

Vice Chancellor's Message



A new Research project in the Faculty of Business Studies at GTU:

In 2010, GTU neither had any professors or research students nor did it have any space, other than two large rooms and one smaller room for examination and accounts sections. But after interacting with the highest authorities in the State, immediately after joining the University, I learnt that GTU had been visualized to become one of the great universities of the world. So GTU set up two Boards – the Board for Environmental and Green technologies and the Board for Mobile Computing and Wireless Technologies. The Boards were designed to bring together knowledgeable persons from within GTU and outside together for promoting academic activities. This was the first step towards creating an environment of a good university. Progressively GTU set up Post-graduate Research Centers in various fields of interest to GTU. In January 2013, a new administrative building became available and by May 2013, GTU was able to attract a few young professors and the first issue of Anantyaam – a newsletter of research at GTU– was published.

We are in the midst of an interesting general election in India. Naturally the business students are involved in the process in various ways. The April 16 story of InsideIIM¹ uses the Wikipedia data on trends of opinion polls to try to predict the nature of the result. On 22nd April, Hindustan Times has reported that IIM and IIT students have opted for internships at political parties rather than going for internships at MNCs². Earlier at the annual three-day business summit held at IIM Ahmedabad from November 29, 2013 to December 1, 2013, 'The Next Chanakya'³, relating to the manifestos of political parties was able to draw a large number of students.

However serious studies of the elections in different countries have been conducted by only the American Universities. Thus the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania has been running a major panel survey on social attitudes in India with 68,500 respondents across 24 states⁴.

In two articles in Business Standard, Deepak Lal, the James S. Coleman Professor of International Development Studies at University of California, Los Angeles quotes Yogendra Yadav, a leader of AAP, as saying that 'in Western democracies, the representational aspect is declining, while the constitutional aspect endures.' Then he develops his thesis that the 'Indian democracy is veering towards the Western model'⁵.

In India Trilochan Sastry, professor at Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Bangalore runs an NGO called the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). It has done commendable work in working with the Election Commission and the courts to provide information about the candidates in the public domain.

During the last few months, besides the work of the NGO, the only other theoretical work that I have come across, in the popular press, is that of Amrita Shah of Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. As far as I have been able to decipher, her article⁶ tries to explain the phenomenon of Narendra Modi's rise through the negative media coverage since 2002. However I feel that her hypothesis is nothing more than a conjecture and it requires a rigorous study of the kind, made by Gary Stanley Becker, who attempted to explain human behaviour by using sociological concepts.

GTU's Faculty of Business Studies has started a research project on studying the elections of 2014. It is working with business students and faculty members of DHBW, Germany. It is also in discussions with a University in South Africa and with a professor in another University in Slovenia. The idea is that jointly with many universities, GTU may start the studies of the democratic process, as it evolves in different countries to see whether a common democratic structure encompassing the whole of the humanity on the mother earth can be successfully built.

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