

**FAC Panel Discussion on  
Teaching and Learning of Design at IDC  
21 August 2013**

**Summary prepared by Prof Raja Mohanty**

It would be best to begin with a few responses from the audience. Prof. Kannan expressed the view that it is indeed nice that departments such as IDC have evolved interesting approaches to teaching and learning - such as studio-based learning, peer-learning, collaborative projects, it is important to understand how these would work with much larger class sizes. Prof. Jha felt that it would be interesting to understand the implications of changing societal aspirations on teaching and learning. Prof. Narayan Parasuram feels that design education if preceded by an education in arts, can bring in a sensitivity amongst students.

Presentations were made by four IDC students (Vinit, Divya, Avinash and Ashwin) and three members from the faculty (Prof. Chakaravathy, Shilpa Ranade, Raja Mohanty). The students shared the view that the one thing they seemed to lack was time. An exposure to other cultures was also suggested as a desirable direction that could be explored (though the suggestion hinted at international exposures). Students pointed out the importance given to process and the emphasis on learning through hands-on assignments at IDC. The education at IDC helped bring a sharper awareness of the creative process that enabled better articulation in future professional careers. Members of the faculty spoke about how they addressed the teaching of creativity in product design and some strategies in handling large classes; of challenges and new avenues for animation in India; and the changes in the teaching and learning of design at IDC from its earlier role that emphasized societal relevance to its present perception as an enabler for the significantly larger middle-classes (that, in a departure from its earlier cultural values, now aspires for a more material culture). Prof. Anirudha Joshi could not be present for the session because of unforeseen reasons, sent in his response to teaching and learning at IDC over e-mail. He sees feedback that accompanies the method of "learning by Doing" is one area where he contributes to the growth of students. Another idea that he believes is important is the learning of specifics, while nurturing learning that leads to a broad-based understanding.

**Addendum by Prof. D. M. Dhamdhere:**

Discussion had to be curtailed due to another event scheduled in the venue; however, a few of the panelists and attendees continued the discussion outside the venue. Some topics that figured in this discussion were how group projects are evaluated, importance of collaborative learning, and comparative notions of rigour in science and design. It was felt that approaches followed at IDC would be of interest to other engineering departments.