Every minute of being part of the Indian higher education over the past 40 years has been exciting; more so, as I had been fortunate to be in the IT arena, that too in an IIT (IITK), IIM (IIMB) and IIIT (IIITB)!

India is one country where computing has remained the No 1 choice for the brightest high school graduates, year after year, for so many years!

Teachers are respected far more in India. India continues to be a "*Saraswati* country", where teachers are respected, even when they are not necessarily rich! In many countries, teachers are respected because they also earn a fat salary.

The country has seen unprecedented growth in higher education in the past four decades. Being part of the Indian higher education, many of us could impact a much larger population of students in our life time, than the generation of teachers who taught us! I am lucky to be involved with the planning of at least six IIIT's that started functioning in the past two decades and dozens of premier Universities.

India as a country is getting global recognition in IT in the past four decades. Being part of elite Institutions, many of us could interact with global leaders in technology, education and government from so many countries, right in our home country!

Indians are getting positively impacted by IT and I have been involved with many of *marquee* IT projects that positively impact hundreds of millions of Indians – Railway Reservation system of the 70's, Income Tax computerization of the 80's, E-Governance projects of the 90's, core banking and online trading of the past decade and payment systems of the current decade!

Governments in India take teachers in Universities seriously! I am lucky to be part of many key committees of the Governments at the State - Chief Ministers' Vision group, for example, of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand – and Centre, NII 2.0 (Bharat Net), for example.

Last, but not the least, though I get old year after year, I get to interact with youngsters of age 18+, every year! Surrounded by youngsters keeps you young and energetic!