

1) There is an allegation that India generates only human resources in IT sector for other countries. Is there any possibility for India to stand alone in the global IT industry?

In a globalised world with Internet playing an important role, IT professionals are a global resource and as such we should be proud that India is producing the largest number of IT professionals. India would soon have a unique position with Indian professionals creating products and platforms that are used globally. Already,

- **Finacle** (core banking product from Infosys) powers more than 460 million bank accounts (16% of the global market share)
- **Magzter** (from Chennai-based Apps company) is a widely used platform on which several magazines have built their online versions. In the years to come, we will see more such success stories.

2) What is the future and importance of IT research in India?

To grow and sustain in any technology-dominated area, research is absolutely important. In the past decade IIT's and IIIT's have stepped up research; more funding is available and many young researchers are returning to India. Spurred by low global rankings, even Government (that controls R&D establishments and their funding) is realizing the importance of research. Global corporations are also increasing their activities in India.

3) Where does India stand in the global arena of IT research?

We are only starting to matter in this area; luckily, all three key critical success factors are falling in place

- Young researchers are joining Indian Institutions in large enough numbers,
- Research funding is increasing, and,
- Indian R&D is getting global recognition.

4) How do you tackle the stress issue in IT sector? How do you train students to handle this?

This is an over-played idea. Over the decades, productivity of office workers in India had been very low (thanks to Government jobs with lifelong jobs and routine promotions); much of IT being white-collar, the higher productivity and constant evaluation along with adherence to deadlines and budgets are often mistaken as "stress". One should recall Mahatma Gandhi "more people have problems with under-work than over-work". IIIT-B students generally come back and tell me that the rigor of IIITB prepares them well, and the so-called "stress" in IT industry is "no stress"!

5) Can IT and research be developed as a solution to India's complex problems?

Absolutely. Look at the impact of

- Railway Reservation system,
- Bhoomi - Land Record system,
- Bangalore One and Electronic Delivery of Services,
- Passport delivery system,
- MCA21 - Online quarterly filing of returns by 100,000+ corporations,
- Online filing of Income Tax and Tax deduction at source,
- Online banking,
- E-Library, and,
- E-Learning

They all have made a huge difference to "Aam Admi". All these are possible, thanks to creative applications of IT that benefited from R&D

6) Recently, a Union minister made a statement that almost all of India's reputed institutes have brilliant students but not a brilliant pedagogy system. Do you agree with this?

Unfortunately, it was due to Government funding Universities at sub-critical levels, not providing full freedom to academic Institutions and administering R&D thru archaic rules that has led to poor ranking that India's Institutions have today. Many countries including China pump billions of dollars into Universities, unlike India that has put in much less into Universities. Chinese academics and academic Institutes enjoy freedom comparable to what their counterparts in USA enjoy. Luckily, things are improving and hopefully both the Government and Universities together will change the position dramatically in the next decade.

7) Most of the technological and management institute end up looking like a training unit of a corporate. How can this attitude be changed?

There is too much emphasis on "relevance" than "rigor". Corporations that employ graduates must look for rigorous and deep education that can enable the graduates whom they employ, to contribute significantly over many years; often, thanks to misplaced HR Policies, corporations tend to be swayed by immediate "employability". That explains the current situation.