

## **Editorial**

### **Research - for God's sake!**

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This is a familiar battle cry in academia. It's a world-wide phenomena and some says a mad crave. It comes, usually as a top down decree from University Vice Chancellors and seeps through to faculty Deans and eventually ends on the cluttered table of professors and academics on the ground. It's an academic battle cry spurred by intense desire to participate in international pursuit for research glory, Nobel Prize and improved university rankings.

'Instigated' by reputable names in public media such as The Times Higher Education Supplement and several other agencies, such pursuits have pushed some governments of the day to stare at their institutes of higher education and began flicking their powerful fingers. "Common guys, we publicly fund you. Get on with your research- for God's Sake!!" Slowly and surely the results are delivered, much like the pangs of hard labour. It becomes a proud show case for governments when universities under their respective commands gain international recognition as the 'top 100 or 2 "in the chart of the ivy league. World rankings bring other exploits. It attracts more and in most cases, better international students thus contributing to the 'hub chase', enhancing the country's standing as a hub for education. High rankings also bring in good money, investment on a variety of academic ventures such as research and product development, yet again spinning the country's economic pursuit into a possible state of heightened dizziness.

#### **Hence the 'battle cry'.**

It is similar to the battle cry in history's great wars, neatly packaged as battles for academic strengths,

principles, glory and honour.

Competing with the world best in research "Olympics" require more than a battle cry and powerful fingers. The United States of America, China, Europe and Korea and several of the more advanced countries in this league spend substantial sums of money, time and resources to be in the circle of the best. Backed by years of nurturing human talents (imported, if necessary) these countries developed the right fundamentals for strong research culture. With research spending exceeding USD 100 billion annually, the US, as an example, managed to ensure dominance in research world rankings comfortably. Countries in Asia, burdened by the need to address health access and inequalities, malnutrition and snailpace advances to improve the Milleaneum Development Goals in maternal and Child parameters naturally struggles to even smell the heaven of research feat even with the availability of the most talented brains. The Gross Expenditure on R&D to GDP ratio of most Asian countries is usually below<sup>1</sup>. A except of cThat fundamentals also involved major shift in attitude, some, predates an entry of a student in University. Fundamentals of love of science and knowledge enquiry have been developed even during primary school days when attitude formation starts. Rote learning in early education will not help nurture those budding talents into highly inquisitive individuals with strong sense of research enquiry. Period.

#### **Refrence**

Pressure on Universities to achieve international ranking

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