

YAVNIKA KHANNA

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# Will Campus Radio Hum Soon?

**I**MAGINE having your own radio station on campus where you can walk in any time to ask for your favourite music, share some important local event or chat with your neighbour who's now become a star. Currently, if you wish to establish a campus radio, chances are you'll be alumni by the time you get an OK from the government.

Radio has perhaps (in spite of its versatility, flexibility and economical ownership) not been fully utilized as an educational medium. India has so far given step-motherly treatment to public service, community, educational and development broadcast networks. When compared to the experiences of USA, Canada, Australia, China and even Philippines, use of radio for education is disregarded despite being a relatively simpler medium than television. The stations act as a radio tutor for students, address ethnic communities and groups, and ascertain their needs.

CMOR Winnipeg in Canada is a closed-circuit campus radio in Red River College. Such campus chan-



nels can be set up for a short period of time by organizers of any event. Borrowing this concept we might be able to set up channels for our college fests, in the future!

The basic difference between community radio and private FM is the range. For an assured stereo quality the latter can be heard within a 35-kilometre radius whereas the

community radio has a 5-kilometre range. The licensing procedure also differs for both forms, commonality being the complicatedness with which they are obtained. Presently, the few community channels that exist cannot advertise while the private FM channels can!

Today, in India, only recognised educational institutions (sponsored

by either the relevant State education ministry or the central human resources ministry) may apply, to start stations with a reach of approximately 5 km radius. Delhi College of Engineering (DCE) students are planning to set-up their own campus channel but realise that there is many a slip between the cup and the lip! The Indraprastha College for Women was planning a channel of their own, but a senior professor told TCP that, "nothing is happening right now on this front."

Things are moving slowly mainly because of the number of approvals required. Applicants are expected to get clearances from ministry of information and broadcasting, Prasar Bharati, and the ministries of home affairs, communication and human resources development. In the case of Mana Radio, a community radio project in Oravakal, Andhra Pradesh 29 government departments were required to give clearance! One needs to pay a spectrum licence fee, get frequency allocated, set up the necessary broadcast facilities and obtain a wireless operating licence. And all these clearances come at a snail's pace.

The time has come to free the radio waves for the student sorority on this Independence Day. Mr Jaipal Reddy, are you listening? ■