University education is an opportunity to boost the confidence of the innate abilities in the students. Our country was once a land of the reputed Taxila and Nalanda Universities, which had even attracted lot many foreign students. Unfortunately, those days are gone as the quality of learning at our universities slipped down drastically. Being the second largest education system in the world, India has over 777 universities offering a variety of courses. However, in the global education arena, which is dominated by the universities from the U.S. and UK, most of the Indian universities are ranked at the bottom.

According to latest Times Higher Education ranking on international universities, not a single Indian university has been able to get a place in the top 200. However, 17 universities across the country have been included in the rankings of over 800 universities across the world. Today, we are in need of fresh ideas and creative teaching mechanisms to fulfil the global market needs. The Indian universities need to adopt a global culture and need to borrow ideas in pedagogy from the best institutions around the world to build up an organic culture of learning. By adopting a new global approach, the universities must be capable of attracting more international students to help the country earn foreign reserve along with the spread of the country’s soft power.

Recently, some of the universities have come up with new ideas to refresh India’s university education. These universities realize the need of being research oriented to get a position in the top 100 universities in the world. The higher education review team with a panel of experts have made a detailed study to find the universities that are upgrading themselves to produce global players over the next quarter of a century. With the ‘University of the year 2016’, we bring to you some of the top universities across the country and these universities are selected on the basis of their performance in pedagogy, placements, research and quality of the education.

Name: Pravara Rural Engineering College
Description: An institute focusing on imparting outstanding knowledge, application ability and promote research relevant to the needs of society to develop global citizens.
Key Person: Dr. R. S. Jahagirdar, Principal
Website: www.pravaraengg.org.in
Established with 3 courses each with an intake of 60 electronics engineering, in chemical, civil and mechanical engineering.

In 1983, when Pravara Rural Engineering College (PREC), the main intention was to make global education facilities available at the doorsteps of rural India and thus they located themselves in Loni, a rural part of Maharashtra. But with time, the college realized that communication skills are an integral part of engineering and with this realization, they started focusing on the soft skill training for students.

"Rural students are weak in soft-skills and basically we are trying to improve them in soft-skills by providing apt training starting from the first year," says Dr. Jahagirdar, Principal, PREC. From the time the institute started giving these soft-skill development programs, there had been an instrumental increase in the recruitments. The Training and Placement Cell is also very active and handles campus placement of the graduating students of all departments with utmost care.

Further, the recruitment is promoted by industry institute interaction and by organizing industrial trainings. "We as an institute believes in the interaction with the corporate world for campus placements of Pre-final and Final year students," says Prof. Jahagirdar. The well experienced and highly qualified faculty also motivates students in all disciplines and they all strive to enhance the academic performance of the students. "We value education but not with money and thus we are all into imparting outstanding knowledge, application ability by making an all round growth of students and developing global citizens," claims Prof. Jahagirdar.

The college considers the alumni as their strength because these alumni always attribute their present success to the training provided by the college and further they approach the present students to guide them with relevant training. Affiliated to the University of Pune and approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi, PREC has progressed steadily, and currently offers undergraduate majors in Instrumentation & Control, Electronics, Electronics and Telecommunications, Chemical, Civil, Computers, Mechanical and Information Technology fields. The institute also offers Masters in Instrumentation & Control, Mechanical, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Computer Engineering and Electronics & Telecommunication and Research center for Mechanical Engineering. By emphasizing on quality education, the institute mainly focuses on making employable engineers who can effectively lead to a prosperous growth in future.

The cell continuously conducts activities like interviews, special lectures, workshops, group discussions and so on to make them ready for the placements. With the focus on soft skill development program with technical education, the college also undertakes value addition courses in all departments to improve their knowledge.

Library, which is the nerve centre of college caters to the theoretical and soft skill needs of students and motivates students for research works.

The Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam Innovation in Higher Education Award was conferred on the