

NSU, Academy document and science education: Reflections and an operation model

India, as any other developing country, is passing through a transformation in all spheres of activity. Education, research and the society have much to suffer or get benefited by it. As NRIs, visiting regularly India and maintaining contacts with Indian Universities, we are aware that *suggestions and proposals need to be considered on their feasibility*. Otherwise, we continue debating eternally.

Perhaps our tone of discussion should change and a few specific questions addressed.

1) How competitive do we prepare our youth to face problems and seek solutions?

2) What are the expectations of the industry we are attending to?

3) How good is the output of our research to the society?

4) How much of time do we spend to prepare ourselves to update our own knowledge to pass it on with confidence to the students?

5) How often had we time for self-evaluation and self-criticism?

6) How well can we stimulate youth towards confidence in what they learn and in what they will face in the profession?

7) How much of time do we spend to guide and inspire a student to fetch exciting ideas, and encourage his ideas, without copying them and discouraging them?

8) How can we convince ourselves that we are part of a social upbuilding and that our contribution in our activity is important for the country?

9) How do we solve these problems?

There is no harm in having the input from people and Academies. Only it is necessary to see if they could be feasible *within the existing structure and*

without prejudicing the ongoing activities in the nation. Expecting everything from the Government is unrealistic. Thus we also like to give some solutions to one of the ideas, with the hope that our country could forge ahead with its traditional high capacities of talents and creativity.

NSU is feasible

1) Indian science needs reshuffling to activate it further and promote environment for the generation of intelligent ideas and discoveries.

2) This is possible with the feeding in of some new brains and new ideas of action, proposed by an NRI. The spirit behind the idea is to stimulate a supposedly static system in operation and control over Indian science.

3) NRIs are spread all over the world. They love India as others in India do. They also want to contribute to Indian efforts to attain better goals in development. As we see, this is the spirit behind this NSU proposal.

4) Any increase in Universities or Institutes should not interfere in the priorities of the government towards the needs of the large mass of citizens. The fact that all the product of these new Centres of Excellence would revert its genius towards the benefit of the nation, is not doubted, though it is a question of time.

5) It is absolutely feasible to create a group of NSUs spread over India within a short period through the direct involvement of a NRI Foundation.

6) The NRI Foundation will be established in the USA. It will be fed and controlled by the NRIs. Its main activity is to promote the installation, operation and maintenance of the NSUs, one after another in India. Thus NSUs will be

Foundation Universities, nonprofit organizations, but operate as Private Institutions. The surplus in the annual budgets will be reverted to NRI Foundation for its activities.

Modus operandi

We are sure that by making proposals within the parameters of their feasibility, all our discussions will be very constructive. Thus we believe that NSUs are absolutely possible and would be very successful. When they adopt a NGO structure, access to the NSUs will be through merit alone.

It is easy to make proposals and offer suggestions. When convinced, it is not difficult to take a lead in trying to make them a reality. (Sometimes theory and experiment are both correct but do not agree with each other; sometimes a wrong theory agrees with experiment. One must therefore be careful not to jump to conclusions¹.) This depends on the desire to succeed, and with a personal commitment. The authors on proposing this NRIF operational system are convinced of its success and thus announce their decision to be among the very first to become Supporting Members of the Foundations.

1. Aharoni, A., *Physics Today*, June 1995, 48, 33.

A. BHASKARA RAO*
VJAYENDRA K. GARG†

*Department of Mineral Resources,
†Department of Physics,
University of Brasilia
70910-900 Brasilia, Brazil