

"Your Research Proposal - an R&D Funding Agency Perspective"
"Choosing & Steering Your Career as a Young Research Scholar" (Yet another perspective)
(01.07.2022)

As a Scientific Advisor at SERB, DST it would have been business usual to conduct Expert Committee Meeting for evaluation of the research proposals that comes to us but it so happened that my visit to Goa Campus of Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS) turned out to be a little more productive.

This enhanced productivity due to these 2-in-1 interactive sessions that I conducted yesterday. Interestingly they got planned impromptu during the informal long chat session on various aspects of STEM with Prof. Suman Kundu Director BITS, Goa Campus & Ex Pro Vice Chancellor Delhi University.

The beneficiaries of this talk were the faculties and the young research scholars of the two Departments of Physics and Mathematics. The current landscape of research in the country with special reference to the SERB as well as future that is stored in the draft new STI Policy and National Research Foundation were touched upon. The need for an apt S&T echo system, expansion of the research base, move from discipline to thematic approach and the real innovation (rather frugal jugaad) was brought upon.

The enthusiasm observed among the Generation Next during the first session led me to deliver the second one that revolved around the art of steering their career. The need to look into the horizon for 20 years in the arenas that remains relevant, selection of career that ensures the 360 degree outlook, and inculcates the value system was highlighted.

The PhDs were prompted to not just look into the conventional academic & research careers but also the emerging alternative options in the corporate sector where more and more PhDs are now being sought for the roles like Competitive Intelligence Analyst, Business Development Managers and Market Research Analyst, etc.... that were earlier not bagged by the specialists.

Last but not the least, the need of research integrity and success through application of 03 basic tentacles - Integrity, Empathy and Excellence was hugely laid upon for requisite preservice of self-esteem.



