

Students need to 'learn by doing'

Physics researcher **Rupamanjari Ghosh** says even undergraduate students should be allowed to understand the nuances of research and innovation

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The problem with the higher education institutes in India has been that they rewards implementation, not original thinking and the mindset focuses on creating clones instead of original thinkers, says Rupamanjari Ghosh, physics researcher and vice-chancellor of Shiv



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She adds that there is a growing need to look at both the content and method of delivery in the degree programmes in the majority of the institutions in the country.

There has been an over-emphasis on mastering the fundamentals and being safe, and an under emphasis on exploration-driven learning and learning by failures.

The mode of delivery must be student-centric, active or participatory so that they 'learn by doing'. To make a mark among the best global universities, best-in-class research has to be an integral part of higher education.

"Even undergraduate students should be allowed to understand the nuances of research and innovation, while we strengthen their foundation with a broad multidis-

ciplinary approach and provide a depth of learning in a major subject," she says. Students in Indian institutions have traditionally studied subjects in silos, as most of the country's higher education system does not allow for an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to learning, which is often needed for real-life problem solving. To overcome these issues an integrated solution needs to be devised.

Business organisations today require fresh recruits who can hit the ground running. Thus, the training for making those graduates industry ready has to start inside the higher education institutes.

"While the whole premise of higher education needs to be thought through and integrated with the needs of the constantly evolving industry, it is important to teach our students how to think, and derive solutions of problems on their own rather than providing them with ready-made solutions," adds Ghosh.

