A Report: Ninth Seminar under the DSTU* Project

“THE IDEA OF OUR UNIVERSITIES”

in the context of

THE IDEA OF INDIA

organized with as the knowledge partner

Date: Monday, 7th March 2016 | 10.30 AM to 5 PM
Venue: GTU, Chandkheda Campus, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

BACKGROUND: In the Indian tradition, learning is through questioning. This one-day seminar was designed to answer the question:

Should the idea of our University be rooted in the idea of India?

Around 200 participants inclusive of GTU affiliated colleges and students participated in the seminar.

The seminar was graced by a number of experts viz: Shri. Mukul Kanitkarji, Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, Shri. Vidhyut Joshi, Former V.C., Bhavnagar University, Former Director, Centre for Social Studies, (ICSSR), Surat and Columnist of Divyabhasker News Paper, Prof. Makkhanlal, Professor, Delhi Institute of Heritage Research & Management, Delhi, Shri. Bharat Gupt, Former Associate Professor, Delhi University, Dr. Girishbhai Thaker, Former VC Somnath Sanskrit University, Prof. E. Vayunandan, Faculty of Public Administration, School of Social Sciences, Ex Member, Board of Management, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi, Shri Koshor Makwana, Columnist, Divya Bhaskar Editor of 'Namaskar', Shri. KG Suresh, Sr. Consulting Editor and Shri. Kapil Kumar, Professor, IGNOU, Delhi.

* Designing the Structure of Technological University (DSTU) – GTU Research Project
Besides some of the leaders of the universities in Gujarat were also present. They were Dr. Harish Padh, Hon. Vice Chancellor, S.P. University, Dr. Shashiranjan Yadav, Hon. Vice Chancellor, IITE, Dr. C.B. Jadeja, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Kutch University and Prof. Shailesh Zala, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Bhavnagar University. Dr. Ajitsinh Rana, R.B. Sagar College of Education and member of DSTU project, coordinated the seminar.

The delegates deliberated and raised their view points on the following themes:

Technical Session 1: The idea of our Universities and the idea of India till the Pre - Kalidas era (till the end of 3rd century AD).

Technical Session 2: The idea of our Universities and the idea of India till the end of Nalanda University (From the beginning of the 4th century AD to the end of 13th century).

Technical Session 3: The idea of our Universities and the idea of India as of today (From the beginning of the 14th century AD to today).

Welcome note: Shri. J.C. Lilani, (I/C) Registrar, GTU, exclaimed that none of the universities in India are in top 200 List because the universities are considered as only exam taking body rather than a hub of research activities. He talked about GTU’s achievements in the past years, CIC3 Lab where the Students and Assistant Professors work together. For Skill India Mission 2000 trained faculty and more than 70000 students are involved in design engineering. GTU’s students and Faculty Members have filed 350 Patents. He discussed 340 Villages working in Vishwakarma Yojna, 500 Colleges - 500 villages project, the 100 point activity, Masters and Ph.D students are nurtured by eminent speakers in research week. He described GCSR Studies wherein MBA students study a particular country. 824 students have taken part in International Experience Program (IEP) for 6 to 8 weeks and study two subjects. GTU has received 19 Awards till date. Recently GTU received “Best University Support for Students”, which was given by Prof. (Dr.) Ram Shankar Katheria, Hon’ble Minister
of State for HRD (Higher Education) at the 9th Higher Education Summit & National Excellence Awards 2016 in New Delhi, organized by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

Key Note Address: Dr. Akshai Aggarwal, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, GTU started by describing the research project on Designing the Structure of Technological Universities. He said that a university is called a Vishwavidyalaya, which attracts eminent Professors and students from all over the world, even though a University must serve the local community by studying the challenges and successes of the society, in which the university is located. He discussed about the Idea of Higher Education in the context of the idea of India during the period before Kalidas. He talked about the education of Krishna and Sudama in the Sandipani Gurukul in Ujjain. He discussed about Takshshila and Nalanda during the period from 3rd century AD to the end of the thirteenth century. He said that the establishment, evolution and development of universities will depend upon our idea of India. He finally said that rigorous research at universities is the need of the hour since as we go on studying the evolution of the university system in India and the world as well as the needs of our evolving society, we shall be able to work out the changes required in our system of higher education.

Chief Guest: Shri. Harish Padh, Registrar, S. P. University started his speech by briefing the present education system and top 200 universities and further suggested that education system should be curiosity driven. He also informed that most of the notable departments like history, social sciences and humanities have not been expanded. He showed his concern how the new generation will understand our society and who will teach them these subjects. Country is economically doing very well and achieving 7% growth of GDP and which is expected to grow for many years. Wealth generation and fair distribution of wealth is important.

On the case of JNU, he said that undue importance is given to this case and full autonomy and freedom of speech sometimes creates nuisance.
Shri. Mukul Kanitkar, Joint Secretary, Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal talked about the theories of education system and syllabus in Swatantra Bharat. He said that many NGOs were getting large grants of money from foreign countries and were not giving the accounts statement to the government. Thereafter he gave examples of Swami Vivekananda regarding dharma and knowledge. He said that it is moment of pride that 193 countries including 52 Muslim countries performed yoga on 21st June, 2015, the International Yoga Day.

Technical Session 1: The idea of our Universities and the idea of India till the Pre - Kalidas era (till the end of 3rd century AD) and Technical Session 2: The idea of our Universities and the idea of India till the end of Nalanda University (From the beginning of the 4th century AD to the end of 13th century).

Chairman: Vidhyut Joshi, former V.C., Bhavnagar University, former Director, Centre for Social Studies, (ICSSR), Surat and columnist of Divyabhasher News Paper and Shri. Girish Bhai Thaker, former VC Somnath Sanskrit University.

Dr Vidhyut Joshi talked about creative teaching and status oriented society. He talked about the changing economy and education system. He also pointed out the difference between ‘leaning to do’ and ‘learning to work’. He concluded his speech urging that there is a need to revamp the entire educational system.

Shri. Girish Bhai Thaker talked about the education system in ‘Arya Vart’ and in ‘Bharat Varsha’. He went on to discuss the ancient education system, the present education system and need to change the education system. He described the requirements of life viz. Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha and the need for living a life of wholeness.

Prof. Makkhanlal, Professor, Delhi Institute of Heritage Research & Management, Delhi stated that education tells us about how one must behave in the society. There should not be materialism in the education system. These days the structure of Social Sciences does not teach
the students about taking pride in our country and in our culture. He talked about quantum physics and roots of modern sciences. He finally ended his speech by saying that we should not live in the past. But our history gives us the light for the future.

**Prof. Bharat Gupt, former Associate Professor, Delhi University** shared his views on the Indian economy and silos-based learning in the education sector. He talked about the UGC system, the courses of Humanities and Social Sciences and its importance and the classical teaching education. He laid importance on developing research in the universities system and said that there should be freedom with responsibilities.

**Technical Session 3:** The idea of our Universities and the idea of India as of today (From the beginning of the 14th century AD to today).

**Chairman:** Shri Kishor Makwana, Columnist, Divya Bhaskar and Editor of 'Namaskar'

He also talked about the issue of JNU and he urged that it should not be made a national issue and should not affect the students and education system.

**Prof. Kapil Kumar, Professor, IGNOU, Delhi** briefed about the present status of Higher Education and changes in curriculum and choice based system education.

He said what happened in JNU was a mere aberration in our nation’s life. He suggested that reforms in the present education system is a need of the hour in order to change the mind-set of the students.

**E. Vayunandan, Faculty of Public Administration, School of Social Sciences, Ex Member, Board of Management, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi** shared his views on the activities that are being taken up by the universities and the mis-placed motivation among the leaders of students’ unions. He urged that students should take responsibility and teachers should come forward and should be assertive and they should sensitize them to avoid such kind of thing that happened in JNU.

**Shri. KG Suresh, Sr. Consulting Editor** shared his personal experience of road rage accident in Delhi and his educational experience. He talked about freedom of speech and responsibility of a university towards the society. He urged that student politics should be removed from the colleges, one has to see whether the student politics is right centric or duty centric. He discussed the rights and fundamental duties of every citizens and laid stress on culture and values. He
finally ended his speech by talking about the ‘Make in India’ concept and said that a university should think for India.

Dr. Shashiranjan Yadav, Hon. Vice Chancellor, IITE briefed about university and courses offered at the IITE viz. Entrepreneurship, Yoga, cleanliness and Project Based Learning. He also shared views about what should be the idea of the country for developing the curriculum. He finally said that the country’s aim should be ‘Make in India’ and not ‘Break India’.

Concluding Remarks: Dr. Akshai Aggarwal thanked the participants and the speakers for joining for the seminar. He said that the system of governmental control of Universities, which the East India Company had built, has continued without much of a change. The only difference is that new central institutions like IITs and IIMs, which are given much larger government support, have greater autonomy than the other State Universities.

He welcomed the students and Faculty Members from GTU Innovation Clubs from all over the State. He thanked them for participating actively in the day-long discussions on the issues, raised by the JNU episode.

Vote of Thanks: Dr. Ajitsinh Rana, R.B. Sagar College of Education and member of DSTU project thanked all the participants and speakers for making it possible to attend the seminar that too on the auspicious festival of Shivratri. He said that experts from nine universities had attended this seminar and Faculty Members from nine branches had attended the seminar. He also raised the need of change in the present education system.

The program ended with the National Anthem.
GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Post-graduate Research Center for Technology Education, Public Policy & Universities of the 21st Century (GTU-CeTEPU-21)

Photo Gallery
Some of the Press coverage

Ahmedabad: Amid the raging controversy surrounding Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as its students were booked for sedition, Mukul Kanitkar, president of the education wing of RSS—Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal—said here on Tuesday that the varsity in Delhi has been a place for anti-national elements for the last 40 years. “JNU became the place for anti-national elements for the last 40 years. This must be stopped. There should be a debate on academic atmosphere. Respect of diversity is the speciality of India. In universities the research should be based on humanity and philosophy,” said Kanitkar.

Kanitkar was speaking at a seminar held at Gujarat Technological University (GTU) in association with Bhartiya Sikshan Mandal on the theme ‘The Idea of our Universities in the context of the Idea of India.’

Kanitkar has served as a pracharak in the Vivekananda Kendra in Kanyakumari and as the general secretary of the Vivekananda International Foundation. The JNU controversy erupted after three of its students, including the JNU Students’ Union president Kanhaiya Kumar were booked for sedition, for allegedly raising anti-India slogans.

Chief guest Dr Harish Padi, vice chancellor of SP University, said, “Our country is economically doing well as we have around 7% growth rate almost every year, but our social, health and education sector growth is not as per expectations. In this situation wealth will be generated, but all economic strata will not be fairly developed.”
‘JNU વિવાદ પાણ્ય વિદેશી ભાવોનો મેળવવી NGOનો કાબુ’

નવંબર કુદિયામાં નિયમન ધરા કેટલા દેશના સમાનતામાં નાના વાજ્યાનો રિપોર્ટ અપવા કેટલું છે?

સરકારો પહેલું તુના સુખિતી ક્રમાંતવા ગંગા કેળા થયા તેથી નાના ભાવે કોઈ સમાન નથી. સત્તામા કામગીરીપણે નાના વાજ્યાનો રિપોર્ટ મેળવી મેળવી અંગેના આગે તરીકે જતાં તે સુખીતી નથી. તેમાં વાતમાં દેશ વાજ્ય અનેમાં નાના વાજ્ય સુખીતીને અંગેના આગે તરીકે જતાં તે સુખીતી નથી. તેના પણાળે માં અંગેના આગે તરીકે જતાં તે સુખીતીને અંગેના આગે તરીકે જતાં તે સુખીતી નથી.
GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Post-graduate Research Center for Technology Education, Public Policy & Universities of the 21st Century (GTU-CETEPU-21)
Brochure for the seminar:

“THE IDEA OF OUR UNIVERSITIES”

in the context of

THE IDEA OF INDIA

Date: Monday, 7th March 2016 | 10.30 AM to 5 PM

Venue: GTU, Chandkheda Campus, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Since 27th April 2011, GTU-CETEPU-21 has been engaged in the study and research on ‘Designing the Structure of Technological Universities’ (DSTU). The research project of DSTU started with a study of the status of higher education in Gujarat and with a study of the best of the universities in the world. GTU-CeTEPU-21 has developed DSTU as an open platform, where experts and leaders of education are invited for discussions and for sharing experiences on different aspects of its learning systems. Till now, more than 150 Vice-Chancellors, Deans and other Leaders of education have participated in the deliberations of the research project.

In the Indian tradition, learning is through questioning. This one-day seminar is designed to answer the question:

Should the idea of our University be rooted in the idea of India?

PARTICIPATION:
Every GTU Innovation Club can nominate two participants. Preferably one of them may be a Faculty Member and the other may be a student. Participation is free. But every participant has to register online.

Please register online at http://goo.gl/forms/vPZUY9jFVQ before 4 PM on Friday, 4th March 2016. You will be informed about your selection on Saturday, 5th March 2016. The selection will be on first-come-first-serve basis.

If a participant wants to have a slot for speaking, he/ she may write at seeve@gtu.edu.in to the Advisor of the Seminar with a write-up of up to 4 pages. After a review, if found appropriate, the presentations may be published on the web-site. Hence every presentation should ensure that all the references are properly given. It should be having a self-certificate saying that the document is in the words of the author. Moreover an anti-plagiarism certificate from turnitin should be attached.
### PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timing Schedule</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00 hrs.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 – 10.30 hrs.</td>
<td>Inaugural Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30 – 11.30hrs.</td>
<td><strong>Technical Session 1:</strong> The idea of our Universities and the idea of India till the Pre-Kalidas era (till the end of 3rd century AD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 -11.45 hrs.</td>
<td>Tea Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45 – 1.00 hrs.</td>
<td><strong>Technical Session 2:</strong> The idea of our Universities and the idea of India till the end of Nalanda University (From the beginning of the 4th century AD to the end of 13th century)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 – 2.00 hrs.</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00 – 3.30 hrs.</td>
<td><strong>Technical Session 3:</strong> The idea of our Universities and the idea of India as of today (From the beginning of the 14th century AD to today)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30 - 3.45 hrs.</td>
<td>Tea Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.45 - 5.00 hrs.</td>
<td>Valedictory Session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BACKGROUND:** Gujarat Technological University (GTU) is a relatively new university, which opened its doors for students in 2008. While GTU was being built, it set up the Post-graduate Research Center for Technology Education, Public Policy and Universities of the 21st Century (GTU-CeTEPU-21), which is one of the 14 PG Research Centres, established by the university in 2011. It was on 27th April 2011 that Gujarat Technological University (GTU)
initiated the research project on ‘Designing the Structure of Technological Universities’ (DSTU).

India has a long tradition of having centers of higher learning. Thus when Alexander from Macedonia, Greece, invaded India in 327 BC, he found in Takshashila, a university which had 64 different fields of study like vedas, grammar, philosophy, ayurveda, surgery, politics, archery, warfare, astronomy, commerce, futurology, music, dance, the art of discovering hidden treasure, decrypting encrypted messages etc. The Chinese monk Fa-Hsien visited India between 399 –412 AD and he found a flourishing center of learning at Takshashila. Chanakya, the author of ArthaShastra, Panini, the author of Ashtadhyayi, Vishnu Sharma, the author of PanchaTantra, Charaka, the author of Samhita, Jivak, a famous surgeon, (More than 15,000 manuscripts, written about his surgical procedures are available.) were among the well-known scholars, who taught at Takshashila. However when Xuanzang (also known as Hiuen Tsang) came to Takshashila, during his travels from 630 AD to 643 AD, he found the city was in ruins, since it had been overrun by Huns. The archaeologist have not found regular lecture halls and residences at Takshashila, though information is available about the practices of financial support by the governments of those times to the teachers for learning of hundreds of students at such institutions. From the fifth century CE to 1200 CE, another great university of India attracted students from all over the known-world. It was Nalanda University, near today’s city of Patna. It had large libraries, residence halls and lecture halls. ‘Xuanzang visited Nalanda first in 637 and then again in 642, spending a total of around two years at the university. He returned to China with 657 Buddhist texts carried by 20 horses in 520 cases, and translated 74 of the texts himself. In the thirty years following his return, no fewer than eleven travellers from China and Korea are known to have visited famed Nalanda.’¹ Nalanda had been granted the revenue from 100 villages for its expenses. Thus while at Takshashila, the grants were to eminent teachers, at Nalanda, the support was provided to the institution. But in both the cases, the students were fully supported and they were not required to pay anything during their studies.

From 1296 to 1857, there were probably no large universities in India. But according to the surveys done by East India Company in the Bengal and the Madras presidencies, till about 1820s, in cities, there were many renowned teachers, who admitted students to their Colleges for post-school education. Each of these ‘College-like-institutions’ were given grant of the revenues of a couple of villages to meet the expenses. These ‘Colleges’ were residential and the education was free. After the survey, when the grant of revenues from villages to these ‘Colleges’ was stopped, these Colleges could not be sustained and closed down.

In 1857, East India Company established three Universities at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, on the basis of the model of the then London University. By 1946, there were 30 universities

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nalanda
in India. In 1946, two Indian members of the Viceroy’s Council expressed dissatisfaction at the quality of education being offered at the universities in India. The Council established the Sarkar Committee to suggest remedial measures. The Sarkar Committee’s Report suggested that universities, based upon the MIT model may be established in India. This report of 1946 led to setting up of the first IIT at Kharagpur in 1956. As of 31st December 2015, India has 740 universities consisting of 342 State Universities, 46 Central Universities, 125 Deemed Universities and 227 Private Universities.

When we look at the examples of the structure of higher education in the four paragraphs above, it will be seen that in each period, both the way education was offered and the way the society supported it financially- have changed. Our research shows that this change is intimately related to the way our society visualized itself and organized itself. Or in today’s parlance, the structure of our Universities has changed according to the change in the idea of India in the mind of the at least the ruling elites.

The one-day Seminar is designed to understand the idea of our universities in the context of the idea of India so that our society can take decisions based upon the clear relationship between the two.

Coordinator for the Seminar: Prof. Krutika H. Raval (Tel. (O): 079-23267541) and Ms. Hema P. Rajput (Tel. (O): 079-23267541).

For any questions, please contact at ap2_cbe@gtu.edu.in and ra_dstu@gtu.edu.in