

**SAMBHRAM SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT**  
**M S Palya, Bengaluru-560 097**

**NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY**

**November 11, 2016/ THE REPORT**

Sambhram School of Management commemorating the 128<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Dr. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the First Union Minister of Education, Government of India, observed **National Education Day** on November 11, 2016. Prof. Sankaran Manikutty, Adjunct Professor at IIMA and IIMB was the Chief Guest to speak on “**Broadening Your Perspective: Role of Humanities in Management Education**”. The Program started with the introduction of the Guest by Director, Dr. K.C. Mishra; Prof Manikutty then started his talk by raising the question which of the following abilities was the least important for a top manager?

1. Analytical abilities
2. Interpersonal skills
3. Single minded pursuit of goals
4. Telling a story

Students replied by telling that a story is least important. He called two students Ms. Sravani S of MBA First Semester and Ms. Deeksha S of First Semester M.Com to tell stories. The story how an Entrepreneur should be organized was told by Ms. Sravani S and Deeksha S narrated how she could overcome her stage fear. Then Prof. Manikutty said confidence to tell a story was important and appreciated both of them. Again there was question whether the students had one or two brains. All students replied that it was one; the speaker further asked to know how many of them were from Science and Engineering background and only a few of them gave affirmative answer. He only meant that the brain approach can be better understood with a scientific bent of mind.

He explained about the left versus right brain conundrum; left dealing with logical abilities and the right with holistic abilities and both work very differently. Left part of the brain helps in sequential analysis, more deterministic in solutions, has ability to challenge solutions based on logic where as right part of the brain involves in conceptual thinking. Bad news is that people are born inherently with stronger abilities in one or other of the two halves and good news is that the mix facilitates the great change and neural circuits get realigned.

The discussion led to find how logical people move in their way: they have compulsive gambling ability, pre-judged opinions and persist in one's own beliefs and so on. While talking of the importance of the right brain Prof. Manikutty highlighted: it provides integration between elements, difference between music and a set of notes; can recognize different points of view; can recognize absurdity without a specific reason; instead of looking for the “best” solution it looks for a good overall compromise and tries to make one see not which solution has to be acceptable but which will be acceptable. Then the question emerged as why was a right brain thinking important; the answer: it enables us to exercise judgments, to see overall patterns and thinking in terms of concepts.

## **Conceptual Thinking**

It involves abstract and imaginative thinking; putting together various inputs and connecting the dots, seeing a pattern behind them; looking for discrepancies and getting some ideas from them and willingness to look at things differently. And there is the need to strike balance between analytical and conceptual thinking. Situations have an inherent logic hence, the need for sound logical thinking is necessary but dealing with people need strong interpersonal skills; mostly right brain thinking and conceptual thinking need strong right brain orientation so that the need for a balance between these two models are the need of the hour.

## **A Holistic Perspective**

Reading and doing class room exercises in analytical thinking and problem solving is not sufficient; one way, not the only way, is to understand and experience humanities: art, literature, even music. They all help us to rewire our brain's neural circuits especially literature and among them in particular, classics. They tell us about life in its complexities, unreasonableness, even absurdities.

## **Managers versus Leaders**

Are they different? How? Look at the two; who are the managers and who are the leaders?

### **Managers vs. Leaders**

**Sir Thomas Roe and Capt. Hawkins**

**Robert Clive**

**Nehru**

**Patel**

**Sloan**

**Ford**

**J N Tata**

**JRD Tata**

**Kennedy**

**Mc Namara**

## **Importance of Literature and how does it help**

The speaker highlighted the importance of literature as it contains insights into life and presents them in a way no other medium does in sharing life's problems, dilemma, meanings itself and enable us to think in more abstract terms. Debating them enables us to see multiple perspectives; again there was a question whether reading literature could be enjoyable. Are not comics and pulp fiction more enjoyable? Enjoyment in literature really consists of taking in what they have to offer and interpreting them to gain our own understanding. Frankly, it is not for everybody; as good things in life are not for everybody. He suggested students to read and enjoy literature in addition to the subjects that have to be read in MBA Program as it gives a great deal of enjoyment at little cost.

## **Indian Classics**

- Mudra Rakshasa
- The Ramayana
- The Mahabharata [ all deal with idealism, pragmatism and concept of duty]

Today, internet gives a lot of material: critiques, reviews, commentaries, giving different perspectives and each time one may arrive at new interpretations. He talked about the Mahabharata and said how Dharmaraja Yudhistira could go to heaven and on questioning he was said that each and every person's life is determined by his / her sins. Finally, the speaker exhorted the students to read more and more to learn not only for acquiring degrees but also to know the finest meaning of life. At the end of the program the Director felicitated the Guest with memento and vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J.B. Janardana, Associate Professor.

## **Prof Manikutty Interacting with Faculty Members**

Prof. Manikutt had dialogue with all faculty members. Rather than speaking on any agenda he consented to reply to individual query/comment/issue or any of this kind. At the outset Mr. Janardana asked the strategies so as how to handle students. The resource person said that students to be made to feel at home, need to be mentored and suggested to have induction program may be for a few of them with support from senior students also. Preparatory courses may be taken up for a few before they get into the program to help them get ready to enter into their MBA Program with all sorts of preparations. This could be a structured learning as a part of induction for a few of the students.

Ms. Neena P C asked to know about the success strategy of family businesses. His reply was to have general guidelines in vogue and to have all activities going as per the constitutional framework. All concerned should interact as true business persons and nothing otherwise specific could be there.

Mr. Abraham Varughese and Dr Surabhi Jha raised the issue of present happenings at Tata Sons. The outcome was Mr. Ratan Tata was not really out though he had already quit as Chairman and felt still Tata legacy is important. There is a lot of Corporate Governance issues involved and very little genuinely comes out so now it would be difficult to prepare case study on this topic. Abraham also observed that Corporate Governance is best practiced in family businesses than elsewhere.

Dr Zabiulla was very clear about our Management School marching ahead which few others could not visualize. He raised the issue of B-School Ranking with a clear focus on specific parameters. This is definitely a concern for the Director and serious thought has to be given by him. The Director agreed to give clear focus on certain specifics in the next steps ahead of us on the issues projected in this report.