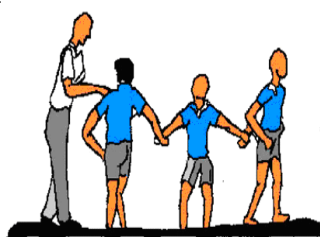


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HIGHER EDUCATION?

Madhav Dutt writes on the issues faced by people pursuing higher education in India.

We are a populous nation. In fact, populous would be a gross understatement. 1.2 billion people reside within India's boundaries, out of which a majority are below the age of 25. That's around 600 million young adults and children. Our literacy rate and net primary school enrolment has increased steadily over the years, which, some say, is the key factor that's propelling our economy forward.

However, when it comes to higher education, the state of affairs is abysmal. Though there are some brilliant institutes coming up in our country, the amount and pace at which they are rising is far too slow. Besides Delhi University and a cluster of institutions scattered all over our country, students don't really have much to choose from. To add to their woes, the cut-offs are slowly and steadily rising, leaving more and more deserving students disgruntled. And the cruel irony lies in the fact that the students who get into the best universities in our country say the facilities aren't nearly as good as they expected them to be, and that the campus is really old and rusty. Top notch higher educational institutions is something our country lacks, and this weakness is costing us heavily, as far as achieving the status of an 'economic superpower' is concerned.

The United States government has an annual education budget of more than 69 billion dollars, while India invests less than a third of that into its education. Even if we look at the grants and endowments on offer, some of the top universities in USA have billions of dollars to make world class education available to as many talented students as possible. However, this endowment system is virtually absent in India and other Asian countries.

The best and brightest minds of our country seek education abroad. **“Human outsourcing is a big trend these days, and unfortunately India has become a victim of it.”**

And if some of them get scholarships to the best institutions in Europe and the United States of America, why would they stay here? Ten years of education and then a job that'll pay better than the one back home. A better standard of living and a place that seems much better for your to-be children to grow up in: before you know it our citizens will be lining up for green cards, as they have been for the past few years. And why would America say no to such an asset? Human outsourcing is a big trend these days, and unfortunately India has fallen victim to it. Where exactly does this leave our nation? At a loss of more than half a million brilliant minds a year. For our nation to succeed and develop faster in the future, we need to hold on to these students and utilize them. We have to ensure world class education to as many students as possible by roping them in straight from high school, and ensuring that they make our country a better place. The economists and physicists of tomorrow should not have to go abroad and then return to our country, we should grow them *in situ*.

The education system and style of learning prevalent in India is defective. Students don't learn with enthusiasm, but out of compulsion. Very little or no attention is given to the curriculum and the way it is taught. Because rote learning can get you through virtually every examination in India, students don't feel the need to function in any other way.

Then another issue comes in: the price. Genuine high quality education requires a lot of money, and since most citizens are used to the nominal amount paid for the IIT's and DU, paying more for what appears to be the same end result is out of the question for most. This is precisely where the Education Ministry comes in. The government needs to formulate plans to subsidise higher education and provide more scholarships to deserving candidates. What's more, they should ensure that there is a focus on quality education as well, not just quantity, as was the case in primary school enrolment. In the long term, grants can be reduced as society realises the actual importance of a multi-dimensional college education.

Those who are fortunate enough to have the resources and wealth should have an option of sending their child to an institution as good as the ones abroad, with a multi-dimensional curriculum and a beautiful campus. India has a history that is steeped in education and learning, from the gurukul system to the first ever university, we have pioneered in the field of teaching. With a country as large and young as ours, good institutions and education hubs should be the norm, not an abnormality.

QUIZ

Jai Khanna, Anshul Tibrewal and Nakul Talwar represented the School at the **Eureka Science and Nature Quiz** which was held at the **Welham Girls School**. The School was placed **third**.
Well tried!

IAYP

The following boys have completed their **IAYP Silver Award**: Aashim Bansal, Akshay Sarawgi, Ayush Tripathi and Guruansh Gambhir.
Well Done!

BASKETBALL

Waseefullah Khan and Sehaj Singh Jouhal have been selected to represent the **Uttarakhand State Under 18 Team** at the **64th Junior National Basketball Championship**.
Congratulations!

CHESS

The Doon School (A) Chess Team, comprising Sarthak Gupta, Shaurya Agarwal, Parth Khanna and Anuman Goel **won** the 4th Shriram Bansidhar Chess Tournament, which was held at School.
Well done!

HINDI DEBATING

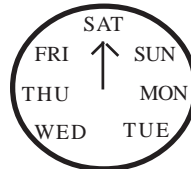
Following are the results of the **Inter-House Hindi Debating Competition, 2013**:

- 1st:** Jaipur House
- 2nd:** Oberoi House
- 3rd:** Hyderabad House
- 4th:** Kashmir House
- 5th:** Tata House



Around the world In 80 Words

In Patna 176 people have been killed in the ongoing flood situation. Ariel Castro, the notorious and infamous kidnapper and rapist, who had been sentenced to life was found dead in his cell. Samsung has released its latest gadget; a smart watch called Galaxy Gear. A seventeen year old boy was charged with murder after brutally stabbing and killing another teenager and also injuring three more. In Afghanistan, eight policemen have been arrested after accidentally killing six children while fishing.



The Week Gone By...

Vireshwar Singh Sidhu

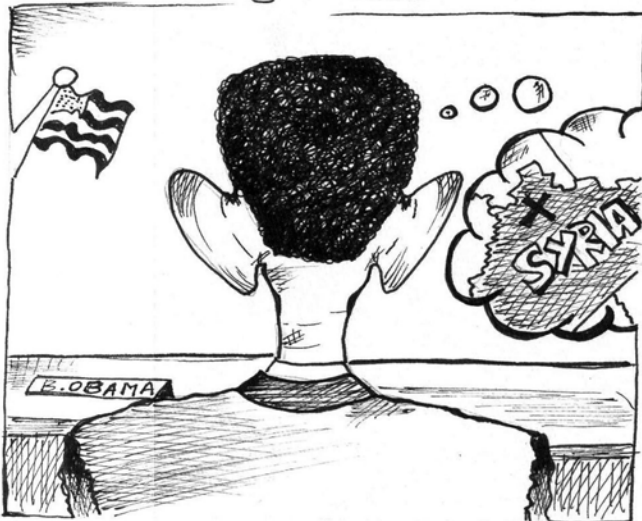
It was a rather mundane week sandwiched between myriad Inter-House Competitions, Inter-School Competitions and the imminent (but definitely unwanted) Test Week. A great number of DoscOs were seen preparing for the looming exams with much vigour and determination. The number amounted to, wait for it, zero.

The school hosted the 4th Shriram Bansidhar Chess Tournament. The 'Doon A Team' triumphed, while a certain school was left red-faced as their over-confidence failed to land them a position, let alone victory. The football team, on the other hand, endured a thrashing at the hands of *Doon Valley*, i.e, Doon School lost to *Doon Valley*. And only recently we had a talk about 'identity thefts'. We now enter 'Chucks Mode', as Chuckerbutty Debates get under way. Having lost last year by a narrow margin, the School has high expectations of the team, the ulterior motive being a Headmaster's Holiday.

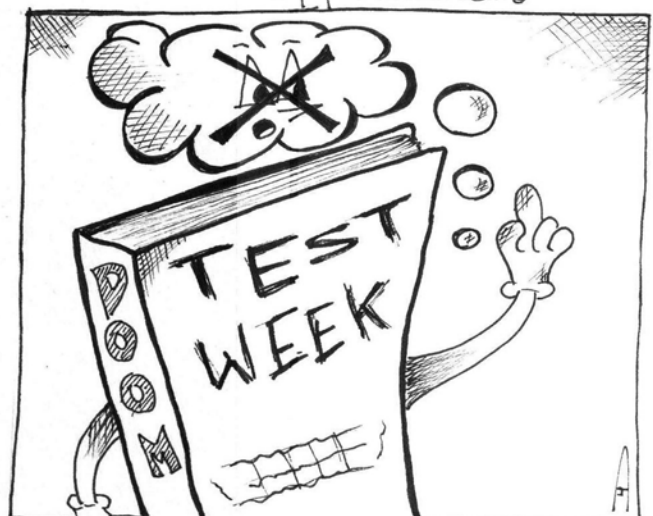
Autumn term is always the busier of the two. DoscOs, however, are able to cope with much work and stress. For the time being, let us just sink our heads into those textbooks. The rest as they say, will follow.

doontoon

As the 'world' ponders over war in Syria.....



Another war approaches!



Do countries have a right to snoop on their citizens?

| Point |

Arnaav Bhavanani

Any citizen with half a brain would answer this question with a resounding NO. Pick a human being from any part of the planet, and his answer would echo the thoughts of all the protestors against the CMS Programme and the NSA's PRISM Programme. Being citizens, we are more inclined toward our rights and privileges rather than having faith in a system that aims to curb the very violence we fight and rant against. In this regard, I am going to focus on the CMS programme in India, that has been widely criticized as having a vague setup with many people pointing out a number of faults in the system. Notably, the government has declared that the system will not track personal messages; it will only track content which is posted on the World Wide Web. This, however, poses a serious threat to the validity of the system. Most terrorists will contact each other using only the most discreet means possible, and thus most certainly are not going to post plans on Facebook! I can almost imagine it, *"Fellow comrades, we attack Building XYZ tonight. Bring the C4 and AK47s, and don't tell anyone!"* Sure. So, without monitoring personal messages, how is the system supposed to protect us?

On the other hand, citizens do have a right to their privacy, and no-one would like their personal emails being read by anyone. This is where the construct breaks down. For a system to work, the element of trust has to be there. Since 9/11, 26/11 and many other terrorist attacks, the word 'trust', especially when it comes to strangers, has been eliminated from the dictionary. This has created a Cold War of sorts; not between nations, but within the system itself. It takes a great deal for someone to trust another, and even then, people are always on their guard. Hence, the animosity toward the development of the CMS. A programme that spies on its own people under the 'pretext', as many call it, of scouting for terrorists will most certainly not garner much acclaim, but it is a necessary sacrifice. Armed with the CMS, the number of terrorist attacks and other such criminal activities can be hit right at the source. The fact is, as our technology evolves, so does the enemy's. That is something we have to realize. And if our technology doesn't evolve, the enemy's will. And when they are more powerful and better equipped than us, it's going to take a miracle to avert a disaster that could easily have been tackled at the beginning.

Another thing protestors are fighting for and are saying is that the legal framework to hold the CMS in place is not there, and that if the system ensures that the operation will not be abused, they are fine with it. Dear protestors, this is a secret government operation. Its security should be accepted without question, and the fact is that the entire bureaucracy of this country knows what will happen if the power is abused and the people get to know about it. Also, they are calling for transparency. Transparency? This is a clandestine monitoring operation that has more than 4 billion dollars in investment and is meant to sniff out threats to the country, its sovereignty and to fight for its protection from foreign powers. Transparency will defeat the entire purpose of the system, and render a multibillion project obsolete.

| Counterpoint |

Anvay Grover

'To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity' - Nelson Mandela. Edward Snowden's revelation about the PRISM, NSA's top secret project has sparked this huge debate in countries all over the world. In this counterpoint, I will justify why I think, the US Government has deservedly so, received heavy criticism because of its policy of tapping phones and the internet. It will also show why the Indian Government should not set up its own Central Monitoring System (CMS).

Thinking back over the recent years about the Arab Spring, it is clear what not having personal liberty does to humans. We have come to expect liberty from the people who govern us. Having security for the citizens is of no use if the people do not have security of their minds and voices. Looking at this from another point of view, snooping on citizens is putting restrictions on opinions which might be critical of the State's working, thus shaking the very fundamentals of democracy. True, security is only achieved when the people feel secure and not compromised. Tyrannical governments attempting to control the people have always been overthrown in history; be it the Third Reich or Stalin's USSR. We must not compromise on liberty to create security of the state, even though that issue may 'seem' more pressing.

Next, I come to the idea of presumption of innocence. This can be best summarized in the Latin phrase *'Ei incumbit probatio qui dicit, non qui negat.'* - The burden of proof lies with who declares, not who denies. This is a part of the constitutions of almost all democracies today. In a way, spying on citizens is like calling any random person and asking him for answers. The suspect is unknown and at large, so the government is just trying to interrogate the whole bunch without any filtration. As we understand, this is an infringement of our rights.

Moving on, it is granted that it is a country's duty to ensure the safety of its citizens. This is also part of the constitution of the country. It is a kind of social contract. It is the trust with which the government has been elected. However if the state doesn't utilise the power given to it by the citizens according to the constitution, then it is an act against such a social contract. Moreover, it implies that the government is unlawfully keeping a check on the people. It is again an infringement of an individual's right. Protection of citizens should be based on informed consent, and not taking a decision on the entire population's behalf. Also, there is no consideration given to the intrusion and its proportion to the threat. What if the actual need is very less and too much infrastructure goes into keeping a check on the citizens. This depends from country to country, but the scope of having technology to snoop on millions of people is massive. In fact, the United States has been snooping on the citizens of other countries as well. This is a direct challenge to the sovereignty of the respective nations.

It is clear that however much spying on the citizens of a nation helps maintain the security; it comes at too great a cost of the individual's liberty. India should not move ahead with the plan to set up the CMS. As Benjamin Franklin said, *"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote."*

Rasulpur

Amaan Kazmi writes on the Social Service project in Rasulpur village that the School participated in along with Okham School, UK

On 6th August, 2013, a seventeen-member team comprising two Doscos, ten Oakhamites and three exchange students, escorted by two Oakham masters along with Mrs. Amrit Burret left for Rasulpur village to fulfill a goal entrenched in the dosco spirit: service. The objective of the team was to give shape to the Doon-Oakham initiative aimed at setting up a school for the village; a school whose aim would not be to dole out degrees or meals like the existing ones, but one committed to imparting a real, overall education to a young mind.

Notwithstanding the persistent rainfall, the team plunged into the workings of the temporary school set up in the 'baaratghar' provided by the village. Each day brought with it a new and interesting experience, the only constant being the rainfall and Mr. Anil Sarna's morning yoga sessions, loved more by the on looking children than the ones actually doing it. Initially, teaching such young minds proved a far greater challenge than anyone had thought it would be, but games and interactive sessions with smaller groups helped break the ice. Apart from teaching the kids, the team painted on the school walls various drawings to create a more conducive learning atmosphere and even conducted teacher-training sessions with the local staff.

Mr. Mohit Sinha and seven Doscos joined the team later. They proved to be valuable additions and provided us with many interesting inputs and support, further enriching our experience. Unfortunately, they had to leave after a short while and were sorely missed. One of the favourite aspects of our trip, especially for me was the research conducted by us in Rasulpur and the villages adjoining it, for it not only raised our awareness and changed the way we thought in a lot of ways, but was also instrumental in breaking down many of the established stereotypes while affirming the factuality and validity of many others. It provided us with, among other things, a deep insight into the established social norms prevailing in the village and of the changes that had come about over the years, about the psyche and aspirations of the people along with an understanding of the village economy, something crucial to understand any society. It also helped establish a bond between the team and the people of the village; which according to me is one of the most important things for us to do, considering the fact that we are making a long term commitment to the village. Credit has to be given to the whole village for making us feel so welcome. However, special thanks are due to our hosts, Mr. Ajab Singh and Mr. Dinesh Kumar for helping us learn by being extremely open and kind, and letting us peep into the joys and sorrows of their lives, daily activities as well as festivities. Speaking of festivities, we were lucky to witness and participate in two - Eid-ul-fitr and Teej, being specially invited to the village of Bandarchur to enjoy some delicious Biryani and Sheer by Mr. Kalim Khan, along with swinging to the traditional Teej

rope swings and singing and dancing to the beat of 'Dhols' with the village women in Rasulpur. What fascinated many was the sheer diversity of our nation, known to all but exemplified and emphasized even so, as in and around Rasulpur are various Muslim, Sikh and Hindu villages which the team visited over the week, villages and live in complete harmony with each other and contribute to the myriad cultures that make our great nation. The auxiliary activities of the team acted as great boosters to our stay in the village, be it wresting goats and bulls, cooking breakfast or frying chicken, driving bullock carts or tractors and motorbikes, we all carried back interesting experiences and cherished memories, things that a person looks back on, and smiles.

REVOLUTIONARY

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Pramod Chawla, an Old Boy who recently visited the School.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you tell us a little bit about your background?

Pramod Chawla (PDC): I'm Pramod Chawla and I am an ex-Dosco from the batch of 1958. I went to school in Patna before coming to Doon and pursued my M.A in economics at St John's College in Agra.

DSW: Where do you think corruption in our country arises from?

PDC: When I was growing up, corruption was not a major issue and no one paid much attention to it. But in the last 30 years or so, several people have realized what our politicians and bureaucrats have done to our country. So according to me, the main factor would be human greed and selfishness because these days, everyone is after money. The huge amounts of black money which our politicians have shown all.

DSW: Is it too late for us to prevent corruption from carrying on?

PDC: According to me, all is not lost, and we must definitely fight corruption. Of course it would be a big challenge but if we start step by step then a lot can happen. As Satyamev Jayate states "truth will triumph".

DSW: What are your views on the death penalty?

PDC: Well, I am totally for it but I could also say that it hasn't been very effective. Because these days court cases take a long time to be decided and judges mostly do not give death penalties. What I feel is that once death penalties are given on a regular basis, the crime rate could drop immensely from what it is now.

DSW: Should Anna Hazare continue the fight for justice?

PDC: As far as I know, he will be restarting his protest in October. He made a tremendous impact on the public during his fast and I'm sure he will succeed in the near future. This issue is trying to be converged so that it can spread to different age groups and create a bigger impact.

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