

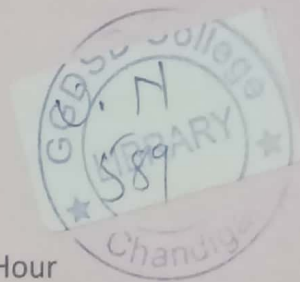


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H A Ranganath

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Culture of Collaborations on Campuses: Need of the Hour

H A Ranganath*

"In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed."

Charles Darwin

The science of Evolutionary Biology illustrates the importance of competition, coexistence, coevolution, cooperation, collaborations, and such interactions among species in the sustenance and diversification of life forms on Earth. The present narrative aims to briefly capture the utility of academic interactions among different disciplines, institutions, campuses, and, more broadly, at the global level. This article focuses on the necessity of academic 'collaborations'.

Collaboration is the process of two or more individuals, entities, or organisations working together to achieve a common goal or complete a task. It involves sharing knowledge, skills, and resources to produce something greater than what any individual could achieve alone. Tapping the distributed expertise, experience, and intelligence of a group increases the chances of solving problems more efficiently. Essentially, it's a partnership where people cooperate and contribute to a shared outcome. For me, collaborations promoting cross-talk among different disciplines are an intellectual endeavour.

Success Stories of Collaboration

Tapping the distributed intelligence of a group increases the chances of solving problems more efficiently. These collaborations may involve interdisciplinary, Multidisciplinary, and Transdisciplinary interactions. One of the best examples is the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was also labelled as an international multidisciplinary collaboration. This pandemic served as a real-time competition between humans and COVID-19. The disciplines contributed to this success story are Microbiology, Virology, Molecular Biology, Genome Biology, Health Sciences, Immunology, Vaccine Research, Genetics and life history traits of new mutant variants, Evolutionary-biology, Epidemiology, Human Resource Management, Infrastructure, Requirements of hospitals, Pandemic Biology: waves, Lockdowns, Sociology, Psychology, Education, Economics, Modelling-Prediction, Technology, Policy decisions to name a few.

Another example is the contributions of multidisciplinary studies to the present scenario of the field of Genetics and Genomics. Biology (started with Mendel's experiments with the

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