

Private education going global from an SA base



TAKING OVER: Vinod and Sanjay Abraham at their Adelaide office. Picture: CHRIS MANGAN

ALEXANDRA TREDREA

MORE than 20 years after their father established the Gibaran Learning Group, sons Sanjay and Vinod Joel Abraham are taking over.

The brothers say there is great potential for the education organisation to continue expanding in South Australia and overseas.

While commerce graduate Vinod Joel has been at Gibaran since 1998, Sanjay spent four years working as a solicitor before joining the company in February.

"We operate in an industry where there is potential for so much growth," Vinod Joel said. "If (the firm) had plateaued or reached its maximum growth, the interest wouldn't have been so high."

The Gibaran Learning Group, founded in 1985 by

education

Selva Abraham, comprises four higher-education providers - Gibaran Business School, Entrepreneurship Institute Australia, Tourism Institute Australia and Australian Institute of Business Administration.

Courses, from diploma to doctorate level, are offered in SA and also through education centres in Britain, Singapore and New Zealand.

The newest course is an MBA which can be completed in 12 months.

Sanjay said he felt the education market had not been "fully tapped".

"We will be offering e-learning and distance learning in the future," he

said. "A lot of the big pull for SA is that international students want to come to Australia and study."

Vinod Joel said Gibaran expected to have more than 2000 students enrolled worldwide in the next financial year.

"The beauty of our model is we take the education to the people and try to make it as affordable as we can," he said.

"We have been known very well for our work-based approach (to learning so) it is not just about theory."

Staff from companies such as Westpac and Australia Post had completed courses at Gibaran Business School.

The brothers had not planned to take over the business but Sanjay said their father "probably had it in the back of his mind".