

KVPY: Pre-mature death in two decades

After a remarkable run for two decades, the Kishor Vaigyanic Protsahan Yojana (KVPY), administered by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), will cease to exist from 2022 and that it will be subsumed into another similar program Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE). However, INSPIRE has a lower threshold for the selection process. KVPY inspired talented undergraduates to take up basic science as their career option, following a stringent selection process that ran simultaneously throughout the country. During the last two decades, various reputed undergraduate science programs such as at IISc and IISERs benefitted enormously from these bright students¹. The graduates are now spread around the globe; several have returned to India, set up their own laboratories and initiated their research careers. In every conceivable way,

this program achieved its objectives and gained recognition. The sheer hard work of many teaching faculties of various institutes has made the program a successful.

KVPY also ran an annual 15-day summer camp *Vigyan Jyoti Shibir* (Vijyoshi) for its fellows. Around 500 scholars from all over the country would assemble in a selected city for two weeks. Leading international experts on various subjects would address and closely interact with them. Such brilliant exposure etched lasting impressions in the minds of aspiring young students. Vijyoshi was conceived on lines with the German Lindau program. During the initial days, Vijyoshi was spearheaded by C. N. R. Rao. In addition to this program, there were summer fellowships, which provided much-needed hands-on training at different laboratories, where students learnt details of experimental designs. The

expenditure for KVPY, including fellowships, book grants, travel, etc. was miniscule when one compares the rewards associated with it.

I watched the growth and popularity of KVPY from the very beginning and found no reason for the complete abolition of this program.

This letter is to find out the reasons behind such a whimsical decision. Were consequences of such decisions thought of and discussed thoroughly for the posterity?

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1. Anil Kumar, P. S. and Chatterji, D., *Curr. Sci.*, 2009, **97**, 1282–1286.
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Disposal of medicines

Where and how should medicines that remain unused after the expiry date be disposed? At home, the usual practice is to throw tablets into the dust bin, and pour liquids such as cough syrup into the sink.

There may be better ways, but they may not be practical at the household level. Learned readers of this journal are invited to share their views.

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