

Beyond books

Shradha Kanwar, Area Director, Education Technology, NIIT University, explains the range of graduate and doctoral programmes that the university offers aspiring students.

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Exploring various facets of human relationships is her forte and study of the survival of North American inhabitants in the wake of early European immigrations into Canada, her area of specialisation. Hence, from a layman's point of view, Dr. Shradha Kanwar's role as Area Director, NIIT University (NU), is rather intriguing. "Not at all. At NU, I spearhead initiatives in the area of Educational Technology. The functional aspect of technology and its impact on the human mind excites me. Diverse technologies open diverse opportunities for youngsters, and I find the mind-connect in the teaching learning process interesting," she says.

I first met Shradha at the Bett Asia Leadership Summit in Singapore, last December, where she was a panellist at the discussion on 'Creating 21st Century Learning Environments.' Though soft-spoken and somewhat quiet during our informal conversations, she made some profound observations and raised pertinent issues, on the dais. She gave the audience points to ponder over when she said, "The millennial generation has different learning aspirations, different brain responses and attention span."

NU, with its green and lush residential campus at the foothills of Aravali, in Neemrana, Rajasthan, believes that learning transcends books and examinations. The university thus provides a positive 24x7 learning environment. "Our focus is making NU 'The University of the Future'," says Shradha.

For the new generation

NU offers B. Tech. in biotechnology, computer science and engineering and electronics and communications. "The university's niche MBA and Ph.D. programmes where students are involved in design and implementation of educational media initiatives, M. Tech. in geographic information systems, educational technology, which is a flagship programme that has been received well, and other high-end research programmes, draw a lot of students," she says.

Courses at NU, according to Shradha, go far



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beyond the conventional. "Novel pedagogies that include project-based learning and collective problem-solving, throw light on real-world issues that have to be dealt with in the future. NU has won accolades in the national and international education circuit for its initiatives in technology, sustainability and environment sensitivity," she says.

Placement opportunities

NU is industry-linked. Its programmes are technology-based and research-driven. "At NU, we help build careers and create exceptional job opportunities for all students. The university enables young men and women to become successful engineers, managers, entrepreneurs, researchers, business professionals, and, most important of all, great human beings. "With Neemrana emerging as a major investment hub for the Japanese and Korean industries, professional development opportunities are aplenty at NU," she explains.

The university also invites academic professionals to pursue courses for technological value-addition in their areas of expertise. "We have school teachers and university professors as our students. So, when they demonstrate the easy manner in which they enable their students in school to learn complex concepts in physics through a game of golf or in math through a guitar performance, we are overwhelmed by the possibilities our university offers the teaching fraternity!" she says, signing off.