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Make education sector student-centric: UGC chief

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Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), has advocated for bringing reforms to make the education sector multi-disciplinary and student-centric to help realise the pupils' full potential.

Delivering the chief guest's address during the inauguration of the vice-chancellors' conference at the Raj Bhavan here, Prof. Kumar said the UGC has been formulating various measures to transform the higher education sector and to enable the youths, particularly from the rural areas and poor families, become the pillars of the 'Nation tomorrow' in building a strong and progressive India. "It is our prime duty and responsibility to provide these students access to technologies for gaining more knowledge and skills for their career, thereby for the betterment of the society and the country," he

added.

He advised the vice-chancellors to make the students effective learners, problem solvers and leaders with aspirations for their success. He added that 70 per cent of students in the country study arts, science and commerce. But they find difficulty in getting jobs.

This issue should be looked into and addressed seriously by the academic society. The National Educational Policy (NEP) is a roadmap and a visionary and constructive document with actionable points for transforming the educational system to be in tune with the expectations and aspirations of students and also the needs of the country. It is time to think about implementing a multidisciplinary approach in the higher education arena to enable the students to study more than one subject at a time to enhance their skills and knowledge in different disciplines. The future of education should see a shift

from teacher-centric to student-centric to make the students become creative and innovative.

The universities should provide the necessary inspiration to make the students learn how to convert failures into success, he advocated.

Stating that the stakeholders of higher education need to pool ideas for creating an awareness on NEP to reap more benefits, Prof. Kumar added that UGC is coming up with a national digital university with a central hub and spokes model with universities across the country and the world to give students a deep, dynamic and progressive learning with internships, online education, experiential learning with a multi-entry programme and a multi-exit programme.

He added that UGC is ready to give approval for new innovative and constructive programmes proposed by the universities.