

[INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY]

In the years to come, while learning organisations will be compelled to think global, they will also have to act local, becoming a part and parcel of the internal milieu

of people in the working age group, and a surplus of this human power in some other nations, described as the 'demographic dividend.'

Now that globalisation has become a reality, with dissolving geographic barriers, cross-border trade and the world becoming a global village, we are witnessing the phenomenon of glocalisation, succinctly defined as 'think global, act local.'

Liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation and the more recent glocalisation, have had a deep impact on all aspects of business and industry, including sectors such as education. All the stakeholders within the education eco-system, including government policy-makers, academic institutions and private players promoting learning, have been driven by these revolutionary trends.

As a company committed to developing global talent, NIIT Limited has experienced first-hand and walked-the-talk on globalisation as well as glocalisation. The company began its

journey across the world early in its history and began 'globalising' and 'glocalising' well before the words were popular. NIIT was born in 1981, at the start of an exciting and interesting decade. What followed was a decade of experiencing India, which in itself was akin to a global eco-system owing to the immense diversity of its culture, its myriad races, castes, languages, regions and sheer expanse.

From Kashmir in the North, to Kanyakumari in the South, from the high reaches of Leh in the Ladakh region, to the colourful Rajasthan. From Gujarat in the West to the hilly East, NIIT and its channel partners blended into the Indian landscape, becoming one with the local ethos.

>> A GLOBAL PATH

This one complete decade of hard experience and exposure to India, where adaptability was key, gave NIIT the impetus to embark on its globalisation and glocalisation initiatives. After wetting its toes in the Indian crucible, NIIT expanded its footprint to 40 countries, becoming an example of a true, global knowledge organisation, relevant in the 'Century of the Mind.'

Backed by our close encounter with India, we entered the US (creating digital content and instructional software for customers in the country), forayed into Singapore (for its university system), engaged with Malaysia (for President

FLASH CARD

The future of our country will be shaped in our classrooms. India has emerged as a leading global IT service provider and this IT competence must be leveraged to enhance delivery of education. Interestingly, there is extensive use of technology in the private school system, but not as much in higher education. The government must, therefore, encourage greater usage of services and technology in the institutions it runs. While experts

unanimously agree that there is no substitute for direct teacher-student interaction, a quick, cost-effective and interim measure for increasing enrolment and spread would be through the distance education mode, which involves extensive use of technology. IT can help create an education system that brings all-round efficiency by helping teachers become more effective through access to training and enhanced knowledge database, thus improving the quality of classroom instruction.

(Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers-'Emerging Opportunities for Private and Foreign Participation in Higher Education,' 2010)

