

# **Book Review**



## “Masters Speak: Management Education In India”

**Authors:** Vinay Kumar Nangia, Vinay Sharma, Rajat Agrawal and Ritika Mahajan

This book presents first hand conversations with some of the living legends and veterans who shaped the development of management education in India. These include Professors Abad Ahmad, Ashoka Chandra, Charan D. Wadhva, D. M. Pestonjee, Dilip K. Bandyopadhyay, Ishwar Dayal, J. Philip, K. R. S. Murthy, Krishna Kumar, Mangesh G. Korgaonker, N. R. Sheth, Pramod Verma, Pradip N. Khandwalla, Pritam Singh, Rajan Saxena, S. Neelamegham, Samuel Paul and VinayshilGautam.

The smooth precise questions, thought-provoking follow ups and interesting anecdotes capture the essence of teaching from the best in the field. The interview with the thought leaders and institution builders offers to its readers, their perspective of the purpose and conception of management education in India, development of some of the most important B-schools of the country like Delhi University, IIMs, bird's eye view of present state of management education, role of leaders in institution building, evolution of management education, major milestones, qualification for faculty members for management institutes, unique characteristics of management education, accreditation, common admission tests etc.

The book starts with the influence of American industrialization on business education. It talks about the evolution of education and the impact of changing dynamics such as second world war, colonialism, Indian independence, Prime-ministership of Pandit Nehru, coming of UGC and AICTE. In the backdrop, the intriguing questions also demonstrate the effect of these dynamics on the thought leaders and how it shaped their academic journey, personal and professional lives.

This book also draws comparison between Indian and foreign business education, management and other disciplines like medicine, law, social sciences, pure sciences and related streams like commerce and economics. Through the spontaneous conversations, the luminaries reveal the success mantra of the leading B-schools which makes them stand apart, growth of standalone institutions like IIMs, Institute of Management Technology (IMT), International Management Institute (IMI), Management Development Institute (MDI) vis-à-vis departments in universities and institutions like IITs. It also presents the changing mindset of students and faculty members and the changing scenario such as advent of information technology. The great academicians present their view on replacement of residential campus system with distance learning programs, virtual and open universities.

The book discusses the issues and challenges faced by management education in India and the road

ahead. Also, their views on the importance of maintaining balance between teaching and research and filling the industry-academia gap have also been concisely presented. The academicians discuss the emerging issues such as mushrooming of universities and institutions, deterioration in quality of education, redundancy of summer internship programs, importance of introducing new courses, right mix of academicians, guest lecturers and industry experts in institutes, Ph.D vs non-qualified teachers, CAT vs GMAT admission tests, experienced vs fresh graduates etc.

Through the interviews, the veterans have divulged the key elements that constitute the bedrock of an institution and the critical success factors that are most essential to the delivery of management education in India. The suggestions given by the leaders are relevant, credible and offer directions as to what actions should be taken in future. The book is a life-time achievement and gives teachers a wonderful lesson about teaching, faith, passion and humanity. It is a must-read for those who want to be inspired, imbibe the qualities of great teachers and contribute to the field of management education in India.

**Reviewed By:**

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