Skills for 21st century researchers

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Indian perspective

- Large numbers and diversity!
- Complex organization of univ./research institutes
- Focused initiatives on infrastructure and HR development

Where are we? What is missing? What can we learn?

(Disclaimer: Bias towards the sciences!)

Indian perspective

Professional development needs of researchers

- Ability to effectively communicate research to different audiences
  - Funding agencies, Public at large
- Link research to real-world problems, feel for “big-picture” issues
- Mentorship at all levels
- Overcome skills gap

Barriers

- Research mindset not ingrained in educational system
- Resistance to change / unwillingness to adapt to new paradigms
- Teaching and administrative responsibilities
- Lack of infrastructure / finances (esp. for skills upgrade)

Indian perspective

Impact of skills development

- Informed, networked and motivated researchers
  - Vibrant work-environment, cascading effect
- Public awareness, research valued as a career choice
- Examples of positive effects of intervention (e.g. DST: INSPIRE, PURSE, CURIE,…)

Potentially useful models

- Forced collaborative projects (multi-institution)
- Links with industry – SBIR / STTR type models?
- Ease and reward generation of IP

Thank you!