

**Speech at Lady Irwin College**  
**23 February 2007**

I am really lucky to be here with you. I am excited. I feel good.

These are the best of times in India.

And, it's a Lovely Day to be with you in Lady Irwin College. The Sun is out. The weather is great. Heard so much about Lady Irwin College. 1st time here. Hope not the last time.

I am truly privileged to be part of your Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Lady Irwin College has an amazing list of milestones. Lady Irwin College integrated Education, Training and Skills Development in 1 Institute 1 palace.

75 years. I am just 7 years younger to Lady Irwin College I am 68! I hope I can make it to 75 !

And, for 43 years I have worked for the same Institute, CII which is 111 years young/old.

2 fine great Institute. Lady Irwin College and CII. I am truly honoured to serve CII and to be with Lady Irwin College today.

What kind of Time is it in India? Let me talk about India a little

**The Mess of India ./ The CHAOS OF INDIA**

From 1947 to 1991 – 44 years – we had one way of running this Country. Socialism. Micro – management of the Economy and Industry. Protection. 3% average growth. Near – bankrupting in 1990/91.

From 1991-2007 – Another way. Govt steps back, gradually. Less controls. Less Protection. More Competition A larger, freer role for Industry. 9% GDP growth.

And, you can see what this means:

1. People earning more saving more spending more.
2. More jobs and more self employment opportunities.
3. Explosion of growth in the services sector.
4. Speed of Change is remarkable, eg, in IT, Telecom, Healthcare.
5. Intellectual Capital of India, especially the young people are the envy of the world.
6. Manufacturing Industry booming after pain, restructuring and turnaround.
7. You have more choice than ever.

8. Entrepreneurship is also exploding – old and new.

And, of course, everything happening chaotically.

So, is the India of today all about this. All good news? Sadly, no!

We have massive CONCERNS/CHALLENGES.

1. Governance of 1 Billion People – the Question of Public Services. Law and Order. Security. Terrorism. Judiciary. Democracy.
2. Infrastructure : Transport, Roads, Railways, Airport, Power, Cities, Villages.
3. Controls and Regulations. Still stifling.
4. Unemployment – Truly massive. How to find Employment for all. And, with it, the challenge of training and skills development for 500 million people.
5. Inclusive Growth. Inclusive Development. Removal/Reduction of Disparities. Extending the benefits of growth to 1 billion people.
6. Health – Public health, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB, Hepatitis etc etc.
7. Education. – Primary, Secondary, Higher, Technical. Non-Technical. Quantity and Quality.

7 major challenges to be addressed. And the base of it – the Foundation – for everything else : Education and Training/ Skills Development.

What is Education all about ?

Simply to build people.

To build the HRes of India.

To build you and me.

To enable and to Empower People, especially young people. Young Women to create opportunities - to take advantage of opportunities to build their own space. To earn. To save. To spend. To be part of Society in a meaningful way. To have happy families.

In the old days always looked at Education as principally a Government Responsibility. But from a long time it has clear that Government alone can't manage everything.

So, Industry came in. More as Philanthropy.

- Tata – TISS. Institute of Advance Studies, etc.
- TISCO- Jamshedpur – Community/CSR
- Birlas – BITS++ Schools especially Kolkata. Modern High in Kolkata.
- Shriram – SRCC/Lady Shriram College/Secondary School.
- Thapars – Patiala. Institute of Engineering – Deemed University.
- PRATHAM – ICICI
- Manipal – Par Faculty.

- Azim Premji Foundation.
- Infosys Foundation – Education villages of South. Karnataka +
- CII Bihar Village Project.
- CII A Shiksha Project network of Schools, Colleges and Education Institute set up , funded and managed by Corporate Sector.

## COMBINATION OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY

Everything together

Not enough – Government of India/States/NGOs/Industries.

Literacy level – Sad.

No. of Education Institutes – totally inadequate .

Qualification – Excellent to Disaster

Curriculum- Needs review (More = Disaster)

Teachers – Quantity/Qualification – Issue.

Infrastructure – XXX Classrooms, Toilets, Teaching material, Water, Food, Furniture. Equipment.

Dropouts rate – Huge.

Lack of Funds.

Lack of resources with the 800 million poor.

Lack of Will – Pol will.

Lack of attention/PRIORITY - Not only a Government responsibility. Everyone's apathy.

## **Vision of Changes**

1. More funds
2. More "Implan" – Quality.
3. More Private Public Partnership – Private Sector.
4. More LIBERALISATION = Opportunities. Less Interference and Micro Management.
5. More Capacity. More Competitive-→ Quality.
6. Reform Exam System.

7. More Emoluments for Teacher/Trainers
8. More Creativity in Curriculum → Self Development
9. IT/Education = Innovation.

### VISION OF CHANGE And What does it mean

100% Education Literacy.

=More Income

=Better Standards of Living

=Better Health

=Better Governance

=Better Law and Order/ Less Crime (especially against Women)

= More Creativity.

=Achieve Potential.

### Use IT extensively for Education and Training (Very very Important)

- Increase capacity
- Outreach capability (distance education)
- Maintain/enhance Quality.

(WIPRO/ A P Foundation) (SHIKSHA Project).

Women can make such a difference. A huge difference.

- Perspective difference
- Values strong
- Practical approach
- Institution building (Self last). Culture
- Family /Society system – fabric.

Quality of India depends on Women's leadership extent.

Lady Irwin College = Women Education  
= Women Empowerment  
= Women Contribution

CII's Women Executives – The Best

Education AGENDA

All achievable

Issue of Leadership and Management.

Issue of Confidence and Security – based approach (NOT Insecurity)

Issue of Competition and opportunities/ space.

Issue of using Technology especially IT to scale up.

Issue of Public Private Partnership – Industry ready and willing to engage its role.

Where do we go?

600 million People of India still in the rural areas.

Not been "connected".

Thanks to IT, Telecom, TV, Infra, process of "Connecting" has begun.

600 million → Mainstream of India.

∴ Growth = 10% and for 10 years.

Resources get generated.

Development gets spread out.

Expectations rise. Pressure grows.

Action Very Important (# Chalta Hai)

Speed critical to respond to expectations. SLOWLY/QUICKLY (BOTH)

Full of CONTRASTS.

Unleashing

PASSION

SPIRIT

Enterprise.

To do things ourselves !

In this Lady Irwin College is an institute of Excellence which can play a huge part.

And, many like me, would be happy to help.

- Maintain / Improve your own Standards.
- Expand your capacity in Delhi and outside Delhi and outside India. Lady Irwin College in South Africa.
- Sustain this Institution continuing to build.
- Harness the students and alumni into a strong resource.
- Recognise Teachers and develop greater/ Quality capability.

So that, 25 years from now, when you are 100 there will be new Milestone in your record book. New achievements.