

Celebrating knowledge  
through the years.  
कल, आज और कल

Planner 2011

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF  
EDUCATION IN INDIA



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**Our theme** - education kal, aaj aur kal - aims to take you through the journey of transformation of the Indian education system from the ancient Gurukul days, to the British education system being followed currently in our country, and also to give you a glance into the future of our education system.

In the centuries gone by, India had established itself as a hub for learning and knowledge. The world's most prominent scholars and inventors were from our country. The present day education system, however, shows a much varied picture. On one hand, we have some of the best educational institutions in the world (ISB, IIT, NID, IISc, IIM, TIFR) while, on the other, our primary education system is facing several challenges and 100% literacy is still a distant dream.

The future of our education system however stands on the brink of technological breakthroughs and looks promising. There is hope that learning in school will become a more enriching experience, education will reach every child, knowledge will be easily accessible, and teaching will be replaced by the concept of lifelong learning.

We look forward to times where we will be able to cater to the needs of the new generation, who have a keen desire to experiment and explore.



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MAA Foundation is a unique Indian NGO that understands the problems and hurdles faced by the Indian education system. Our dedicated team works tirelessly at the grassroots level in order to induce quality in education imparted in the schools, to provide holistic education to the children and give them a sense of direction in life. We have started with one district in one state, but we are building a model that is scalable, sustainable, process-driven and result oriented.

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## Past

The ancient Indian education system which dates back to 3rd century BC led to many inventions and discoveries. Takshashila was the world's first university. Ayurveda was the earliest school of medicine. Aryabhatta invented the zero, and trigonometry, algebra and calculus also originated here.

The Gurukul was the earliest and the most effective form of education. During those days, education was imparted on basis of caste. The Brahmins learnt scriptures and religion, Kshatriyas learnt warfare, the Vaishyas were educated in commerce, and the lowest caste i.e. the Shudras were largely denied education. Students spent the initial 20-25 years of their life at the Gurukul. This system of education was dedicated to the highest ideals of all-round human development: physical, mental and spiritual.

During the spread of Buddhism in India, a number of legendary universities were established - Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramshila and Ujjain to mention a few. Students from China, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Korea travelled here to study subjects like Arts, Architecture, Painting, Logic, Grammar, Philosophy, Astronomy, Literature, Religion, Arthashastra, Law and Medicine. This system of education gave birth to scholars like Panini, Jivaka, Chanakya, Kautilya, Charaka and Chandragupta Maurya.

With the advent of Muslims in India during the 11th century, the traditional methods

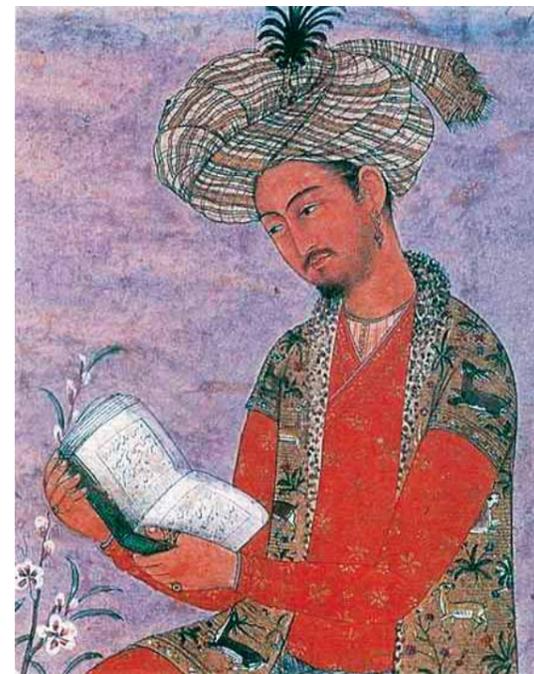
of education came under Islamic influence. Besides Madrassas and Makhtabs, Muslim emperors established elementary and secondary schools. A few universities too were established in cities like Delhi, Lucknow and Allahabad.

Then the British arrived in India and with them came the education system we follow to this day. Lord McCauley implemented the western education system in the 18th century and since then it has made steady advances in the country.

It is said that Gandhi described the traditional educational system as a beautiful tree which was destroyed during the British rule.



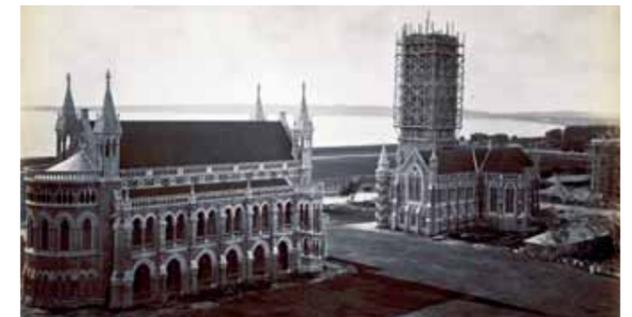
*Ancient Buddhist Monastery, Takshashila, Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Ancient India.*



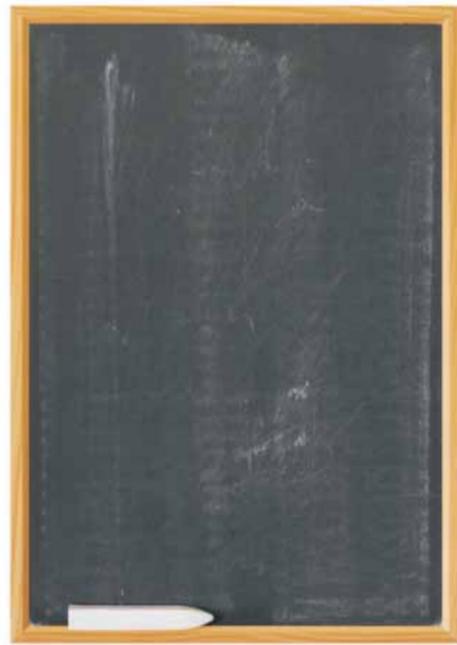
*Emperor Babur, the founder of Mughal dynasty in India.*



*Ruins of Nalanda University, Bihar, India.*



*Image of University of Mumbai's Fort Campus taken in 1870s.*



# Present

The present day education system is being criticized due to issues like Rote learning, the disconnection between education imparted in schools and on-the-job knowledge and skill requirements, lack of hands-on training, education being assessment-oriented and not learning-oriented, lack of motivation and skills in teachers and high dropout and students teacher ratio.

Rote learning has made education a chore for both students and teachers. Due to this, the drop-out ratio in students and the absenteeism ratio in teachers are found to be high. This is why, only 12% of Indian students extend their education all the way to graduation. Lack of hands-on knowledge and skills has led to a large number of unemployed graduates.

The current form of education system was conceived, based on the requirements of the Industrial Age workforce; essentially for assembly line, repetitive action-oriented jobs. However, today's Information Age jobs require people who can think quickly

and adapt to new situations. Flexibility, adaptability, creativity and technology are needed for jobs now and in the future. Today's jobs require continual education and the ability to create new methods where none exist. Most schools and teachers need to acknowledge the fact that we are way beyond the Industrial Age. The curriculum has not been able to keep up with the fast pace of changes taking place in the employment world. Hence, when exposed to the corporate world, students are not able to put to use the knowledge they have gained in school. No wonder, India continues to have a large number of educated unemployable youth. Graduates are also found to be lacking entrepreneurial qualities and creativity.



High student: teacher ratio.



Rote learning



Students do not find education enjoyable



Chalk and talk method of education.



Assessment oriented learning.



## Future

It is imperative to teach the new generation skills so that they can adapt themselves to the changing times. Constraining the process of imparting education to merely the classroom is not going to do that. Today laptops, mobile phones and iPods are fast replacing books and libraries. Social networking sites and blogs are keeping students engaged for hours. It only makes sense that we use these tools to get them engaged in learning.

Visual learning is both effective and fun. Audio-visual methods make it easier to explain the concepts of Science and Math, while demonstrating the various applications of the concepts learnt in everyday life. Hands-on learning by way of experiments and educational toys help the students grasp concepts easily and allows them to implement what they have learnt in class. Languages can be learnt using Skype, Google Talk and blogs. Mind Mapping gives students a graphical way of taking notes. It allows children to associate words with visual representations, thereby improving their concept clarity.

Due to the vast information readily available on the internet, education is moving away from being assessment-oriented towards concept clarity. Learning is moving

away from the monotony of taking notes and is being replaced with the concept of life-long learning. Online learning is bringing teachers and students from around the world together in a virtual classroom. There are now online tutorials for various subjects which make self-study easier than ever. Distance learning courses are also gaining momentum.

The future lies in Digital Classrooms; a classroom equipped with tools like computers, interactive whiteboards, projectors, digital content and internet facilities. Technologies like these empower the teachers with better resources and place the knowledge of the world at their fingertips. It improves the overall effectiveness of the teaching learning process.

In the coming years, we're going to witness the development of a parallel system that helps entertain and educate students at the same time. All this will be made possible thanks the power of the internet, including social networking and online games.



*Future tools for extracting information.*



*Use of digital classroom in teaching.*



*Technology, a tool for quick assessment.*



*Hand-on-learning for enhanced concept clarity.*

**MAA Foundation projects aim at transforming the worrying present into a brighter tomorrow....**

# PROJECT KEN

- \* Ken means range of vision.
- \* Project Ken aims at making quality education available to rural areas of Valsad district and in spreading awareness about the importance of education across villages.
- \* It aims at making each school in Valsad 'a role model school'.
- \* The model essentially deploys educated unemployed local youth as para-teachers in the rural schools of Valsad district.
- \* These para-teachers are given extensive training by Maa Foundation in English language, IT, management and soft skills.
- \* Each education coordinator is carefully selected after conducting pre and post training tests.
- \* They are also provided refresher training every week and during vacations at Maa Foundation's regional offices.
- \* They act as a *change catalyst* in improving the quality of education imparted in the schools.

These para-teachers undertake the following activities in each school:-

- ~ Minimum level education to weak students using the 'Learning with fun' method
- ~ Basic English language and computer education.
- ~ Vision enhancement of students, parents and the entire educational community.
- ~ Conducting annual day in school and felicitating the toppers.
- ~ Science, math and sports kit implementation.
- ~ Aptitude testing and career guidance for secondary students.
- ~ Personality development camps in order to instill essential soft skills in the students.
- ~ Undertaking health awareness activities in the rural areas.

As of October 2010 10 program officers and 300 education officers deployed in 600 schools of Valsad district are providing:

Minimum level education to 7,864 weak students.

Advanced math training to 8,585 students of 3rd standard.

English language training to 8,305 students.

Basic computer education to 27,000 students covering 234 schools.

Health education, every Saturday.

Implementing pre-defined extracurricular activities in all schools.

25,000 school bags with stationary to Class I students every year.



# STEP-UP APPROACH

- \* Step-up is an innovative and activity based method of teaching.
- \* In this method, curriculum is divided into units and each unit is taught to the students with the help of various types of activities.  
Activities can be divided into:-
  - ~ Introductory activities.
  - ~ Re-inforcement activities.
  - ~ Evaluation activities.
  - ~ Remedial activities.
  - ~ Enrichment activities.
- \* Activities are completely teacher supported, partly teacher supported, peer supported or are independent activities.
- \* In this method, children learn at their own pace and grasp 100% of content knowledge at the end of the year.
- \* This method is helpful in addressing the problem of shortage of teachers and/or insufficient infrastructure in school.



# MATH FAIR

- \* Math fair is a fair organized by children so as to make learning Math fun.
- \* Through this fair, children learn to relate the concepts of Math they have learnt in classroom to real life situations.
- \* The fair helps in removing the Math phobia prevailing in the students and makes learning Math both interesting and enjoyable for the students.
- \* Simple concepts of estimation, distance, length, volume, weight etc. are dealt with, in an enjoyable concept-clearing way through this fair, thus attracting students to this seemingly difficult subject.
- \* The fair is open to all the members of the society so as to engage them in the activities of the school and to spread the importance of education in and around the area.
- \* This method also helps the teachers and parents recognize and expose hidden talents in children.
- \* For the academic year 2009-10, Maa Foundation aims to extend the Math Fair to 240 schools, so as to reach approximately 1,20,000 students and their parents.



# PROJECT PARVARISH

- \* This project grooms children with essential soft skills by conducting personality development camps.
- \* Career guidance facility is provided to children of 8th to 12th standards by way of career fairs and aptitude tests.
- \* The aptitude test provides each student with individualized printed report for their as well as their parent's benefit. It suggests 3 most appropriate careers for each student taking into consideration their areas of interest, personality type and their aptitudes in six different types of abilities tested.
- \* The aptitude test is conducted using indigenous technology which caters to the masses.
- \* Children are taken on industrial and educational tours, so as to give them a glimpse of the real working world

As on October 2010, 25,500 students have benefitted from the career guidance program. Over 1000 students have participated in personality development camps and 150 students have been on educational and industrial tours.



# PROJECT VIDHYA

- \* Vidhya is our scholarship project which provides financial assistance to students who are both deserving and needy, of Valsad, Bhavnagar and Amreli districts of Gujarat.
- \* Advertisements are given in prominent regional dailies spelling out the eligibility criteria while inviting applications.
- \* Eligible students are called for a personal interview along with their parents. The scholarship amount each deserving student is eligible for is determined only after the interview.
- \* The academic potential and financial background of students is assessed, their credentials are verified and their plans for the future are discussed.
- \* Academic targets are mutually agreed upon and set and the performance of the students over the years is tracked using a software so that only the deserving students continue to get the scholarship.
- \* The project acts as a ray of hope for financially weak parents and helps the deserving students get the confidence that his/ here efforts are financially backed by an organisation which will help them reach fullest potential.

As of October 2010, Project Vidhya has provided scholarships to 5854 students. Undergraduates: 2950. Graduates: 2225 Post-graduates: 679.



# PROJECT GNYAN

- \* This project aims to motivate the teachers by felicitating them and giving them their due recognition.
- \* It also enhances the knowledge and skills of the teachers by conducting training programs for them.
- \* Student's edition newspaper is distributed regularly to the students of Valsad district in order to inculcate in them the invaluable habit of reading, along with improving their English language skills and updating their knowledge on current affairs.

As on October 2010, 800 teachers were provided professional training, 241 teachers have been felicitated and 35000 copies of newspaper are circulated every week by Maa Foundation.



# PROJECT SAATH

- \* SAATH has adopted a school educating 2400 underprivileged students and aims at turning it into a 'Role Model School'.
- \* This is being done by revamping its infrastructure and using technology and creativity in its teaching learning process.
- \* Extracurricular activities like quiz contests, sports, craft and infotainment activities are undertaken in the school.
- \* Higher secondary students are provided career guidance and are taken on educational trips.
- \* Remedial classes are conducted for the weak students, after school hours.
- \* Teachers of the school are exposed to teachers' training program in order to enhance the effectiveness of the teaching learning process.
- \* Internet and E- library facilities are made available to the students.



# PROJECT UDAAN

- \* Project Udaan provides first generation learners from financially weak backgrounds with quality education.
- \* They are given financial aid and are assisted in getting an admission to good boarding schools/professional courses.
- \* They are provided with essential soft skill training so as to shape their personality.
- \* They are exposed to Maa Foundation's career guidance program and are taken on educational and industrial tours.
- \* Their overall academic and personality growth is continuously monitored.
- \* The aim of the project is to make these children belonging to underprivileged communities role models so that they can drive home the message of 'Prosperity through education.'

As of October 2010 1002 students are being covered by project Udaan.



# PROJECT VIKAS

- \* Project Vikas empowers rural graduates with essential soft skills and knowledge so as to increase their employability prospects and/or help them pursue higher education.
- \* An arts college has been adopted by the project and the aim is to turn it into a 'role model college'.
- \* Along with training in soft skills, the college students are also given valuable English language and IT training through the 3 years of their graduation.
- \* Career guidance facilities are provided to the students.
- \* IT hardware and software courses at subsidized rates are conducted at the college for the students and for dropouts in that area.
- \* External experts are invited, so as to help and guide the students to prepare for various types of competitive exams.
- \* Guidance and scholarships are provided to students interested in pursuing vocational courses.

As on October 2010, 581 rural graduates have been groomed by project Vikas. 108 final year students are presently pursuing professional courses like MBA, MSW and B.Ed and 81 students have enrolled for the vocational courses conducted by Maa Foundation.



# PROJECT SAMARTHAN

- \* SAMARTHAN is the educational portal launched by Maa Foundation on the 15th of January, 2008.
- \* It is a single window that provides educational information absolutely free of cost to students, teachers, parents and the entire education community.
- \* The details and knowledge provided is interactive and comprises of:
  - ~Details about career options available in the fields of Science, Commerce and Arts.
  - ~Free aptitude tests
  - ~Mock tests for CAT and GMAT
  - ~Presentations for learning/teaching basic English & IT.
  - ~Assessment tests and various presentations and articles for teachers
  - ~Personality development tips and etiquette videos
  - ~Details about admission procedures for higher studies to U.S.A, Australia and U.K.
- \* We are aiming to make our education portal a multi-lingual one, in the long run, so as to cater to the needs of the vernacular medium students, who are not able to take benefit of the information currently available on the internet, for their educational needs.



# SCIENCE ON WHEELS

- \* Science on wheels is a bus which has been converted into a mobile science lab for the benefit of rural students from Class V to Class VIII.
- \* The bus is equipped with audio-visual equipments, counter-tops, cupboards and a generator.
- \* The project is primarily aimed at increasing the scientific temperament of the students in the rural areas, so that they can opt for science related careers and enhance their employability chances in the future.
- \* Activities like screening educational videos, experiments or hands-on activities, teaching with the help of educational toys and display of science models mapped to the curriculum are conducted with the help of this bus.
- \* For the academic year 2009-10, Maa Foundation hopes to benefit 240 schools and approximately 30,000 students.





Today, India is on the path of rapid economical development. Efforts are being made to overcome the hurdles that are prevailing in the current education system and to equip students with holistic knowledge. Knowledge can help us overcome evils like corruption, ignorance and intolerance. To achieve this, it is essential that knowledge imparted does not get limited to study of Science, Math and languages but aims to teach our students a way of life.

Information will be freely available in abundance from various sources in the future, it is therefore essential that students are equipped with the knowledge to extract it from the right sources and the wisdom to implement it in the right manner. The education system in the future has to take up the challenge of creating global citizens who can easily adapt themselves to the ever-changing world of technology.

To succeed in this endeavor, our Indian education system will have to come full circle, so as to encompass the wisdom of the past with the information and technology of the future.

Let us equip our children with true knowledge so that they create a country where citizens are content, happy, prosperous and progressive.

MAA Foundation is promoted by the Bilakhia Group. The Group has created global size in printing inks and crop protection chemicals and has partnership with two international giants: Hubergroup (the fifth largest printing ink company in the world) and Bayer CropScience (the world's leading agrochemical group). It has also entered the emerging fields of health care and education. In all its endeavors, the Bilakhia Group stays committed to its shareholders, its people, its customers, the community and the planet.

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