Celebrating 20 years of imparting education

Savasti Chatterjee

Professor MN Navale, founder president, Sinhgad Institutes, has been an educationist for the past three decades. It was 20 years ago that he laid the stepping stone towards reforming the education system for a better future for today’s youth and to bring education to more people. What started as a modest venture has now become one of the leading educational chains in the country — The Sinhgad Technical Education Society. “Coming from an ordinary agricultural background, I always had the desire and commitment to do something for the society. It was my dream to start something innovative in the field of education and hospitality. I wanted to cater to common men and address social issues of the country. So I took over Venutai Chavan Polytechnic, an institute that was facing problems due to non-availability of students, back in 1993. I shifted it to Pune and gave it a fresh start,” shared Navale. In the last 20 years, the quality of education and the students graduating from here has become one of the best in the country, he added. The key to providing good quality education has always been innovative, updated content and concentration on social work and underprivileged people.

“We never compromised with the quality of education and the infrastructural base of our institutes,” he added. Perhaps, that is the reason why Sinhgad Institutes have been leading in terms of students who have gone on to represent the country academically. For Navale, education starts with good infrastructure and a proper base to train and develop the staff, who will in turn train the students.

“The focus at Sinhgad Institutes always remains on education. We ensure good facilities for our students thus enabling them to experiment and learn. A great faculty, which believes in nurturing individual talent in a co-operative environment and an environment that facilitates interaction, has been the key to academic excellence,” said Navale. The educationist has always been a believer in the method of group learning. “Knowledge has a multiplier effect when people study and learn in groups. We have created excellent accommodation facilities on campus, as most of our students are resident scholars. This helps them remain engrossed and focused on their chosen careers,” he added.

In only two decades, Navale and his able team have come a long way. With 12 campuses and 117 institutes, the Sinhgad Institutes cover most disciplines of modern technical and health education. “Today we provide education to over 70,000 students every year. We have surely made a difference. You will see more of this in the coming days. We want to connect more places to the education network. Our aim is to make India a global educational leader,” he assured. “Recent data suggests that in the field of engineering, Sinhgad Institutes are higher up than most government institutions. The data provided proves that there is not much gap between the IITs, NITs and Sinhgad Institutes. It is a great achievement because we do not compromise on the quality of education imparted to the students,” he informed. The institute also ensures that the students get a worldwide exposure through international exchange programmes with US and Europe based universities.

Sinhgad Institutes is also a part of the European Universities Organisation, that has participation of educational institutes from several countries for faculty exchange and international research programs. After proving itself in the field of engineering, Sinhgad Institutes have now ventured into health sciences with colleges catering to nursing, physical therapy, medical and dental studies. The colleges have zero deficiency in terms of quality and facilities for these newly introduced courses. “The health sciences scenario in the country is very bad. Our aim is to come up with hospitals and education institutes which will cater to the health issues of the poor and the needy,” informed Navale.

After completing two decades of serving in the field of education, Navale feels that overcoming obstacles has been the key to success. “When you do good work, people try to pull you down. One needs to overcome the obstacles that have been created deliberately in every aspect,” he shared.

Dr Sunanda Navale, founder secretary, Sinhgad Institutes

Prof MN Navale has bridged the gap between people and education with the constant support of his wife Sunanda Navale, founder secretary, Sinhgad Institutes. Under their able guidance, Sinhgad Institutes has spread its academic excellence all over Maharashtra. “Sinhgad Institutes and professor MN Navale are inseparable in my life and play a vital role in my success and achievements,” says Sunanda. Sunanda Navale is also a senate member of the University of Pune.

She pursued higher education and is now an academic leader. In a short span of time, she has achieved success and has become the most important pillar of the Sinhgad Institute. She has also shouldered the responsibility of being a founder secretary efficiently, with perseverance and determination. Her children are now the vice presidents of Sinhgad Institutes, thanks to her excellent upbringing. She takes a keen interest in the development of the schools of the Institute and is a regular visitor to these institutions. With her involvement and MN Navale support, Sinhgad Spring Dale schools have become one of the leading schools in Pune.

Buenavista Artist K Das' art works in watercolour, is on display at Buenavista, Saint Patrick's Town, Hadapsar. Timing: 10 am-5 pm

Art

Darpan Art Gallery Vibrant Emotions, a group exhibition, is on at Darpan Art Gallery, Kalachhaya, SB Road. Timing: 11 am-8 pm

Fergusson College Elsyee Exhibition, an exhibition featuring artworks celebrating 50 years of Franco-German friendship, will begin on August 13, at Fergusson College, FC Road. Timing: 11 am onwards.

Bliss Art Gallery Homage to Nature, artist Snobha Patil’s watercolour paintings, are on display at Bliss Art Gallery, Koregaon Park. Timing: 9 am-6 pm.

Malaka Spice Observational Paintings, an exhibition of paintings by artist Praveen Nair is on at Malaka Spice, North Main Road, Koregaon Park. Timing: g am-11.30 pm.

Theatre

Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Kalamandir Varhad Nightshow Londonia, a Marathi play, will be staged on August 14, at Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Kalamandir, Aundh. Timing: 9.30 pm.