

SCIENCE CENTRES AND SCIENTIFIC CULTURE

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Science and Technology is inextricably linked to the human evolution and its supremacy over its surroundings. India has over 5000 years of long history of rich S & T culture, which over centuries of subjugations by rulers, preceding our independence, has seen massive erosion resulting in a large section of our society getting caught in the quagmire of superstitions and obscurantist practices. Post independence efforts are on to redeem scientific culture. There is no single way in which this can be achieved. The formal education sector of schools and universities, the workplace, and the science centres (the free-choice learning sectors), should collectively play their role in achieving this task. Global research suggests that nearly half of the public's science understanding derives from the free-choice learning sectors, whose role may seem "redundant" but yet is extremely important in making the system absolutely failsafe as in engineering designs. Science centres in India have achieved great success through their diverse activities, yet if they are to make a true national impact and draw the attention of policy makers and stake holders they need introspection.
