



INTERVIEW

Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay

Vice Chancellor
Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata

had been to Roche institute of Molecular Biology in New Jersey, USA as a visiting Post-doctoral Fellow, As visiting Project Scientist to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland Ohio, USA, To Stowers Research Institute, Kansas City, USA, To the University of Texas, USA, To Nihon University and Hosei University both located in Japan.

He is also the recipient of numerous awards, accolades and distinctions which includes The Young Scientist award in 1989, Member of Guha Research Conference in 1992, Professor Umakant Sinha Memorial Award in 1992, Fellow of the National Academy of Science in 1998, He received the prestigious UNESCO-IUMS-MIRCENS-SGM fellowship to carry out research under the department of Bio-chemistry at the University of Texas. He was the Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences in 2004, Fellow of West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology in 2006 to name a few. Dr. Chattopadhyay has life time memberships in various Organisations and Scientific Associations like Indian Science Congress Association, Member of the Asiatic Society, Member of Biotechnology Society, Member of Virological Society and so on.

Above all these, Prof. Chattopadhyay is a wonderful teacher. He has a teaching experience of more than 35 years during which a lot many students have completed their PhD's successfully under his able guidance and has brought fame and glory to themselves as well as to the country. 25 students obtained their PhD under his direct supervision and 10 more students worked under his joint supervision during their PhD programme. He has around 130 research papers and 6 book chapters to his credit till date.

Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay is a scientist and academic par excellence. He has an established track record of highly innovative ideas and in-depth research activities. He is an excellent communicator with an impressive logical approach of delivery and communicating ability. His gifted communication skills make him an excellent class room teacher. His amiable personality and willingness to share group responsibilities allow him to be a precious member of any administration team.

Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay is currently the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata from January 2020 onwards and was the Founder Vice Chancellor of Amity University Kolkata from 2015-2019. Prof. Chattopadhyay was the Dean, Faculty of Science at the University from 2003 to 2007. He was the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University on 2008 till 2015. He was also the Director at the Centre for Research in Nano Science and Nano Technology at the University from 2007 till 2015.

Prof. Chattopadhyay started his career as a Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at Jogamaya Devi College Calcutta, from 1981 till 1983 after which he joined as a Lecturer in the Department of Bio-Chemistry, University of Calcutta in 1983. In 1997 he became the Guha Professor at Dr. B.C. Guha Centre for Genetic Engineering Biotechnology under the department of Bio-chemistry, University of Calcutta.

He graduated as a Bachelor in Science from the Presidency College, Kolkata in 1973 with a major in Chemistry. Prof. Chattopadhyay did his Masters in Science in Bio-Chemistry in 1975 and completed his PhD in 1984 from Bose Institute Calcutta, Department of Bio-Chemistry at Bose Institute, Calcutta.

Prof. Chattopadhyay has a research experience of more than 33 years. During his research career he had visited numerous places in India and abroad. Dr. Chattopadhyay

Q. Having so many years of experience in the field of education and academics, how do you see the evolution of India's higher education system?

Answer: The higher education system in India is the 3rd largest in the world and it is constantly evolving to match the standards of the global job market. The higher education will be more of a research driven than process driven in the coming years. The landscape will see more inclusive structure of the higher education.

Q. Can you tell us the major reforms introduced to ensure efficient educational governance after you assumed the post of VC of this University?

Answer: Reforms in Educational Governance at Sister Nivedita University (SNU) include the following:

1. Financial strategies which includes making of departmental budgets which would help in a better financial autonomy for them and will also help in managing the resources in an effective way.
2. Departmental meetings are being held every week to ensure smooth functioning of the departments and helping them realize the overall Vision of SNU.
3. More performance linked strategies have been introduced that is helping the employees to have better appraisal and to have a boost in their work productivity factors.
4. Formation of Academic calendars and an MIS structure that is reflecting the achievements of the departments in an efficient manner.

Q. Do you think the course curriculum of graduation and post graduation degrees at present are adequate in line with other renowned National and International Educational Institutions, else according to you what improvements required in this arena?

Answer: I believe the curriculum and pedagogy of the UG and PG courses are in line with the national and international educational institutions. We have considerable tie ups with at both national and international level to ensure that we have the best internships and trainings in the form of internships, seminars, workshops and conferences. We ensure that a student not only learns the theoretical aspect but also gains a practical insight of the domain.

Q. It is the era of globalization. Is your esteemed University planning any collaboration with the international universities?

Answer: As mentioned before, already have tie ups in the form of joint ventures and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU's) with various research organizations and Universities at both national & international level. We also have tie ups with various Universities related to student exchange programmes and we are planning to increase such tie ups so that more

number of students get an opportunity to work with the best Universities of the world.

Q. Many of the graduates coming out of the universities are still unemployable. What initiatives your university has taken in this direction to improve the demographic dividend?

Answer: The primary reason of unemployment is the ability to connect the theoretical concepts with its practical aspect. This can be solved through on the job trainings, internships and a greater number of practical assignments. Our Training and Development team interacts with each department to ensure the students are well trained through numerous outdoor assignments in the form of seminars, workshops and internships. We also get the corporate teams come down before placement to catch the vibes of the students so that the students get a feel of corporate requirements.

Q. What, according to you, are the big ideas in the New Education Policy 2019, which will radically alter the education system in India?

Answer: The New Education Policy 2019 is instrumental in shaping the education landscape of India. The new initiatives like involving AI to help migrate Education 3.0 to 4.0 and aligning it to Industry 4.0, stress on vocational education, National Research Foundation, Adult Education and the likes will help the education to be more inclusive and at the same time participative in nature.

Q. How important is the digital ecosystem in a learning environment?

Answer: I feel digital ecosystem is a great advantage in making the education inclusive. As the economy becomes more competitive we have to become more flexible. We need to understand that classes cannot be fixed to routine class hours. We need to make our class hours flexible and at the same time more dynamic and interactive to get the full benefit of the education system. We have various learning tools which makes it effective for the students to maximize their learning experience.

Q. The Government of India is working on ensuring higher quality education to all thereby making India a 'Global Knowledge Super Power'. What are your suggestions to integrate quality at all levels of education?

Answer: I believe the Government is doing an excellent job in ensuring higher education to all. This step alone can make India prosper and we can truly become a knowledge superpower. Initiatives like National Academic Depository (NAD), Massive Online Line Open Courses (MOOCs), will go a long way to realize this objective, however with Internet of Things (IoT) getting more popular, we should try to integrate the Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the system across the learning platforms, which will make the education more

inclusive and would maximize the joy of learning.

Q. The UGC has recently issued new set of guidelines for the pending examinations and other academic activities along with the academic calendar for next academic session and admissions as the universities and colleges across India in view of outbreak of COVID - 19. What more would you like to add to make it effective for the students?

Answer: COVID-19 has made us realize that education cannot be limited by geographical boundaries. Many of us who did not believe that online education is wonderful tool for teaching students have made them understand the benefit of this medium and the effectiveness of this mode of education. We are now in a time where online and offline mode of education is converging at an incredible rate. I would ask the students to use this medium to have the maximum advantage as this is the starting point of Education 4.0- the fourth revolution in education. It is time for people to become more tech savvy and make it a medium to impart and gain knowledge.

Q. How can young aspirants prepare themselves to succeed in today's fast-changing job market?

Answer: Today's fast changing environment want job seekers to be more flexible and resilient. Research says that in the coming years more than half of the jobs would be created on new job profiles which don't even exist today. The job dimensions are going to change in the coming years. The economy would bring in new technologies and the rate of obsolesce would increase. Hence my suggestion is be conceptually strong in the subject of your choice and do not choose a job on the basis of its lucrative offer but on the basis of the aptitude in you.

Q. We'll be grateful if you share some of your initiatives that have flourished well and have given good results, you would suggest others to implement too.

Answer: I believe that in order to have an effective administration, we need to make administration participative. It should be inclusive at all levels. Subordinates should be aligned with the Mission and Vision of the Organization. I think we all need to be mentors instead of bosses so that we can teach the next generation the art of surviving the future. It is not by penalizing any person, we can maximize their work productivity but making them learn from the mistakes, so that the next time when they do any job, they can understand where they went wrong and fix it.

Q. What are the various ways your institution can integrate with our Institute for the research and development projects, Publications and Academic Interventions?

Answer: As our University is a research driven University we provide an excellent method of teaching by

our expert faculty members and the improved pedagogy. Hence I would suggest if we can have a lot many Faculty and Student Exchange Programmes we can both be mutually benefited.

Q. Parting words of advice for our CMA (Cost & Management Accountant) students.

Answer: CMA has done and is doing an excellent job since its inception and I hope they will continue to serve the nation in the years to come. The students should be more conversant with ICT and should have a greater emphasis on the digital platform. If the CMA can integrate various online learning platforms it would be easier for students to maximize their class productivity. **MA**