Subhas Yadav from UoH opines on the state of the Spanish language in the Indian education system

He has taught Spanish at Sreenidhi International School, Indus International School and Sancta Maria International School in Hyderabad

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Subhas Yadav has a MA in Spanish from JNU

Spanish teaching in India is relatively a new phenomenon. When we compare it to the most widely taught language here, French, it is still behind in the game, opines **Subhas Yadav**, currently a PhD scholar at the University of Hyderabad and a lover and teacher of this language. His love for the Spanish language began when he came across the translated version of the popular book La Familia de Pascual Duarte and most recently, it took him to Spain as he bagged the Erasmus Mundus scholarship (September 2017 - July 2018) at the University of Extremadura, Spain. "Today, due to many factors including globalisation, a migrating urban population, MNCs expansion and internationalisation of education, Spanish has established itself as the most popular second language at the International Baccalaureate and Cambridge curricula schools of India," says Yadav, who has a Master's from Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Here he is: Yadav is also the founder
of Spanish learning portal, spanishbolo.com

Yadav reminds us of what happened with the German language at Kendriya Vidyalayas. The programme German in 1000 Schools was launched in 2011 and in a short span of time, reached more than 50,000 learners at KVs. "It was scrapped by the then HRD Minister Smriti Irani, who saw it as a threat to Sanskrit. After this regressive step, the situation was further aggravated by CBSE's proposal to the HRD ministry to enforce three language formula at the schools, offering Hindi, English and the third Indian language. The decision has not been made yet, but which student would choose a fourth language if this is made compulsory in CBSE schools?" Yadav implores us to look at our neighbour China who, "recently began offering Spanish, German and French in their government schools, apart from Russian, Japanese and English. This fiercely monolingual country knows that in the era of globalisation, the developing nations need the Western world more than they need us. Spanish language in Indian schools does not seem to have a smooth ride except in the international schools. However, we hope that this eclipse clears soon," he concludes.

When in Spain: Subhas Yadav when he was in Spain
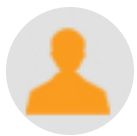
Spanish language teaching in India, as per Yadav

- Second language is one of the major components in the higher secondary classes for International Board. Since most of the students aim to attend International universities, it gives an edge, having studied a foreign language.

- Elite CBSE, ICSE schools offer Spanish. However, it is more for getting into the game. The serious didactics is missing there. However, thanks to enough resources, they can hire and run departments of foreign languages

- The third category of schools which cater to the maximum number of students face challenges in offering foreign languages. These schools have limited budget allocation for foreign languages. They do not get qualified teachers as they don't pay enough and they are at the receiving end of any bureaucratic or administrative dictates.

Artificial intelligence

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The ethicality of Artificial Intelligence is the test of the law: Former CJI Dipak Misra

India currently does not have specific regulations that govern Artificial Intelligence. However, the country will be following the lead of countries such as Canada, Singapore, France, China and the UK

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Bengaluru's premier Law College, IFIM Law School, hosted the first International Conference on Law and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence at the campus today. Former Chief Justice of India Hon'ble Dipak Misra and Justice Dominique Hascher, Judge at the Supreme Court of France, were the chief guests for the occasion.

In his welcome address, Dr Avinash Dadhich, Principal and Associate Dean at IFIM Law School, expressed the importance of the academia to guide the future of legal education in India. "The Industrial Revolution 4.0 promises a brighter future. The new age technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning need to be comprehended well for its easy adoption across industries. The legal fraternity here will play a key role here to develop an understanding of its use by the judiciary. Legal practice is never limited to any single sector. Hence, young lawyers, today need to be well-versed with what the Industrial Revolution 4.0 offers."

The event also had eminent personalities from among the legal fraternity and technology sector who address the challenges pertaining to the regulations of technology, issues of privacy and decision-making processes.

Justice Dipak Misra is known for some of the most prominent among landmark verdicts during his career. These include the midnight hearings in the 1993 Mumbai bomb blast case, Section 377, Aadhar being made conditional and allowing women between the age of 10 years and 50 years to Sabarimala for women. In his inaugural speech, Justice Misra said, "The future of any new-age technology lies in the regulations that govern them. Artificial Intelligence promises a high growth

govern them. Artificial Intelligence promises a high growth potential in a number of sectors. However, it needs a strong legal framework around it to explore maximum benefits. AI today is growing multi-fold and we still do not know all the advantages or pitfalls associated with it which are yet to be completely discovered. This is why it is of utmost importance to have a two-layered protection model; one, technological regulators; and two, laws to control AI actions as well as for accountability of errors. India has the right talent and technological resources. With a powerful legal directive, the country can set many milestones with a strong command over Artificial Intelligence.*"*

India currently does not have specific regulations that govern Artificial Intelligence. However, the country will be following the lead of countries such as Canada, Singapore, France, China and the UK, to name a few, to formulate and eventually implement policies and regulations that control the use of AI.

Interim Finance Minister Piyush Goyal in his Budget 2019 announced earlier this month that the Government of India was considering a National Centre for Artificial Intelligence, and will also be unveiling a national AI portal soon.

Justice Dominique Hascher, Judge at the Supreme Court of France, addressed the global scene on the regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI). "*E*ach nation today aims to become a global leader in Artificial Intelligence. Hence, countries like the USA, the UK, China, and Germany are increasing investments to leverage this technology. However, private technology companies are acing the field. India's unique challenges and aspirations, combined with the advancements in AI, and a desire to assume leadership in this nascent technology means India's approach towards AI strategy has to be balanced for both local needs and the greater good. A strong regulatory

system around this can ensure long-term benefits and growth," said Justice Dominique in his keynote speech.

Other speakers at the event included Prof. Joel Moneger, Dauphine University, Paris, Prof. P. Ishwara Bhatt, Vice-Chancellor of KSLU, Prof. Nandimath, Registrar, NLSIU, Bengaluru and Prof. Jacques Larrieu, University of Toulouse, France. IFIM Law School also published a survey report on views of the legal fraternity with regard to the integration of AI with law in India.

TAGS   Artificial intelligence   higher education

Bengaluru-based AIMS Institute will soon establish a 50 acre campus at Chikkaballapur

Roja Reddy, Director of Admissions, AIMS Institute in Bengaluru speaks about how they have been working to make students work-ready and the long way they have come to become one of the top institutes

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Institutions from 2 countries participated in the Hospitality Week 2019 conducted at the AIMS institute

Established in 1994, AIMS initially introduced Bachelors in Hotel Management (BHM) and Master's in Travel and Tourism Management (MTTM). From then till date, they have expanded to over 25 programmes for students. In order to make their students' industry-ready, they have been conducting a number of national and international events on campus in association with institutions like Alma in Italy, Hotelschool The Hague in the Netherlands, Etoile Academy in Italy, VATEL France, ICHM in Australia and so on. They will soon be starting another campus in Chikkaballapur which will be spread across 50 acres and will include a state-of-the-art centre to encourage more student entrepreneurs. Roja Reddy, who is a Director for Admissions in AIMS, is also an architect. She says that she takes a keen interest in designing the infrastructure for their new campus. Excerpts from the interview:

Recently, AIMS organised the fifth edition of Hospitality Week in Bengaluru. How was the response from students and industry experts? What was the focus of this event?

We have seen a phenomenal response, especially from the industry experts and the students who participated from

different institutions across the globe. Every year, the participation from colleges outside the country in this event has been gradually increasing. For the fifth edition, around 25 institutions from different countries took part in the Hospitality Week. Our focus is to ensure that students get tremendous exposure in terms of interaction with industry experts including celebrity chefs, food critics and bloggers during this event. Hence, there were not only interactions between chefs and students, but a demonstration of how the hospitality industry works. This kind of exposure for students is a very rare sight in educational institutions.

What were the challenges that the team had to face while the institution was being set up?

We established this institution in 1994. Dr Kerron G Reddy, who is the CEO, is the brains behind starting AIMS. She has really worked hard to make it one of the top institutions in India. Initially, when we started it, we had only 60 students studying with us. Now, we have over 2,000 students. Back then, we only had a Hospitality programme for students. But as we went on expanding, we opened our doors to various courses and educational programmes. When we look back at those days of struggle, we feel happy and proud to have come a long way. The kind of hands-on experience that we are providing to students in all the courses, the certification and the value addition programme, collaborations with the foreign universities and so on have given world-class exposure to the students. This helped us gain top rank as an institution in India, which we have retained for decades.

Young leader: Roja Reddy is the Director of Admissions at AIMS Institute in Bengaluru. She has been with the institution since 2008

Education keeps evolving every year as new concepts are introduced. During your tenure as a director, what are the changes that you have noticed in the education system?

I joined this institution as a Director in 2008. From then till date, there have been many changes. Earlier, parents and students limited themselves to textbook learning. They were fine with what Bangalore University prescribed and our institution delivered the same. Textbook learning seemed to be more than enough for the students. But the trend has changed over a period of time. Both the parents and students expect industry inputs to be included when we teach them. Before anyone asked for it, we met with these needs of the students. Our process includes researching on the latest concepts in the education system and it has been happening from many years at AIMS.

Apart from this, as our education system improved in India, many students across the globe come here to study now. AIMS is one among those few institutions that have a Curriculum Development and Review Committee which works to bring in practical as well as theoretical exposure. For instance, if a faculty member has 40 hours of teaching, a majority of the time is spent on teaching our students practically and that's how our curriculum is designed. It varies as per the subject and the requirements of the students. We believe in the theory of Bloom's Taxonomy where students also have to apply their knowledge for solving problems and be creative with their skills

Many options: AIMS institute provides over 25 different education programmes and courses

Where does AIMS stand when it comes to social activities other than imparting education?

We have signed an MOU with Muhammad Yunus, who is a Nobel Peace Prize awardee, to support his initiative Grameen Bank. Our college is the official centre in South India wherein we promote social entrepreneurship. Taking his idea of Grameen Bank forward, we provide funding and give more importance to social enterprises which are run especially for the poor and needy. Apart from our institution, two other institutions in North India have been supporting this initiative. In this area, we support students who want to turn their idea into a business.

What are the future plans of the institution?

We are coming up with a new campus in Chikkaballapur which is on the outskirts of Bengaluru. It is a 50-acre campus where

we will build state-of-the-art infrastructure. We want to make learning and education more innovative and progressive for students. Hence, we are researching to find out how world-class universities are making it possible for their students.

Students should always be one step ahead when it comes to acquiring skills: KR Venugopal, VC, Bangalore University

KR Venugopal, Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University speaks about Blockchain technology and why we need it in the current scenario

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Emurgo Academy will be training students and developers in the Blockchain Technology

With an aim to train students and nurture expertise in Blockchain software systems, EMURGO, an official venture of the Cordano project, launched its academy in Bengaluru. They will soon be expanding to other cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune. KR Venugopal, Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University who was present at the launch, said, "I am delighted with the launch of EMURGO Academy in Bengaluru. It will provide a platform to connect developers and organisations, enabling them to learn the technology and implement it in their own business verticals. This will definitely open up better and newer opportunities for job aspirants in this field."

Excerpts from the interview:

Do you think learning softwares like Blockchain is important for students?

It is important for the students to opt for different software courses along with their college syllabus. Just like Java, C++, Dotnet and Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain will be the next leading currency in the IT industry as it is all about the security systems. For instance, if two or more people in different parts of the globe are viewing the same data on their systems, then companies can use Blockchain as it helps them secure the information and also present the same information to all their office staff. Any software language will be initially based on a small algorithm. As the research and development progresses, it expands to become a subject and then probably a degree course. Hence, students should be one step ahead in gaining such important skills.

On stage: Prof Venugopal KR, Vice Chancellor, Bangalore University, spoke at the launch of the Emurgo Academy in Bengaluru

Have you included any of the software courses for students in Bangalore University?

We don't teach one particular software language to our students. All these come under the umbrella of a subject called Distributed Computer Network Systems which is taught to Science stream students.

Do you think that there is a gap between what is taught in college and what the industry requires?

Absolutely true! The progress and development in the industry is much faster than in the academic field. But with the introduction of deemed universities, private and autonomous colleges, this gap can be bridged as they bring changes in the syllabus very quickly. It is not the same with government

institutions like ours. It takes a lot of time to change our syllabus and be on par with the industries.

Recently, Bangalore University and University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) signed an MoU to set up a Water Institute. How will this institute help the state in solving the water crisis?

Water Institute has already started working on the UVCE campus. As we all know, waster is an important resource for us and we really need to find a solution so that the next generations don't suffer from water shortage. Our students, government officials and the Indian Institute of Science have started working on research projects. We are taking a step forward by introducing technology to increase the efficiency of water beds in lakes and small tanks. There is already a technology to reuse waste water, but that has to be introduced across all the schools and colleges, especially in metro cities. This will help us deal with the water crisis. Based on the research done by our students, the government might form policies in terms of saving water and other aspects of the state.

A separate hostel has been built for female students from the North East in Bangalore University campus. Do you think this is going to create a wider gap between the locals and the students from the North East?

This hostel was built in association with the North Eastern Council to provide the students from the North East with a better place to stay and study. While we gave them the land, they funded this project. I don't think that it will create a wider gap between the locals and the students from the North Eastern states. They will be attending classes with students

from other regions as well. Hence, they are already in our system and there is no question of a wider gap. Moreover, this university is meant for all girls studying in different colleges and not just our university.

Bangalore University has a shortage of faculty for over three years now. Have you approached the government to push them to recruit more teachers?

Yes! Not just once, I have written letters to the Chief Minister and the Education Department many times. Every year, they say that we will recruit permanent lecturers, but they don't. How will we educate or guide our students? We can employ guest lectures, but they leave the job when they get a better opportunity. There is no issue when it comes to completing the syllabus, but we will not be able to give good quality education to the students. At present, we have 300 vacancies out of a total of 600 posts.

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