

'Education should produce innovators, not imitators'

Our Bureau

CII holds conclave on higher education

Coimbatore, November 20:

Indian higher education system should focus on building innovators rather than imitators, said Jairam Varadaraj, Managing Director, Elgi Equipments. This will be possible only by getting rid of the traditional methods of evaluating education, he added.

Delivering the keynote address at the 2nd edition of the National Higher Education Conclave, a two-day event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry at Hotel Le Meridien here, Varadaraj said, "We have a lot of leaders, but the discipline needed for building a nation is eroding."

CII initiative

Navas Meeran, Past Chairman, CII Southern Region, and Managing Director of Eastern Condiments Pvt Ltd, said the industry body would come out with a curriculum for undergraduate colleges to help those at the bottom of the pyramid.

"We need government support and also will need to look at the equity side of it. Industry members should come together and deliberate on the way forward towards creating a positive way ahead for bringing in development," Meeran said.

"While our existing higher education needs expansion, we need to focus on the quality of our existing system through judicious governance. In engineering education, there is huge requirement for not just qualified engineers, but ones with right-conceptual and industry-oriented application," he added.

Sudhir Rao, Chairman and Managing Director, Skoda Auto Ltd, in his special address conceded that though the Indian higher educational system created leaders, holding respectable positions in global market place, there was need for regulation to ensure consumer protection and quality assurance.

Role of technology

Event Chairman CR Swaminathan observed how technology revolutionised the educational system.

"Though on the one side there are issues like deterioration in employability, paucity of good faculty resources, accreditation issues and policy challenges that hamper the growth of the higher education sector, leveraging technology in course delivery, benefits of globalisation, development of a start-up ecosystem is propelling growth," he said.

(This article was published on November 20, 2015)