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Knowledge and Education  
1025 principal's seminar 2010



**'DON'T KNOW' NO PROBLEM:** Actor Shah Rukh Khan emphasized the need to admit ignorance and Planning Commission member Narsindra Jadhav (left) urged the country to tap into its young population at the Times NIE Principal's Seminar in Mumbai on Thursday. The event was attended by 400 principals and also had Nicholas Brett, editor-in-chief of BBC Worldwide Magazines, as one of its panellists. P 6

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# Principals urged to bring joy back into education

## At Times NIE Meet, SRK And Others Call For Inspired Learning

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In school, making speeches has, by far, been the prerogative of the principal. But on Thursday morning, 400 principals listened with rapt attention as Narsindra Jadhav, a member of the Planning Commission, actor Shah Rukh Khan and Nicholas Brett, editor-in-chief of BBC Worldwide Magazines, shared their insights into knowledge and education at the Times NIE Principal's Seminar.

"I grew up in the slums of Mumbai and went to a municipal school. Though I later went on to pursue a PhD abroad, it's the teachers I encountered in the so-called worst schools of Mumbai who taught me the most," said Jadhav.

Jadhav pointed out that, with 340 million people between the ages of 15 and 19, India had the youngest population not just in the world, but also in the history of mankind. "But this demographic dividend is not something that will come to India automatically. It could well turn into a demographic disaster in the absence of the right kind of education," he said.

"We need to move from education-based learning to inspired learning. Knowledge and the act of learning should be a thing of joyfulness and yet so many of our kids are miserable at school, so clearly something is wrong," said Nimita Deshpande, a senior editor at The Times of India.



**CLASS ACT:** Shah Rukh Khan is a picture of charm at the Times NIE Principal's Seminar

## 1025 principal's seminar 2010 Knowledge and Education

Bhaskar Das, executive president of The Times of India Group, said that, with rapid obsolescence resulting from advances in science and technology, educationists need to constantly update themselves. "Teachers will now have to be trained so that they can get children future-ready," added Das. Jadhav said 95-10% of teachers in India did not have any idea about the advances in the subject they teach.

While the situation may be bleak in In-

dia, Brett said, the picture is far from rosy in Britain. "In my country, far more opportunities will open up for a student from an affluent background than someone who is not. This is disgraceful for a developed country," said Brett. "If I had my way I would hire twice as many teachers and take away some money from bankers."

At the meet, several principals said that, while a lot was being discussed about the needs of the child, little was being done for teachers who got paltry salaries. Principals asked Shah Rukh Khan to campaign for them and turn brand ambassador for the teaching community, a job he readily accepted.

(Times NIE partnered with BBC Worldwide Media and Kesari Apple Pi for the event)