delhi: New Century Publications.

Sharma, Subhash. 2007. *New Mantras in Corporate Corridors – From ancient Roots to Global Route*.Delhi: New Age International Publishers.

Pattanaik, Devdutta. 2015. "Error-Kshetra" Mumbai: *The Times of India*.

Subramaniam, Kamala.1965. *The Mahabharata*. Mumbai: Reginald Monteiro at Associated Advertisers and Printers.

Nath,Shanjendu. 2014. Gender inequality in Higher Education: A study of Girl Students of Conventional Courses in Nashik, *Indian Journal of Business Management and Social Science Reserch*, vol.3, No.2.

Srivastava, Nalini.2005." Empowerment of women through Higher Education", *University News*, vol.43, no. 03.

Sunderrajan, N. and Gopal VB Nanda. 2015. "Higher Education and Women Empowerment", *University News*, vol.53, no. 30

http://www.kamat.com/database/articles/education_of_women.htm