

Nanoscience and technology education in India

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In India, education in general, is of great social value. In the last few decades, it has widely spread as an industry as well. Any new front in science or art, makes its own impact particularly in higher education, good examples being biotechnology and information technology. From the last few years, this is the case with Nanoscience and nanotechnology (N&N). Indian middle class is highly attracted to such new propositions. A number of government and private universities are hosting postgraduate degree programmes in N&N, usually with some specialization as the subject is too diverse. Infrastructure development is not at all easy for such programmes, in spite of support from government funding agencies such as Nanomission of DST. Faculty resourcing is another major issue; in many places, the teaching is done by a guest faculty. Some institutions are contented with diploma courses and while others feel satisfied just by offering an elective on N&N in their existing curriculum. There are a few issues which need urgent attention for N&N education to be successful in India- how to frame a course, what are the essential infrastructural requirements, placement of young graduates and so on. These points will be discussed in the presentation along with a glance at the current scenario in India.