

Declining interest of students in Geoscience in developing countries and its causes : a case study from Indian universities and colleges.

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Students interest in geoscience has reduced remarkably during the last a few decades in India. Number of students being registered in under-graduate and post-graduate courses has lowered down considerably. Decline in job opportunities appears to be the main cause but the subject curriculum which does not match with the requirement of the country, is also equally important. Course contents need updating to put geoscience at par with other disciplines of science and technology. Presently, the course contents and orientation of research in any university depend mainly on (1) the presence of a prominent subject expert at the institution, (2) availability of facilities and infrastructure of a particular type, (3) geological needs of the region and the industry located in the region, (4) natural resources and geology of the area and (5) the geographical location of the institution. Subject branches taught at different institutes can be divided into three categories : (1) common branches taught at almost every institution, (2) subject branches taught as optional subject at selective institutions, (3) special subject branches taught only at limited institutions. The subject branches taught at particular institution also affect the student interest in the subject. In addition to this, availability of literature and books and medium of expression also play an important role.