

# Conversations with Prof. M.M. Pant



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### INTRODUCTION

The traditional lecture, talk or discourse from the pulpit has moved to an interactive learning event and is evolving to a conversation. This conversation has many features. In person didactic dialogue, remote video/ audio presence, online computer communication and mobile based communication.

Web 2.0 tools such as Wikis, Blogs, Facebook and Twitter augment the spontaneity and continuity of the conversation.

The 11 Conversations listed here may be accessed in person face to face mode or remotely; in groups or one on one.

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The 11 conversations listed in this group are fundamental to current issues and challenges confronting us and initiate the process of knowledge and behavioural change to lead better lives.

Of these, the 5 conversations on Quantitative Behavioural Change have an instrument or scale associated with them and can be used to observe the influence of the participation in the conference. The other suite of

5 addresses issues of lifelong learning. Finally, there is an all pervasive theme of an investment in education being the best option.

### PROGRAM ARCHITECT



The chief architect and mentor of the Program is **Prof.M.M. Pant** ([www.mmpant.net](http://www.mmpant.net)), a *sui generis* personality with 50 years of post schooling experience in Scientific Research, Teaching, Management, Law, Information Technology and Business Entrepreneurship. He is

supported in this venture by a team of equally accomplished persons with IIT/IIM background and diverse national and international experience who have agreed to provide inputs, guidance, conduct interactive sessions and mentor the prospective learners to achieve their full potential.



## [mmpant.net](http://mmpant.net)

To know more about the program, e-mail at [mmpant@mmpant.org](mailto:mmpant@mmpant.org)

## 1. Quantitative Behavioural Transformations

The 5 conversations that form this group are all meant to cause behavioural change, and this transformation can be observed and measured. One may participate in one or more of these conversations, all 5 of which are designed to prepare the participants to cope with the emerging technologies and the tide of the Knowledge Economy. The instruments developed for these measurements are in the nature of self-assessment and must be responded to truthfully and honestly in order to obtain feedback and guidance that is reliable and useful.

The first conversation deals with enhancing creativity and innovation potential and provides tips and guidance to achieve this as well as measure progress as one makes conscious self effort to do so or pursues specific programs for this purpose. The second one on financial literacy and acumen, touches upon the most important concepts and principles relating to personal financial matters, and also provides a scale to assess one's financial acumen.

Biological evolutionary processes do not prepare us for surviving in the Knowledge Economy. A 10 point scale is proposed and examined that ranges from an ostrich like indifference to the emergence of the Knowledge Economy to be fully ready to flourish thrive and succeed in the Knowledge Economy.

Learning to learn with ICT enabled technologies or e-learnability would be a very crucial element of preparation for success in the Knowledge Economy. A 10 point scale for this is proposed with appropriate descriptors for each level.

In future, many jobs that exist today will be replaced or rendered unnecessary because of technological advances. The principles that can be used to identify which types of jobs will be replaced at different stages of development and availability of technology will be discussed in this conversation. They will be applied to a range of typical existing jobs to assess the risk of their being rendered obsolete.

S. No.	Title
TWI001	Enhancing Creativity and innovation Potential (ECIP)
TWI002	Financial Literacy and Acumen (FLA)
TWI003	Knowledge Economy Readiness Index (KERI)
TWI004	e-Learnability Quotient (eLQ)
TWI005	Assessment of Replacement by Technological advances (AORTA)

## 2. Learning over the Life-span

This suite of 5 conversations address life -long learning. The future will demand learning across the life-span from the womb to preparing for a second career after retirement. These conversations would better prepare the participant to deal with the changes that happen at the different stages of one's life.

The first is about the story of Education from earliest times to today when Facebook, Twitter, Wikis, Blogs, Youtube and Ustream are the means of sharing information and knowledge. An appreciation of this narrative is important to assess the scope and impact of the profound changes that are happening.

The second conversation begins with the assertion that 'the womb is also a classroom', acknowledges the limitations of altricial birth of humans and traces the mental development of the child till the pre-school stage. It refers to recent standards and indicators developed in the UK that a child ought to have achieved by the time it is ready to go to School.

Maths Phobia is an attitude developed in a majority of children (and present in many adults). This conversation addresses this phenomenon and identifies the causes of this irrational and uncalled for fear. With examples, stories and anecdotes it provides tips and guidance to overcome the Maths Phobia, and shows that Maths can be fun, enjoyable, interesting and a very useful skill to possess.

With increasing longevity, many persons who are superannuated and thus retired, but are not tired in their zest to learn and work and contribute to society. The 4<sup>th</sup> conversation encourages such persons to launch their second innings equipped with new skills.

The biggest challenge today is that the Life Style of many persons is causing untold misery. With the progress in technology, life instead of becoming easier, is turning tougher with 24 x 7 x 365 working. This conversation is about work life balance.

S. No.	Title
SLT001	The evolution of education: from earliest times to Classroom 2.0
SLT002	Pre-natal, neo-natal and pre-school learning
SLT003	Overcoming Maths phobia
SLT004	Second Innings: Crafting a successful second career
SLT005	Lifestyle Design : Creating work-life balance for success

## 3. An Investment in Education is the Best Option

**"The recent financial crises have had a chastening effect on investors. Even real estate does not always give great return. It was the erosion of real estate value that triggered the present crisis. Participants in the talk will get Blue Ocean Strategic ideas in the field of education enterprises."**



As we hurl into the Knowledge Economy, all the economies are speculating upon their possible fates in the future and what would be their rightful place in the New World Order.

This conversation argues that in the immediate future, it is important to invest in increasing the quality and quantity of educational opportunities. It is beneficial to the individuals, to the community, to the society and to the nation as well. This is the most effective means to increase the GDP and even to cope with the common global problems of deteriorating environment, climate change and terrorism. A number of ideas for new possible business opportunities that are scalable are shared and co-developed with the participants.