

SNU wants to do a Yale: Founder-VC

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India needs more people to do research apart from teaching in higher education institutions so as to develop the country, says Mr Nikhil Sinha, founding vice-chancellor, Shiv Nadar University.

In an interview to *Deccan Chronicle Education*, Mr Nikhil Sinha questioned that if the country produced only engineers and doctors then who would teach 100 million people in India.

"India will collapse if we have only engineers and doctors. Companies don't have people to communi-



Nikhil Sinha

cate. If you focus on placements alone, you will get low quality people. When do we create more Shiv Nadars? There is also a need for well-round education, we need to provide training skills and this is what Shiv Nadar University does", he said.

Speaking about SNU's vision and mission, Mr Sinha said that their objective was to create a Harvard, an MIT and a Yale in the country. This desire led to the creation of SNU. "There has to be a combination of government and private initiative to set up more higher education institutions. If a private institution tries to make money then they cannot provide good education. Institutions bring down the quality of education as you seek quantity of students", he added.

The founder-vice chancellor also advocated the concept of government funding for private institu-

tions. "Even though Harvard is a private institution the US federal government supports it with research grant. I have been recommending the government create a group of institutions and designate them as research universities. We need to change our model but we do not have the political will to do it", he noted.

About unique initiatives in SNU, Mr Sinha pointed out that SNU provides scholarship equal to industry salary to attract qualified persons for research. The university also offers need based and merit based scholarships to under graduate students.