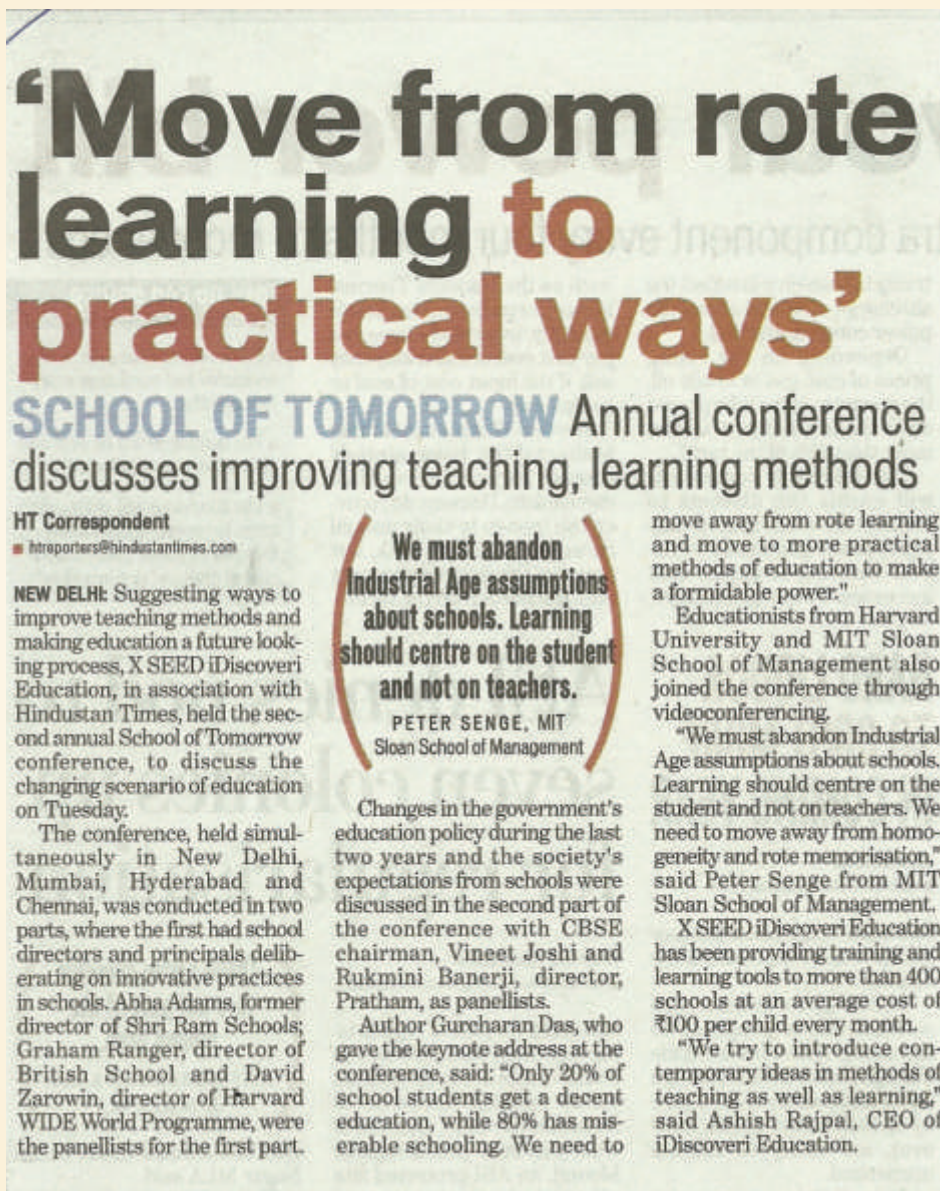


Publication : Hindustan Times

Region : New Delhi

Date : Dec 08, 2010



‘Move from rote learning to practical ways’

SCHOOL OF TOMORROW Annual conference discusses improving teaching, learning methods

HT Correspondent
■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Suggesting ways to improve teaching methods and making education a future looking process, X SEED iDiscoveri Education, in association with Hindustan Times, held the second annual School of Tomorrow conference, to discuss the changing scenario of education on Tuesday.

The conference, held simultaneously in New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai, was conducted in two parts, where the first had school directors and principals deliberating on innovative practices in schools. Abha Adams, former director of Shri Ram Schools; Graham Ranger, director of British School and David Zarowin, director of Harvard WIDE World Programme, were the panellists for the first part.

We must abandon Industrial Age assumptions about schools. Learning should centre on the student and not on teachers.

PETER SENGE, MIT Sloan School of Management

Changes in the government's education policy during the last two years and the society's expectations from schools were discussed in the second part of the conference with CBSE chairman, Vineet Joshi and Rukmini Banerji, director, Pratham, as panellists.

Author Gurcharan Das, who gave the keynote address at the conference, said: "Only 20% of school students get a decent education, while 80% has miserable schooling. We need to move away from rote learning and move to more practical methods of education to make a formidable power."

Educationists from Harvard University and MIT Sloan School of Management also joined the conference through videoconferencing.

"We must abandon Industrial Age assumptions about schools. Learning should centre on the student and not on teachers. We need to move away from homogeneity and rote memorisation," said Peter Senge from MIT Sloan School of Management.

X SEED iDiscoveri Education has been providing training and learning tools to more than 400 schools at an average cost of ₹100 per child every month.

"We try to introduce contemporary ideas in methods of teaching as well as learning," said Ashish Rajpal, CEO of iDiscoveri Education.