

Ph D degree. They are thus desperate enough to finish their Ph D as soon as possible and by any means achieve an impressive API score.

1. Chaudhuri, B., *Curr. Sci.*, 2015, **109**(1), 11–12.

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#### *Response:*

Dutta and Dutta have agreed with some of my views, but objects to my comparison of contemporary teachers with those who had taught earlier. In this context, the following points are worth noting. Do

fundamentals change with changing times? Have we discarded Newton because he is old and out-dated? No superstructure can be built on weak infrastructure. If the foundations are weak, no matter how much innovation is talked about, it will lead to caricature or outright failure. Yes, in the modern times, chalk and talk method of teaching has given way to smart classrooms, where wall or roof-mounted projectors are used to display books and journals. To what extent has this improved true transfer of knowledge and assimilation of information? Yes, information is available today at our fingertips, but to what extent is that information been digested and used to create new information? I stick to my point that earlier teachers used to teach fundamentals and the rest of information pick-up was left to the students. Today perhaps, information is being provided, but with weak fundamentals – that information is floating like ice on water. Conditions are not conducive for the ice to melt and mix with water that is basically a metaphor of knowledge here. With such a scenario, teaching is losing its flavour. Earlier, students used to wait the whole day for a teacher to come and

take a class. Today, students know that such and such books will be displayed in the class and therefore, there is no point in attending classes. Of course, the scenario varies from state to state, or from college to college. However, one must agree that a teacher in the true sense of the term – a person who can teach, educate, create a culture of scholarship in the minds of the students, convert a so-called unstirred mind to an inquisitive and well-stirred mind, infuse hope and confidence – is not being seen much these days. A teacher is an idea. If information was all that important, a library full of books and journals could act as a replacement for the teachers. That is not to be. We need teachers who can inspire. Information is time-bound; inspiration cuts the barrier of time and creates generations. I hope Dutta and Dutta will agree with me.

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