

Role of Research for Societal Development

By

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Why Research?

- Necessary for transition from developing economy to developed economy, and also for
- Transition from low income to high income
- This will be key to proper utilization of our abundant under exploited but precious human resources

Why is it not happening?

Demand & Supply matrix:

- No. of good research led institutions are limited (IITs, IISC, IIITs..)
- Research led insitutes are not cheap- Prof. Pankaj Jalote
- Is there real demand for reserch?

e.g. Weak Industry-Insitute linkages for research,

Non existence of differential compensation for highly qualified man power,

Weak Links: Industry

- Yet to graduate from low end manufacturing to high end knowledge driven high value manufacturing e.g. Boeing, Air bus, Siemens, IBM, SUN etc.
- Knowledge economy is a fraction of over all GDP and it is dominated by Cyber Coolie Culture (lack of branded software like windows, oracle)

Weak Links: Social Factors

- Focus on rote learning than understanding
- Societal undercurrents for early income opportunities than on quality learning and higher income potential at a later date
- Lack of focus on social research
- Lack of authentic data bases as collecting the data bases is a costly exercise
- E.g. Most authentic census data base takes 3-4 years before it becomes available in public domain

What could be done?

- What FDI did to our manufacturing sector, opening up of higher education to foreign universities could help us
- Govt. should promote research activities both in terms of appointing qualified faculties and encouraging research oriented activities by offering scholarships, R&D grants
- Strengthen Industry Institute linkages.