Maa Foundation

Knowledge is growth

A decade in service of education...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:

Home Address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Blood Group:

Emergency Contact No.:

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Work Address:

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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 grass-root level in order to induce quality in education imparted in the schools, so as to provide holistic education to the children and give them direction in life. We embarked on this journey with just one district of a state, but we are building models that are scalable, sustainable, process-driven and result-oriented, so that the entire nation can benefit from them.

For more information, please visit us at : www.maafoundation.org

2016 Reference Calendar

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Important Dates / Notes

Topics

Current Scenario : Indian Economy and Education

How is the economy shaping up?
How do we equip the generation next to be future-ready?

Glimpses of Indian Education system

Kal, Aaj aur Kal is the transformational journey of Indian education system over the past few centuries.

Present day Schooling system

How the schooling system today is not in sync with the employability demand and what are we missing out in this journey.

Goal of Education

What we need to derive from Education?
How education can become a means of transforming lives?

Role of Major **Stakeholders**

How a teacher should be influencing the lives of pupil?
How a parent can play the role of a mentor?
How students should be self-equipped to become the assets to our nation.

Maa Foundation **Projects...**

How we are touching young lives to unleash the potential in them.

Sum-up

Need of the hour
Way forward...

Current Scenario: Indian economy and education

Indian economy

India's economy was declared the world's fastest growing major economy* from the last quarter of 2014, and will remain amongst the fastest growing, till 2023; this long-term growth prospective of the Indian economy is moderately positive due to its young population -@ 65% of population (800 million) are below 35 years of age**. This can be both, an asset or a liability, and will depend on which way the youth of today is moulded for its future growth. The Indian youth's aspirations, energy, enterprise and skills will be the force for India's economic transformation.

With the current trends that India is witnessing in its race towards setting up the growth equations right, there are certain very prominent sectors that are identifiable to boost-up in next few years. It is important for us to identify and focus on these sectors as educators or para-educators, so that we can walk in-sync with need of the hour.

atlas.cid.harvard.edu/rankings/growth-predictions

** *http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_India*

Current Scenario: Indian economy and education

After researching through a lot of the current forecasts and trends, below are the key areas which need to be worked upon:

Sectors	Current Industry size	Estimated growth by 2020	Annual Growth Rate (%)
Information Technology	146 billion	300 billion	9.5
Remarks	• IT sector is one of the largest employers in India. • Growing internet usage and outsourcing factors will fuel the sector.		
Telecom	12 billion	60 billion	5.6
Remarks	• 980 mn users and the numbers growing by 6% annually are sure to blossom further. • With improvised bandwidth and policies in place, this sector will deliver better results.		
HealthCare	105 billion	280 billion	22.9
Remarks	• Increasing trend of medical tourism, as the cost is almost 1/5 of that in US. • Huge demand-supply gap is the major reason that will bring growth to this sector		
Retail	600 billion	1 trillion	16.7
Remarks	• E-commerce in 2015 clocked almost $1.7 trillion, @ 7% of global retail sales. • With FDI, startup boost and increased internet penetration, this sector is poised for multi-fold growth in India.		
Infrastructure	168 billion	1.2 trillion	13.1
Remarks	• Electricity generation , road development sectors will be growing many folds.		

The above sectors will lead to a plethora of jobs; looking at the new sunrise sub-sectors like education and training, tourism and hospitality etc, the need is to recognize new opportunities and prepare the supply side (educated and skilled human resource) to fill-in this gap.

Children have to be educated…but they also have to be left to educate themselves.

~ Anonymous

Current Scenario: Indian economy and education

Current scenario of education sector:

The below table gives us complete details of the spread of educational institutions in India.

	Type		Number
School Education	Primary	For every 9 primary schools, we have 1 secondary school	790640
	Upper Primary		401079
	Secondary		131287
	Senior Secondary		102558
	Total		1425564
Higher Education	Universities	Central University	42
		State Public University	310
		Deemed University	127
		State Private University	143
		Central Open University	1
		State Open University	13
		Institution of National Importance	68
		Institutions under State Legislature Act	5
		Others	3
		Total	712
	Colleges		36671
	Stand Alone Institutions	Diploma Level Technical	3541
		PGDM	392
		Diploma Level Nursing	2674
		Diploma Level Teacher Training	4706
		Institute under Ministries	132
		Total	11445

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

~ **Alwin Toffler**

Current Scenario: Indian economy and education

Number of Recognized Educational Institutions and growth in India

Level/Year	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Senior Secondary	Colleges	University
2000-01	**6387**	2063	877	384	10152	254
2008-09	**7788**	3656	1221	642	27882	440
2011-12	**7143**	4788	1283	841.33	34852	642
2012-13	**8359**	4103	1036	1195.8	35829	665
2013-14	**7906**	4011	1313	1026	36671	712

The number of institutions has increased with the time but still there is a huge gap between the demand and supply at secondary education and beyond.

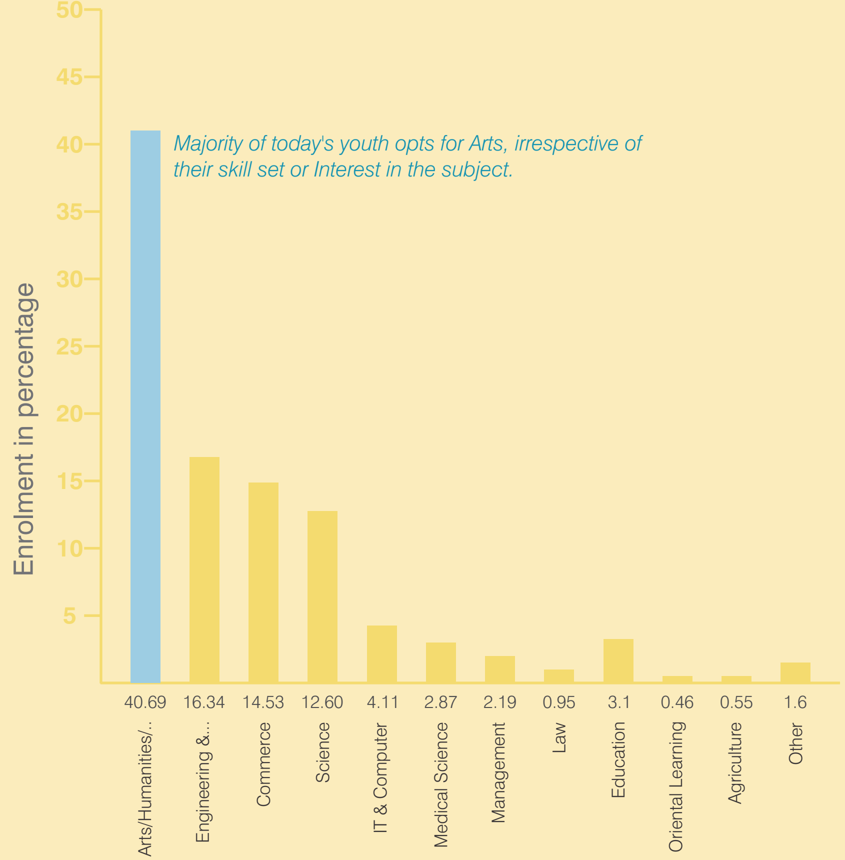
"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."

~ Socrates

Current Scenario: Indian economy and education

This graph shows us the total youth entering into different field of education:

Enrollment in different disciplines of subjects at under graduate level in higher education 2012-13



Source : mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/statistics/EAG2014.pdf

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

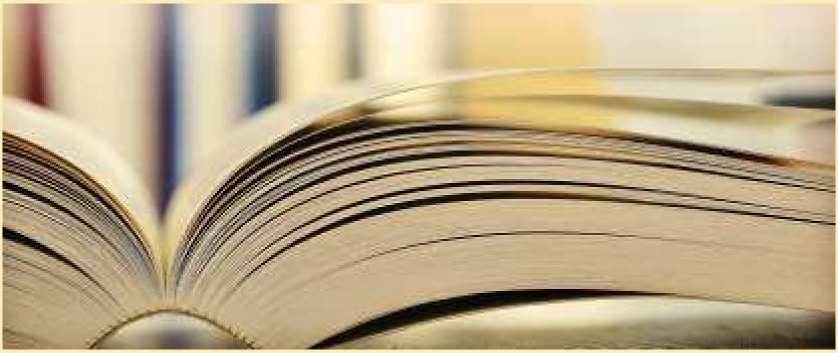
~ Nelson Mandela

Current Scenario: Indian economy and education

Some other major issues faced by the education system are

- Government education spending - 4.3% of GDP, which does not do justice to the young demography that India has.
- Very high drop-out ratios - @ 47% from Std. I to X, mainly due to severe shortage of secondary schools.
- Vocational training sector has not been given high priority, leading to lack of skilled human resource, especially in the service sector.
- Effectiveness of teacher's training and continuous skills enhancement needs to be drastically increased.

To reach the ambitious plans which India has, of becoming a 21st century economic superpower, government as well as private institutes will have to radically work on the above, to raise the bar and make sure education and skills imparted are in line with the needs of 21st century global requirements.



Economic growth and human development need to go hand-in-hand. Human values need to be advocated vigorously.

~ Kailash Satyarthi

Glimpses of Indian

Education System

'Sa vidya ya vimuktaye', **('सा विद्या या विमुक्तये')** a couplet of a Sanskrit hymn says, 'That which liberates us, is education'. Education can liberate us from ignorance, poverty, incompetency, unemployment and many more things that hinder an individual's, as well as nation's growth. It's the reason every country is trying to focus on improving and aligning its education system. Our education system is also aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping the students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to reduce the shortfall of skilled human resource in science, technology, academics and industry. But it is still a distant dream, as many hurdles and problems are needed to be recognized and addressed.

However, Indian education system has a very interesting past. Let us take you down the memory lane to showcase traditions and methodologies of Indian education system prevailing through the centuries - a glimpse of evolution of our education system, from conventional to the contemporary, and also the transition from old to new methods.

Kal, Aaj aur Kal of Indian education system

Kal (Past)

The education system of India dates back from the glorious Vedic period which focussed on aural traditions, to the Buddhist era, onwards to the Medieval era, followed by the British era. Broadly most of these systems have focused highly on quality teaching, exemplary teacher-student relationship and students to master life skills, for purposeful livelihood.

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 to India to study Arts, Architecture, Painting, Logic, Grammar, Philosophy, Astronomy, Literature, Buddhism, Hinduism, Arthashastra, Law and Medicine.

In the Medieval era, we had Gurukul system for education; people would seek education on the basis of caste. Muslims learnt in Madrasa, and Hindu Brahmins learnt scriptures and religion, Kshatriyas learnt warfare, Vaishyas were educated in commerce and Shudras who were meant to do labour work, were deprived of

education at large. As a result, everybody was master of their trade.

Then the British arrived in India; they propagated British values through monolithic "Colonial Education System". Till date, we are following the same framework. Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay implemented it in the 18th century and since then, it has advanced steadily across the country. Teaching became confined to classrooms and the link with nature was broken, as also the close relationship between the teacher and the taught started diminishing. Due to the typical high student-teacher ratio and assessment based learning, rote learning was stressed upon; thus creativity, innovation and experimentation was curbed.

"The traditional education system was a beautiful tree which was destroyed during British rule".

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Kal, Aaj aur Kal of Indian education system

Aaj (Present)

At present, the Indian education system tends to promote rote learning, repetition and routine. It limits understanding of innate complexities of the subject and focuses on memorizing, to get through the examination.

Due to the above, students lag behind in practical application and utilization of acquired knowledge. Therefore many students fail to thrive when they are subjected to the real world. Consequently, the system ends-up with a large amount of educated unemployed / not readily employable. Perhaps this system was needed to assimilate people into the Industrial Age workforce for assembly line, repetitive action oriented jobs.

However, today's Information Age requires people who can think quickly, adapt to new situations and apply information at right moment and place. An analytical aptitude, flexibility, adaptability, creativity, innovative mind-set and technology savviness are prerequisite for any job presently, and times to come.

The students will become more

engaged with subjects & teachers when we will be able to bridge the gap of information and child friendly approach of teaching-learning. Teachers also will be expected to practice and rejoice process of experiential teaching and learning.

"The ability to observe without evaluating is the highest form of intelligence."

~ Jiddu Krishnamurti

Kal, Aaj aur Kal of Indian education system

Kal (Future)

With the ever changing and evolving world of education, Indian education system has felt the need of breaking traditional norms of education, evolving and reforming it, for societal betterment. The Indian education system is slowly and steadily metamorphosing into learning that is meaningful, effective, instant and self-driven.

Major pedagogical transformations in Indian education system are on the way that endorse holistic education, blended with digital learning. The future anticipation states that schools will provide a stress free environment that values each student's potential and provides them opportunities for learning, development and excellence.

Rather than sticking to traditional, obsolete and age-old classroom practices, school will impart education via multiple domains – Physical & Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Sensory Motor, Self Help, Cognitive Development, Language Development, Social Skills, Emotional and Spiritual Development.

On the other hand, digital learning and educational mobile applications will allow learners to access knowledge anytime and anywhere. Recent trends show that Indian schools are turning

paperless and bag-less, as children are carrying tablet/laptop to school. However only few schools in India are presently benefitting from 'tablet as textbook' trend; but the numbers will certainly rise in near future. Subjects are converted into audio–visual story or games, which makes study fascinating and easy to comprehend. It has changed one-to-one teaching and learning experience drastically.

The gradual and paradigm shift from traditional pedagogical practice to newer and holistic methods indicates that Indian education system will witness a sea change, in decades to come. Holistic education will develop mind, body and character, so that the student's can contribute to the society. Moreover, if efforts will be put in the right direction, no learner shall remain deprived of education. Indian education system waits for the day when a learner sitting in a remote village will get access to a proficient professor, from any corner of the world.

Present day

Schooling system

Ideal schooling system

Keeping in mind need of the hour, it is essential that the education system today should be able to groom the child holistically, with the right balance of humane values, qualities and age appropriate skills. Students should be nurtured in a manner that they become creative, innovative, appreciative about self and society, knowledgeable, helpful and ethical person, in all walks of life; these goals should override individual philosophies, which many a times dilute the ultimate objective of education.

Present day

Schooling system

Different schooling systems

Over a period of time, based on situations and requirement of students, different types of schooling systems have flourished in India.

Old legacy schools

Few schools focus on imparting holistic value based education to children; they essentially maintain a low student-teacher ratio and primarily focus on holistic development of the students. But these schools are not open to adopting modern educational methods, in-line with the changing times. Hence they lack in taking advantage of the technological advances and innovations occurring in the field of education.

Way forward for imparting complete all round education.

The changing times demand that such schools, along with maintaining their strong base of value education, also adapt to latest methods of teaching available in the field of education that are interactive, interesting and which can bring the world of information in the classrooms. This will help them groom the children into complete, powerful and responsible global citizens of tomorrow.

The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

~ **Malcolm Forbes**

Present day

Schooling system

Elite Schools

Recent times have seen development of a few elite schools which cater to the classes. These schools utilize the best in infrastructure and technology in order to educate their students. They deliver high quality of academic and soft skill knowledge through methods like project work, activity based learning and co-curricular activities. However, they normally fail to lay adequate emphasis on inculcating vital human qualities of love, simplicity, honesty and integrity in their students. This results into dissatisfaction, sense of unhealthy competition, lack of respect for the society and the environment and a lack of sense in direction in life, inspite of normally possessing abundance of material wealth.

Way forward for imparting complete all round education.

It is essential that these schools undertake activities that can instill fundamental humane qualities of tolerance and compassion, so that the students can strive towards removing the inequalities existing in the society and find a meaning and sense of direction in life. It is essential that the students are taught the importance of being good human beings, along with being successful professionals in life.

"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn."

~ Ignacio Estrada

Present day

Schooling system

Majority of the schools

The major chunk of the schools follow the conventional method of education, which results in rote learning and assessment oriented teaching. These schools are now gradually adopting new and advanced technology available in the field of education in order to provide quality education to their students. However most of them are not able to do justice to both the quality of academics, as well as moral education imparted in these schools, due to a high level of student-teacher ratio and the methods of imparting education adopted by them.

Way forward for imparting complete all-round education.

For such schools, it is essential that adequate emphasis should be laid on inculcating fundamental humane values in children. They should also adopt new technological methods of education in order to cater to the needs of different types of learners, expose the students to hands-on education and shift towards knowledge oriented assessment. They should also aim at enhancing the life skills in each and every student, so as to make all the students coming out of this system ideal citizens working towards making a better tomorrow for self, as well as the nation.

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

~ **Sydney J. Harris**

The aim of education should be integration of the human mind which is both, intelligent and liberal; it facilitates the individual to be mature and free; to blossom in love and goodness.

In today's digital age, an education system that creates global citizens who can effortlessly adapt and prosper, concurrently possess wisdom and passion to utilize their knowledge, for the betterment of self and society is 'the ideal education system'.

Globally, all the education systems have believed and practiced social belief in the importance of education and its 'underlying moral purpose.'

GOAL of Education

Goal of Education

These education systems deeply respect the teaching profession, treat them as valuable professionals and lay a lot of importance to self-empowering skills, apart from academics.

In the centuries gone by, India had established itself as a major seat for learning and knowledge. Many of the then world's prominent scholars and inventors got educated from India. But in the present day scenario, India is facing numerous challenges due to the conventional education system which has not been able to generate empowered individuals through its portals. This has resulted into rote learning and assessment oriented teaching–learning; also vocational training has failed to impact majority of the masses, resulting in low job creation, in this growing economy.

We look forward to times where our children will not sit in the classrooms merely to listen and learn by heart, but they will also be able to experiment, explore, learn to think independently and apply the same, to climb their professional ladder and attain their dreams.

"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Goal of
Education

Role of Education

Education should be a means to empower children and adults alike, to become active participants in the transformation of their societies. Learning should give emphasis on life skills along with academic skills, so that the generation next is ready to deal with their future challenges. World Health Organization (WHO) defines life skills as "the abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life". . 'Adaptive' means a person is flexible in approach and is able to

adjust in different circumstances. 'Positive behavior' implies that a person is solution-driven and can find a ray of hope and opportunity to find solutions, even in difficult situations

What we learn with pleasure we never forget.

~ Alfred Mercier

Goal of
Education

- Listed below are some crucial life skills - if imbibed or attained, they can mould the individual into more complete and compatible holistically developed human being
- Physical and Mental Well-being
- Concept Clarity and Strong Fundamentals
- Effective Communication Skills
- Leadership And Team work
- Decision Making
- Innovative and Lateral Thinking
- Be Sensitive to Nature
- Enthusiastic and Confident
- Good Moral and Ethical Value
- Problem Solvers and Result Oriented
- Positive Thinker
- Life long Learner

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul.

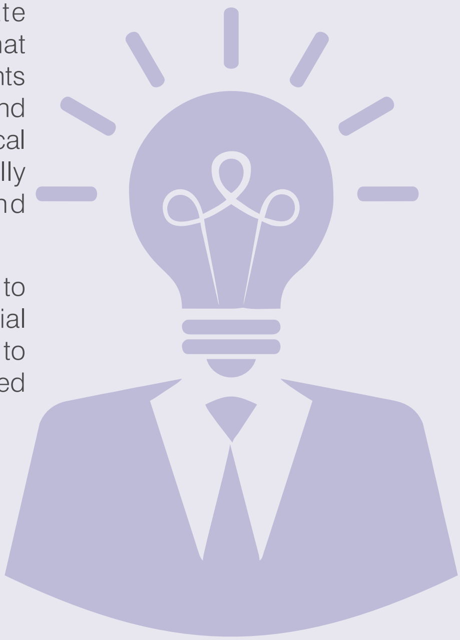
~ Joseph Addison

Role of
Major Stakeholders

At the time when India is progressing towards economic expansion in the future, demand for knowledgeable and skilled human resource that can be easily absorbed in the job market will increase. Hence it is necessary to bridge the gap between education and employability.

The onus of education and development of the student primarily goes to parents, teachers and his/her self-involvement. If they make attempts to guide/involve themselves in the skills enhancement, it can create wonders. It is necessary that students, teachers and parents accept the fact that marks and grades are important, but critical skills development is equally imperative, for holistic and intellectual growth of a student.

To address the above need and to start working on the remedial actions, this chapter is trying to build a bridge between the need and the goal.



Risk taking and Decision making

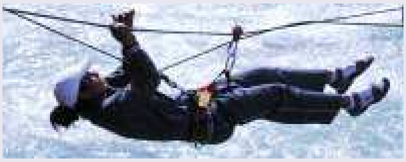
The decisions that involve logical and practical analysis of the situation and the risk associated with the same. Faster and sound decision making leads to better time management and substantial increase in efficiency.

Students

- Selection of elective subjects, careers, and co-curricular activities typically should be based on your interest and not mass acceptance. If one follows his/her inclination, he/she would thoroughly enjoy his/her work and most likely excel in the career of his/her choice.
- Be selective about the right choice of habits, friends and hobbies. Usually the environment around you will play an important role in shaping your personality.
- For effective decision making, one should not always follow an urgent impulse or intuition; rather have a more analytical approach. Also do consider long term impacts of the decision taken, not only the short term results

Teachers and parents

- Expose the student to different careers and allow them to select the career of their choice. Elders should highlight the pros and cons involved with the career of the student's liking, to enable him/her take informed decisions about the career.
- Make sure that the student is being exposed to the right environment (friends, habits, hobbies etc) and intervene only when things are going off-track.
- Act as mentor and friend and be approachable, so that the student trusts and shares his/her thoughts and concerns.



Analytical Thinking

Analytical thinking is the ability to solve problems effectively by means of step-by-step approach, breaking down complex problems into single and manageable components. Critical thinking also evaluates information but the thinker employs reasoning and outside information into account during the process.

Students

- Break down complex scenario into small logical steps to analyse and understand it. Explore various tools and techniques for understand analytical thinking such as fish bone diagram, mind mapping techniques, cause and effect analysis, Pareto analysis etc.
- Be open minded to new ideas, consider all possibilities and viewpoints. Also reassess own views.
- Be practical and fact/data based and not emotional or prejudiced.

Teachers and parents

- Do not suppress the inquisitiveness of the student and encourage him/her to question / challenge various situations and data.
- Encourage probing and not to accept data or information, on face value.
- Set expectations, promote empathy in his/her thinking processes, so that your child BE FAIR. Make sure he/she considers others, when drawing conclusions.

By education, I mean an all-round drawing of the best in child and man in body, mind and spirit.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Creative and
Innovative

Creativity is about unleashing the potential of the mind to conceive new ideas, which cannot be typically measured. Innovation, on the other hand is completely measurable and translates an idea into a product which is replicable and value-added.

Students

- Identify the area in which you would like to spend time or learn about. Most of the times, a person succeeds in creating something new in his/her areas of interests.
- Be prepared for taking failures / setbacks in your stride as creativity and innovation do not always follow a 'Do it right first time' principle.
- Do not restrict yourself with time and resources. Come out of your comfort zone.

Teachers and parents

- Promote inquisitiveness amongst the students and do not ridicule/punish for a wrong answer - develop a culture where mistakes are considered as opportunities to learn.
- Help the student build high self-confidence and the resilience to overcome failure.
- Create a classroom and home environment which encourages creative and innovative thinking.

Flexible and
Adaptable

An ability to be flexible to adapt to changing situation and environment, face difficulties, planning ahead, thinking quickly, responding to sudden changes and surviving tactfully.

Students

- Visit different places, meet new people, observe / interact with them. Try to understand variety of cultures, mannerisms, food, lifestyles etc. Read books/magazines about the places you want to visit. Keep a checklist of things to do, before visiting any new destination.
- Enhance your communication skills by learning the local language and culture to be more accessible / adaptable amongst the local people of the places you are visiting / migrating to.
- Remember there is always a first time for everyone - do not shy away from opportunities, newer responsibilities and try to have a fluidic personality, which will adapt and adjust with the environment around.

Teachers and parents

- Discover the comfort zone of the student and push him/her out of those, into challenges. Motivate and counsel the student to venture into the unknown.
- Allow them to research and explore new places. Encourage to observe and analyze the changes happening around the world. Communicate and provide guidelines regarding the same, as and when required.
- Do not be over protective and learn to delegate tasks to the young student - remember to be a good teacher and not just be over-protective for the student, which might in fact slow down their overall growth in personality.

Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."

~ Margaret Mead

Effective Communicator

Communication can be verbal (using words), written (using printed or digital media such as books, magazines, websites, SMS or E-mails), visual (using logos, maps, charts or graphs) or non-verbal (using body language and gestures). It is usually a two way process of how well the information is transmitted and received. The ability to communicate information accurately, clearly and as intended, is a vital life skill and normally plays an imperative role for growth.

Students

- Enhance your communication by listening to different types of effective oratory talks like TED talks, INK talks, RJ interviews, talk shows etc.
- Make your written communication crisp and clear. Avoid using abbreviations, SMS lingo and follow proper writing etiquettes, especially while E-mailing or drafting business letters.
- Keep a right balance between speaking and listening - both are equally important.

Teachers and parents

- Expose the student to good orators of different background such as political, motivational, spiritual etc.
- Improve the student's articulation skill by making him/her write his/her experiences and thoughts - out of the syllabus.
- Be a role model and showcase positive and energetic gestures even in challenging situations, which later-on can be replicated by students.

Focusing on Quality

An underlying drive for excellence in every aspect of work is by setting high standards and continuous improvisations in quality.

Students

- Have an attitude of "Do it right first time" Practice quality in anything and everything you do.
- Do not compromise with mediocre output -work towards perfection through continuous improvement.
- Try to be a perfectionist, but not at the cost of additional time and resources. If possible do not accept 99.99% , rather try to achieve 100%.

Teachers and parents

- Set high standards of quality of work for both yourself and the student; try your best to achieve those.
- Provide the student independent environment to explore, observe and act on various projects and tasks, so as to ensure self-learning.
- Guide the student to approach the problems practically, using common sense. E.g. Understand the priority of the projects, tasks, timelines, resource availability etc.

The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.

~ Aristotle

Developing Others

This is about leading, encouraging, inspiring and supporting others to develop confidence and capability, so as to help them realize their full potential. As mentoring and team building will be an essential leadership skill, one should start imbibing the same at the earliest.

Students

- Practice sharing of information, knowledge, skills etc. Sharing of the above will bring in a culture of mutual understanding, positive environment and knowledge up-gradation.
- Every individual has some inherent strengths in them, so do not keep pointing only at their flaws, instead help them to resolve their improvement areas and leverage their strengths.
- Keep your intentions honest and clear. Have open and non-judgmental attitude towards others.

Teachers and parents

- Coach the student to move beyond competition and comparison and imbibe the habit of knowledge sharing with others.
- Look for the positives of the students and not continuously criticize them for their shortcomings.
- Build and nurture good moral values of honestly, truthfulness, friendliness, respect etc.

Problem Solving

Problem solving is the technique to break a situation down into smaller pieces to identify key issues, figuring out cause and effect relationships, in order to solve them.

Students

- Think laterally (out-of-the-box) for problems which seemingly do not have visible solutions.
- Simplify a complex issue into smaller parts and then focus on the solution - extract the core essence from all the details and go back to the basics, to find an appropriate solution.
- Develop the ability to sort through the pros/cons of various alternative solutions to select the solution that best meets your desired outcome; have a data analysis approach, wherever possible.

Teachers and parents

- Foster and encourage students to think differently - even if it feels silly, a fresh & unique approach usually stimulates a fresh solution.
- Involve students in different mind games, puzzles, case studies which helps improve problem solving and critical thinking abilities.
- Involve the students in day-to-day decision making and problem solving; also take justification for their choices and guide them, in case they falter.

"Learning gives creativity - creativity leads to thinking Thinking provides knowledge - knowledge makes you great."

~ A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Open for Learning

An ability of a person that imbibes the concept of LEARN, UNLEARN & RE-LEARN, on a continuous basis.

Students

- Keep an inquisitive mindset and use the 5 W's and 1 H (Why, What, Who, Where, Which and How) in every facet of life - this will help the individual be a life long learner.
- Reduce routine activities like TV watching / gaming and utilize the saved time in pursuing hobbies like sports / painting / dancing etc. and / or improve potential weak areas - like computing skills / English speaking / general knowledge etc.
- Leverage the power of internet by upgrading your functional / language skills through videos from YouTube / TED talks, educational websites like Khan Academy/ Wikipedia.

Teachers and parents

- Inculcate the habit of utilizing free time with productive habits - preach / practice and counsel the student that his/her time is precious and one should make the best of what is available.
- Make sure that we, as adults are also ready to sacrifice part of our recreation time and actively participate and encourage productive activities for the student.
- Many a times, elders may super-impose their concerns and fears / past failures and constraint the student from trying out certain activities / new things - this limitation is more of a mindblock and might act as a deterrent for the student's progress and needs to be overruled.

Right Attitude

A positive attitude is a state of mind for approaching life with optimism and confidence. Developing a positive attitude requires replacing negative thinking with positive, in an effort to create a successful outlook on life and experiences.

Students

- Set some short term and long term goals. Set priorities and be determined to work towards them.
- Try to be compassionate and look at the positive side in every situation and person.
- Believe in yourself and apply your strengths to execute thoughts / projects.

Teachers and parents

- Guide and support them in setting long / short term goals for the student.
- Be a role model for taking every situation or challenge in a positive way.
- Build confidence through challenging tasks and projects, so as to make them independent and resilient.

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."

~ Chinese Proverb

Take

Initiative

Taking initiative and taking action without being urged or told, is being proactive. The people who develop these skills are initiators and are generally optimistic in their approach.

Students

- Consider approaches you have never thought before (what if).
- If you are convinced that your idea is productive and can add value to yourself and the society, do not hesitate to implement it.
- Start as a participant and move on to be an organizer / leader for functions in family, school, college and neighbourhood.

Teachers and parents

- Encourage students asking questions, which are lateral and promote out-of the- box thinking.
- Create a free teaching-learning environment, where students are allowed to ideate, discuss, experiment and learn through participation.
- Keep a balance between challenging and overprotecting, with respect to the student's ideas or projects. As they are young adults, always remember to criticize the students in private and encourage in public.

Follow your dreams and use your natural-born talents and skills to make this a better world for tomorrow.

~ Paul Watson

Interpersonal
Relationship

The skill that helps in processing and interpreting both verbal and nonverbal information from others in order to respond appropriately is called Interpersonal relationship. It is the ability to build and maintain effective relationships which is an important, as well as critical element of life. Lack of good interpersonal relationship would lead to stagnation in life, in spite of excelling in other proficiency.

Students

- Do not let your stress and anger affect your relationships.
- Choose your words while talking. Negative words might hamper/affect your relationships.
- While buildings relationships, be sure that you are not selfish and maintain only work related relations, rather try to maintain long term connections.

Teachers and parents

- Have transparency in most of your relationships and keep a positive and healthy environment.
- Frequently discuss at length on any one topic - the same can be any current affairs /historical events/festivals/significant dates etc.
- Practice than preach, join a community club yourself. Give space for the students to explore and understand the world around. Encourage the shy students to participate in group competitions/ personality development camps.

If you want to achieve excellence, you can get there today. As of this second, quit doing less-than-excellent work.

~ Thomas J. Watson

Maa Foundation

Projects...

Issues faced by education system

Lack of quality education
in rural schools.

Aim of the project

To turn each rural school into a
'Role Model School'.

Project Name

Ken

Issues faced by education system

Lack ok knowledge about career options and lack of
sense of direction in life.

Aim of the project

Providing career guidance though career fairs
and aptitude testing.

Project Name

Disha

Issues faced by education system

Lack of human values and social
skills in children.

Aim of the project

To instill values, an essential soft
skills through life skill education.

Project Name

Parvarish

Maa Foundation

Projects...

Issues faced by education system

Deserving children loose out on quality education due to insufficient funds.

Aim of the project

To provide financial assistance to those students who are both, deserving and needy.

Project Name

Vidhya

Issues faced by education system

Teenage students falter in their goal setting, lack of vision and exposure, to compete in today's fast growing economy.

Aim of the project

To enhance vision, sensitize the students towards goal setting and skills required for a successful career.

Project Name

Prabodhan

Issues faced by education system

Young drop-outs/graduates remain unemployed due to lack of confidence, low self-esteem and low skills-set.

Aim of the project

To conduct an intensive employability skills finishing course to school drop-outs/educated unemployed to make them employable.

Project Name

Unnati

Maa Foundation

Projects...

Issues faced by education system

Teachers not receiving adequate knowledge up-gradation, motivation and training.

Children do not get access to current affairs and English reading material.

Aim of the project

To enhance the knowledge levels, we :

Conduct skill enhancement program -Teachers

Distribute news papers (student edition) -Students

Project Name

Gnyan

Issues faced by education system

Children are not able to relate maths concepts learnt in school to real life situations.

Aim of the project

To remove the phobia students have towards maths and make it enjoyable and interesting for them.

Project Name

Maths fair

Issues faced by education system

Interactive and interesting methods of Learning Science are not available to rural students.

Aim of the project

To improve the concept clarity and inculcate scientific temperament in rural students and attract them towards science.

Project Name

Science-on-wheels

Maa Foundation

Projects...

Issues faced by education system

Rural graduates are found to be unemployable due to low skill sets, lack of English language and computer knowledge.

Aim of the project

To turn a rural vernacular college into a 'Role Model College' by grooming the graduates with various skill-sets, in order to increase their employability chances.

Project Name

Vikas

Issues faced by education system

Parents coming from rural areas and weak financial background do not understand the importance of education.

Aim of the project

To equip the first generation learners who come from financially weaker backgrounds, with quality education and skills to drive home the message of 'Prosperity though education'.

Project Name

Udaan

Issues faced by education system

Insufficient number of classrooms and teachers per standard.

Aim of the project

Activity based learning to allow each student to study at his/her own pace.

Project Name

Step-up

Sum-up

Need of the hour

At an event, late Dr. Kalam had said, "When the students pass-out of senior secondary schools, they should have two certificates - of passing 10+2 examination and of a specific skill acquired by him during schooling".

Like him, many renowned education visionaries of India have strongly emphasized on reforming existing education system. Our NGO is making humble attempts in this direction to bring to the notice of teachers, parents, educational fraternity and torch bearers in the field of education, at large. World is looking at India with high hopes – in fact many opportunities will approach India in the near future, which can eventually bring about revolutionary change in the Indian economy; only a knowledgeable and skilled generation can make the most from this opportunity provided.

We need to understand that one size does not fit all, and on immediate basis we have to liberate ourselves from traditional classroom practice. Rather than expecting students to adapt to schools, expect schools to adapt according to their students, where teaching should be for understanding, not memorizing of facts.

All the stakeholders-government, and society (school management, teachers and parents) owe a moral responsibility to radically work and improve upon the products coming out of our education system- only this will ensure India take its rightful position as economic superpower and spiritual capital of the world.

Way Forward

We would like to invite like-minded Corporate houses and High Networth Individuals (HNI)'s who are passionate about bringing educational reforms, to replicate projects of Maa Foundation in the areas of their interest/vicinity. Maa Foundation will be glad to handhold the organization / individual in the replication process by providing the required training, sharing the project details, related software knowledge and help in successful replication of the project/s.

Maa foundation is promoted by Bilakhia Group. The Group has created global scale printing inks and crop protection chemicals companies. It has had partnership with two international giants: the group has also entered the emerging fields of life sciences - Meril Life Sciences (www.merillife.com) and education – Mexus education (www.mexuseducation.com). In all its endeavours, the Bilakhia Group stays committed to its shareholders, its people, its customers, the community and planet at large.

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Knowledge is growth

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