SIES
RISE WITH EDUCATION

ONE INDIA ONE PEOPLE
FOUNDATION

Youth and Education

Vol II 2025 APRIL

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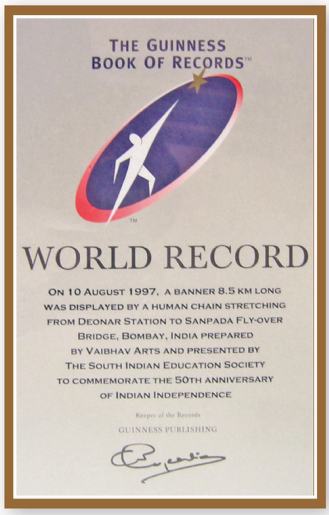


The South Indian Education Society,

with its allied colleges and schools has been a unique pathfinder for decades now. **Excellence** being its hallmark, the Institution has always strived to instill values, and **practice** rather than preach!

From basic sciences and arts to high-end technology, SIES colleges have a **spectrum** of courses across all spheres of education. No wonder, this highly esteemed Institution has played host to some of the most eminent personalities.

Today, SIES pledges to write many more success stories on the pillar called **Education**.

SIES RISE WITH EDUCATION | RISE WITH EDUCATION 92 A JOURNEY OF NINE DECADES

- SIES High School — 1932
- SIES College of Arts, Science & Commerce — (Empowered Autonomous) 1960
- SIES Institute of Comprehensive Education — 1980
- SIES College of Commerce and Economics — (Autonomous) 1989
- SIES College of Management Studies — 1995
- SIES (Nerul) College of Arts, Science & Commerce — (Autonomous) 1998
- SIES Indian Institute of Environment Management — 2001
- SIES Graduate School of Technology — (Autonomous) 2002
- SIES School of Packaging — Packaging Technology Centre — 2003
- SIES Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati Veda Vidya Pitha — 2003
- SIES Seniors' Home — 2003
- SIES Institute of Medical and Laboratory Technology — 2004
- SIES ISR — INSTITUTIONAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY — 2013
- SIES Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial High School — 2017
- SIES School of Learning and Leadership Development — 2020
- SIES School of Business Studies — 2020
- SIES Incubation Centre — 2024
- SIES School of Pharmaceutical Sciences — 2024

THE FUTURE TAKES SHAPE

- SIES College of Nursing
- SIES College of Physiotherapy
- SIES School of Foreign Languages
- SIES School of Law

Mr. M.V. Ramnarayan
Vice President
The South Indian Education Society

Educating the youth of today is a complex subject. Technology provides both the cutting edge and the sword of redundancy in every subject taught to the students. The landscape is constantly evolving and while the youth of today are provided a plethora of opportunities, the times are also fraught with significant challenges. How does one navigate through these stormy waters? What are the challenges for both the teacher and the taught? Let us look at the factors which impact the education landscape today.

Technology driven education:

- The covid pandemic thrust tech-based education into the forefront. Online teaching, learning platforms, virtual classrooms and educational apps, became the norm and today they continue to grow and eat into the physical classrooms of the past.

- In India, NEP and its emphasis on providing plenty of choices for the students both in skill development as well as subject learning, has made digital driven education the go-to method for learning.

- Students learn at the pace best suited to them, offering a greater degree of flexibility to balance their education with other personal needs.

- There is a greater emphasis on a multi-discipline approach which is enabled by technology. Increasingly, professionals will need better exposure to auxiliary disciplines which are separate from their core specialisation.

Emergence of new professions & skills :

- Technology disruptions are creating new professions and skill set requirements for today's youth. Take even a creative field like music composition. Today a music composer needs not only knowledge of music, but also of sound engineering!

- Similarly AI has thrown up the need for being alert to redundancy in any existing skills. The future robotic world will make many manual skills required obsolete. This will impact many of the traditional roles played by today's workforce. However, there will be a growing need of those who understand technology in their sphere and the expertise therein to troubleshoot problems, and enhance productivity. The youth of today has to identify these future areas and set the right markers for their education.

- There will be a return to fundamental skills–in sectors like health care, hospitality, tourism and other leisure sectors, and demand for these specialists will grow.

- Education for today's youth will also have to lay emphasis on development of soft skills–in communication, team-working, innovative thinking etc.

One World. One Education.

- The world has also shrunk to such an extent, that the differences in availability of expertise for teaching has been largely overcome, due to global interconnectedness. The best teachers are available online and students can get connected to the world's best subject experts.

- Today's students also have the opportunity to transcend geographic barriers and form teams with students across the globe to tackle projects and exchange ideas.

Emphasis on work-life balance and mental health

- Rapid industrialisation and demands of increasing consumerism along with the deep impact of social media has contributed to a huge imbalance in work-life & mental stability. Today's youth is subject to continuous bombardment of news, trends and aspirational themes, which constantly make them feel inadequate and this has resulted in the creation of a generation that is often at odds with the rest of the people. Education needs to address this important aspect, as part of its curriculum.

- Educational institutions should stress on the need to maintain both physical and mental balance, while instilling self-belief and an approach of minimalism, in an increasingly overwhelming social landscape.

- In India especially, we need to move away from competitive comparisons and make all students feel adequate in their knowledge levels, without sacrificing the need for putting in proper efforts to acquire life learnings.

Challenges & possible solutions:

Bridging the digital & economic divide:

- With increased tech dependence, the cost of providing quality education is ever rising, thus depriving large populations of poorer students from access to the best resources. This has always been the case, but now the disparities are more glaring due to the availability of information across the globe.

- The solutions to this divide, lies with the policy makers, both in government and outside. Creation of digital infrastructure has to be a priority especially for the marginalised sections. In India, the digital divide is easier to resolve in terms of infrastructure due to the huge social dependence today on digital resources like UPI. The creation of virtual libraries, with universal access, has already broken some of the barriers. Continuous emphasis and monitoring will ensure that equity in this area is permanent.

Faculty training, and up-skilling:

- Teaching methodologies, and subject knowledge, are continuously changing and evolving. What was relevant 10-15 years ago, when the current teachers probably got qualified to teach, are no longer so. Teachers need to constantly unlearn and learn – their training, and up-skilling is a huge challenge faced by educational institutions today, and impacts significantly on the youth of the day.

- This challenge has to be met by those managing the educational institutions and the regulators. Teachers have to be regularly monitored as to their adequacy and capacity to teach in today's environment. With the global connectedness available to the students of today, comparisons with the best are inevitable and any significant gap here, immediately impacts the youth of today.

- Teachers need to learn as well as teach and collaborating with peers outside their regular environment is also key to the teacher's continued relevance

Identifying future skill sets:

- A constant lament of employers who come to campuses for recruitment is that there is huge gap between what is provided as education to the students and the skills sought by these employers. In short, employability of today's youth is questionable. The solution lies in blending the teaching programme with real-life exposure to the work place, and ensuring a very good feedback system from working places.

- The emergence of new skill requirement as mentioned earlier, challenges both the students & the education institutions to identify emerging skill sets, and gear up the curriculum to cater to these requirements.

- Data analytics and decisions based on data will continue to drive this exercise. While true north-south principles will remain forever, the expertise required in the increasingly automated world of tomorrow will throw up new work opportunities.

Funding and resources:

- Apart from a few elite institutions, in India the education system are perennially short-funded, short-equipped and characterised by low pay to teachers, inadequate & over-crowded classrooms, poor teacher-student ratios, inadequate digital infrastructure etc.

- Many families here also cannot afford sending their children to educational institutions due to economic conditions at home.

- While solutions in the right direction are attempted like the mid-day meal scheme, grant in aid schools & colleges etc., the situation is far from ideal. Public-private partnership with emphasis on self-regulation is the way forward.

Conclusion:

The youth of today is far more enabled than previous generations of students. The choice of subjects, the pool of teacher resources, the emergence of exciting opportunities, personalised learning methods, and data accessibility, are all far superior to what was available before. The flip-side however, is the confusion that abounds in such a scenario. Choosing one's career is much more complex today. Decision making in all these areas require a degree of maturity which the youth of today may lack. Mentoring by teachers and elders, a nurturing & nourishing educational system and a regular high-bridge view to look at the future are the demands that will have to be met.

"*Education is not the filling of a vessel, but the kindling of a flame*"
- Ivan Illich, Austrian Priest and Theologian

Youth and education

Ms.Jagruti D. Patil (Student, MSc IT-I)
SIES (Nerul) College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous)

Due to advancements in science and technology, the ability to access information has become easier, and the possibilities have multiplied. From the beginning till now, i.e., from ancient to modern times, there has always been a king, and the king is the "human being"

Generally, human beings thrive for changes that lead to progress. In a human being's lifetime youth is the most productive period in which they are brimming with energy, excitement, and fresh ideas. They have a lot of responsibilities since they are considered as the the future of any society. In short, they are driving technological growth, social changes, and cultural shifts. Young minds are open to new ideas and adapt quickly. Their creativity leads to new inventions and improvements in technology, business, and art. As a result of which, enormous growth is observed in fields like artificial intelligence, social media, and renewable energy to name a few though it is noticed in all the fields.

Youngsters today are there at the forefront of fighting for justice, equality, and environmental care. They care deeply about making the world better and aren't afraid to challenge old ways of thinking when they find it inappropriate or irrelevant in recent times. Youth contribute to the economy by evolving as entrepreneurs, thus creating jobs, and driving demand for new innovation.

If we compare the growth, awareness and the activities of today's youth with the previous generations we can see a lot of changes. One of the main reasons is education. Perseverance and tenacity is noticed in many youngsters which is due to the awareness that has been created through education. John Dewey says, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." It provides the knowledge and skills needed to face challenges. It also helps them grow personally and contribute to society. In addition, it also enables an individual to develop critical thinking, analytical and problem solving skills, and nurture creativity. These most important skills than an individual are expected to sharpen in this 21st century for personal development that teaches the importance of collaboration and respect for diversity.

Educated individuals are more likely to make informed choices, leading to better physical and mental well-being. It empowers youth by providing equal opportunities, regardless of background, thus acting as a powerful tool for breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting social mobility and societal progress. Young minds are able to achieve this only through active learning with the support of their parents and guidance from educational facilitators.

To conclude, it is only through education they are able to respect the diverse cultural groups thus promoting inclusivity and embrace sustainable lifestyle. Education creates the awareness in the youth's mind that the change has to be from them and not wait for others to change and marching forward as a progressive society.

The role of education in youth development

Sangita Surushe (Student, MSc IT-I)
SIES (Nerul) College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous)

"*Young minds hold the power to change the destiny of a country.*"
– Swami Vivekananda

Youth is the most dynamic and transformative phase of life, marked by growth, learning, and self-discovery. It is a period of immense potential, where curiosity, ambition, and creativity lay the foundation for personal and societal progress. Youth and education are deeply interconnected. Education shapes an individual's growth, opportunities, and perspectives, while youth experiences influence learning, motivation, and career choices. We can only change the destiny of our country through education. It is the foundation of our lives. While one can endure hunger for a time, survival without knowledge and learning is impossible. A well-balanced education enriches youth experiences and enhances personal and professional development.

Any discussion about the future must begin with youth, as they embody a society's dreams, aspirations, and responsibilities. The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow, quotes Nelson Mandela. A nation's ambitions—whether in technology, economy, education, or social justice—are entrusted to its youth. Their energy, creativity, and resilience shape the evolution of society. If a country envisions a progressive and inclusive future, it mu.st invest in its youth through quality education, skill development, and leadership opportunities. Since youth represent a society's aspirations, education ensures they are prepared to fulfill these expectations. It equips them not only for personal success but also for leadership, social reforms, and scientific advancements that drive progress. Through education, young individuals gain the skills necessary for employment, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

Without access to quality education, youth face challenges that hinder both personal development and societal participation. These include:

Economic Insecurity: Young people struggle to acquire skills for well-paying jobs, leading to unemployment and poverty. The absence of proper education that results in lack of required skills, limit their ability to compete in the job market and secure financial stability.

Limited Skill Development: Education extends beyond academics to foster critical life and vocational skills. Without it, youth lack the expertise needed in today's complex job market, making it difficult to face the struggle and transition phase to be successful in their profession or build their entrepreneurial ventures.

Social Marginalization: Inadequate education restricts access to opportunities, making it harder to build networks, access resources, and fully participate in society. As a result, many young individuals find themselves excluded from mainstream economic and social systems.

Increased Vulnerability: Uneducated youth are more susceptible to economic, social, and political exploitation, increasing their risk of being misled or manipulated. This lack of awareness can lead to detrimental consequences, including involvement in criminal activities or extremist movements which pave the path to unwanted social activities.

Reduced Civic Engagement: Education fosters critical thinking and awareness of rights and responsibilities. Without it, young people are less likely to engage in civic activities or influence policies that impact their lives. A lack of education diminishes their ability to advocate for change and contribute to democratic processes.

Pathways to Strengthen Youth Education : Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive, multilayered approach that ensures young individuals receive the education they need to thrive.

Creating Youth Advisory Councils: Establishing platforms for youth to provide input on education policies at local, regional, and national levels ensure their voices are heard. Involving young people in decision-making allows for the development of an education system that aligns with their needs and aspirations.

Expanding Professional Development for Young Educators: Investing in continuous training tailored to early-career educators and young leaders through workshops and conferences on innovative teaching practices, digital literacy, and civic engagement can help educators drive meaningful change. Well-trained educators play a crucial role in shaping an inclusive and adaptable education system.

Strengthening Educational Accessibility and Innovation: Expanding access to digital learning tools, modernizing curricula, and implementing skill-based learning approaches can create a more inclusive and effective educational environment. Providing equal learning opportunities to all youth ensures that no one is left behind in society's progress. Implementing these measures will transform education into a dynamic, inclusive arena where youth not only learn but also actively shape its future

Conclusion

The future depends on the synergy between a robust education system and empowered youth. When education nurtures curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving, it enables young people to become active contributors to society. Simultaneously, youth bring fresh perspectives and boundless energy that drive educational innovation. By investing in accessible, relevant learning environments and giving youth a voice in shaping education, we can create a society where both education and young people thrive together.

"*An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.*"
– ***Benjamin Franklin***

Education remains the most powerful tool for shaping the future. As we strengthen learning opportunities for youth, we pave the way for a society driven by knowledge, innovation, and progress.

Constitution Day: A celebration of India's founding principles

Ms. Kalyani Arumugam, Headmistress,
SIES High School, Matunga

Constitution Day, or Samvidhan Diwas, is celebrated on November 26th every year to honor the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1949. This day serves as a reminder of the vision, struggles, and sacrifices of the leaders who laid the foundation of modern India. The Constitution is not merely a legal document; it is a reflection of the country's aspirations, embodying the principles of democracy, justice, and equality.

At the heart of the Constitution lies the Preamble, often referred to as its soul. It outlines the guiding philosophy and purpose of the document, setting the tone for its interpretation and application.

The Preamble: India's Guiding Light

The Preamble begins with the powerful words, "We, the People of India," signifying that sovereignty lies with the people. It envisions India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic, committed to securing justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for all its citizens. Each of these terms is a cornerstone of India's democracy. Justice—social, economic,and political—is aimed at eradicating disparities and creating an inclusive society. Liberty guarantees freedoms such as thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship, essential in a pluralistic nation. Equality ensures that no citizen is discriminated against and everyone has equal opportunities to thrive. Fraternity promotes a sense of unity and brotherhood, strengthening the fabric of the nation. The Preamble, though not enforceable as a law, is fundamental in interpreting and shaping constitutional provisions, particularly in landmark cases that have upheld the ideals of justice and equality.

Article 14: The right to equality

Article 14 embodies the spirit of equality enshrined in the Preamble. It guarantees that "the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India." This means that every individual, regardless of caste, gender, religion, or economic status, is equal in the eyes of the law.

Through various judgments, the judiciary has ensured that Article 14 is a dynamic principle, striking down discriminatory laws and upholding fairness in governance.

It remains a cornerstone of India's commitment to creating an equitable society.

Article 21: The right to life and personal liberty

Article 21, another fundamental right, declares that "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law." Over the years, this article has evolved to encompass a broad spectrum of rights, including the right to live with dignity, the right to privacy, and the right to a pollution-free environment. The judiciary has interpreted Article 21 expansively, ensuring that the right to life goes beyond mere survival to include the quality of life. Landmark cases like Maneka Gandhi v.Union of India (1978) have underscored its significance as the cornerstone of individual freedom and human rights.

The significance of Constitution Day

Constitution Day is not merely a celebration; it is a call to reflect on the ideals of the Constitution and their relevance in today's times. It reminds citizens of their rights and duties and urges them to contribute to the nation's progress

The values enshrined in the Preamble, alongside Articles 14 and 21, underline the essence of Indian democracy. They ensure that every individual is treated with dignity and has access to equal opportunities, fostering an environment of inclusion and harmony.

The South Indian Education Society understands that it is the moral responsibility of educational institutions to sensitize the younger generation about the importance of our Indian Constitution. On the occasion of Constitution Day on November 26, 2024, the Chairman of SIES OIOP Foundation , Dr.V. Shankar, a visionary - envisaged the importance of this day & the need to create a constitutional lawn with the statue of Bharat Ratna, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at the SIES Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Vidyapuram Campus, Nerul, Navi Mumbai. This lawn was inaugurated by Honourable Justice Shri B.N. Srikrishna (Retd.) Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India on Tuesday, 26th November, 2024, in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution.

This surely is a milestone encouraging all Indians to realize the importance of our Constitution and to follow the principles mentioned therein.

Conclusion

The Indian Constitution is a living document, constantly evolving to meet the needs of a changing society. Constitution Day is a tribute to the visionaries who drafted this document and a reaffirmation of our commitment to its principles. As we celebrate this day, let us strive to uphold the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, ensuring that the spirit of the Constitution continues to guide India toward a brighter future.

Why I love my school?

Jessica D Phull
Student, SIES High School, Matunga

"Education is the foundation upon which we build our future,shaping minds and moulding destinies."

The very word ‘school’ carries a lot of emotions with it, and we are transported to a world where we spend half of our day studying, reading, and writing, then enjoying other co-curricular activities too, such as sports, dance, music, etc.

I consider my school a temple of learning. This temple of learning has provided me with so many opportunities, like attending seminars, elocution competitions, workshops, debates, exhibitions, sports, cultural events, etc., which has helped in fostering critical thinking, social skills, emotional intelligence, and personal values.

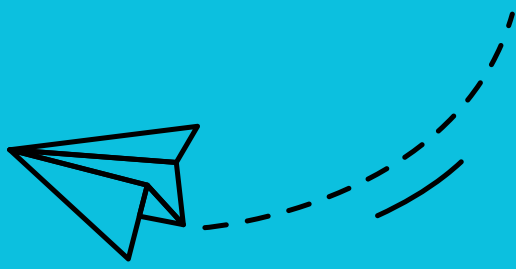
Education is very important to all of us. Our home is the first educational institute, and school is our second home.

I can never get over the indelible impression that my school has left on me, which has helped me to gain immense confidence to survive through various challenges and difficulties of life. My school life helped me improve the qualities and skills that I had, and it also helped me in realizing my strengths and weaknesses.
My school life is like wealth for me, which has given me indispensable delight in life.

Education is very important to all of us. Our home is the first educational institute, and school is our second home.

My school/classroom has taught me -

C Cultivate Creativity
L Love to Learn
A Aim High
S Stay Focused
S Succeed in Kindness
R Read to Discover
O Overcome Obstacles
O Own your Choices
M Make today Count.



I would like to rest my thoughts with the following lines….
"School is not the end, but only the beginning of education"

Reading,Writing and Recitation.

Mrs. Manju D. Phull, English Teacher,
(SIES High School, Matunga)

I have a passion for teaching kids to become readers, to become comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."

-Roald Dahl

In the perspective of the above quote, we at SIES started with 'Mission 3R'—Reading, Writing, and Recitation—to encourage students to develop the habit of reading and build confidence to express oneself.

Why is Reading Important for Students?

Into the world of inventiveness, creativity, and resourcefulness—a book, in its purest form, can simply be described as a sea of words on pages. These words give meaning to anything and everything, be it living or non-living, fictional or non-fictional, emotional or materialistic.

Stories become an integral part and a driving element of our lives as they provide an insight into the history, mythology, science, our beliefs, our aspirations, possibilities of our future, and the list goes on.

It is very important to inculcate the habit of reading in children from a very young age to make them capable of achieving their goals. Reading is important for children as it nurtures their minds and plays a very important role in defining their personality.

What are the Benefits of Reading?

The habit of reading has numerous advantages of which, the important ones are mentioned below:

- Improves Memory
- Brain Exercise
- Promotes Critical Thinking Skills
- Promotes Empathy
- Develops and Expands Language Skills
- A Good Source of Entertainment
- Develops a Good Self-image
- Helps to Discover the Other Parts of the World
- Improves / Enhances concentration

Promoting good reading habits in students enable them to evolve as better human beings, better thinkers, creators and problem solvers. Children from an early stage of their lives have the habit of listening to their parents.

Therefore, when parents encourage their children to read, the child tends to progress at a much faster pace. In schools, teachers promote good reading habits in students by introducing creative ways to do the same. For example, instead of the teacher reading the story out loud, they tend to allocate roles to children and then ask them to perform a role play, which not only engages children in the story but also improves their enunciation skills.

As it is rightly said, 'Every action has a resultant reaction.' This habit of reading and expressing has encouraged our students to publish their piece of work at www.bribooks—a platform to encourage young writers to get acknowledged. Currently, 13 of our students have published books, and there are many more in queue to add up to this number.

Conclusion

Reading books is not only limited to academics, but they also help children grow, evolve, inculcate important values like morality and empathy, expand their vocabulary, increase social interaction, and most importantly, become good people. However, it doesn't happen instantly and automatically. One has to be nurtured in order to develop a well-rounded personality.

How has SIES HIGH SCHOOL helped me empower myself in academics?

Ms. Elma Usmani
Alumna, SIES High School, Matunga

SIES High School, established in 1932 is known for its high academic service. The school has provided me with a supportive learning environment, well-equipped.

Classrooms, library and laboratories, which has definitely helped me to enhance my academics and shape my future. The extra-curricular activities organized from time to time has developed confidence in me and has helped me to think critically and independently. My teachers were approachable and they used modern learning tools that made it easier to understand complex concepts. I must mention here that, they consistently motivated me to push my limits and aim higher by providing constructive feedback on assignments and tests. Overall, I would like to say that the school especially our Headmistress Mrs. Kalyani Arumugam has equipped me with the skills, confidence and resources needed to excel academically and prepare for future challenges.

The need for resource rooms in schools: Bridging literacy and numeracy gap

Dr. Vasundhara Kaul
Founding Partner and
Chief Innovation Officer, Carpediem EdPsych Consultancy

"Learning is not attained by chance.
It must be sought for with ardour and attended with diligence."

-Abigail Adams

In today's educational landscape, inclusivity and personalised learning have become crucial in addressing students' diverse needs. Resource rooms, which are specialised spaces designed to provide targeted academic and emotional support, are increasingly recognised as essential for bridging significant literacy and numeracy gaps. With studies showing alarming learning deficits post-pandemic, the role of resource rooms has never been more critical.

Building a case for resource rooms in schools

The research underscores the widening gaps in foundational literacy and numeracy skills, particularly among vulnerable populations:

- **Learning loss post-pandemic:** A 2022 report by UNESCO highlighted that school closures during the pandemic led to an average loss of two years in literacy and numeracy skills for students worldwide. The World Bank estimated that 70% of children in low- and middle-income countries now struggle with basic reading skills, compared to 53% pre-pandemic.

- **The power of targeted interventions:** Studies conducted by the National Centre for Learning Disabilities (NCLD), Washington D.C., indicate that individualized interventions are advantageous for pupils with learning disabilities. Resource rooms offer the structured environment necessary for such interventions, which enhances academic performance and increases self-assurance.

  According to a report from University College London researchers, targeted interventions instead of teaching as usual or standard interventions can add an average of five months to a student's school years.

- **Neurodiversity in Classrooms:** The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in India emphasises the importance of inclusive education and the need for special accommodations for students with learning challenges. Resource rooms align with this vision, fostering equity by addressing diverse learning needs.

- **Impact on Academic Outcomes:** Studies published in the Journal of Learning Disabilities reveal that resource room interventions, such as phonics-based reading programs and explicit math instruction, can improve literacy and numeracy outcomes by up to 50% within one academic year.

How do resource rooms address literacy and numeracy gaps?

- **Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs):** Resource rooms implement ILPs tailored to each student's strengths and challenges. These plans include evidence-based interventions like phonics instruction, guided reading, and number sense activities and are executed in small groups (Individualized Group Plans) or in 1:1 formats for severe gaps (Individualized Education Plans) for intensive support.

- **Multisensory Teaching Methods:** Studies in Educational Psychology Review show that multisensory approaches enhance retention and understanding. For example, using tactile tools for math or visual aids for reading improves engagement and learning outcomes.

- **Ongoing Assessment and Feedback:** Regular formative assessments in resource rooms ensure that progress is tracked, interventions are adjusted, and students achieve measurable growth.

- **Emotional and Behavioral Support:** Beyond academics, resource rooms address emotional and behavioral challenges that often accompany learning difficulties, fostering resilience and self-regulation.

Steps schools can take:

- Create resource rooms as part of an inclusive education framework that incorporates best practices from both international and indigenous research.

- Equip teachers with skills to identify learning challenges early and use evidence-based interventions effectively.

- Engage parents, special educators, and therapists to create holistic support systems.

- Tools like assistive software and gamified learning platforms can make resource rooms more dynamic and impactful.

We are committed to making all learners thrive!

Unquestionably, resource rooms serve as a vital resource for today's learners. These dedicated spaces bridge literacy and numeracy gaps, empowering students to rise above challenges and unlock their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally.

As educators and policymakers, our mission is clear: ***every child deserves equitable access to quality education.*** Resource rooms represent more than support—they symbolise possibility and transformation.

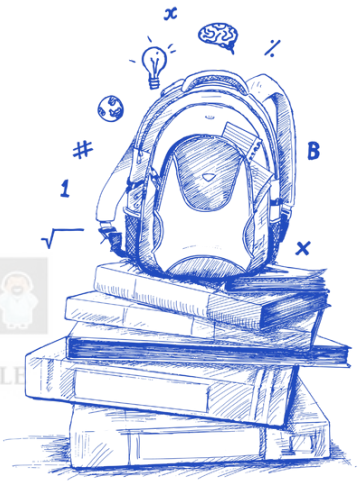
"Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world."

Let's dedicate ourselves to establishing schools that ensure no learner falls behind and provide every child with the chance to thrive.

Integrating 21st century skills in Indian classrooms: The need of the hour

Dr. Vidhya Satish
Director, SIES Institute of
Comprehensive Education

Much is spoken about the integration of 21st century skills in modern day classrooms. The reiteration and stress on developing these skills clearly indicates that our classrooms are still in the process of embracing this integration. With a wide array of diverse careers that have sprung up in the last few years, the need to understand and integrate 21st century skills have risen considerably.



The Glossary of Education defines 21st Century Skills as follows:

"The term 21st century skills refer to a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits that are believed— by educators, school reformers, college professors, employers, and others—to be critically important to success in today's world."

In other words, the term "21st Century Skills" refers to the abilities needed to help a person deal with the problems of the twenty-first century, which is characterised by global activity, digital transformation, collaborative progress, creative advancement, the need for skilled human resources, and a rapid rate of change adoption.

Broadly the 21st Century Skills have been classified under 3 categories – **Learning Skills, Literacy Skills** and **Life Skills.**
(As per the above pictorial representation)

Why should we develop 21st-century skills in children?

It is imperative to equip our future generations to deal with an ever-changing environment, the reasons for which are listed below:

- **Adaptability**: Since the world is changing so quickly, children must be able to adjust to new surroundings and technologies. They can successfully manage these changes with the aid of abilities like creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

- **Collaboration**: The capacity to collaborate effectively with people from a variety of backgrounds is crucial in the globalised world of today. Early cooperation and communication skills training equips children for teamwork in a variety of contexts.

- **Critical Thinking**: Fostering critical thinking in children aids in information analysis, decision-making, and problem-solving. This talent is essential for daily living as well as academic achievement.

- **Creativity:** Creativity encourages originality and unconventional thinking. It is highly regarded in many domains, including the arts and technology, and it gives children a new way of looking at problems.

- **Digital Literacy**: This skill is becoming more and more crucial as technology gets more ingrained in our daily lives. Children who are taught responsible and efficient technology use are better prepared for chances in the future.

- **Life Skills**: Both professional and personal development depend on traits like initiative, adaptability, and leadership. Children that possess these abilities grow up to be more capable and resilient people.

Examples of a few engaging activities for children that not only make learning enjoyable but also equip children with essential 21st-century skills for their future.

Global Awareness:

- **Cultural Exchange Activities:** Use storytelling, music, and food to introduce kids to many cultures. Their viewpoints can also be expanded through video exchanges or virtual pen pals with kids from other nations.

- **Conversations on Global Issues:** Discuss global issues like wildlife protection and climate change and come up with ideas for good solutions.

Life Skills:

- **Baking and Cooking:** Easy baking projects can educate children about following directions, measuring, and the value of a healthy diet.

- **Gardening:** Planting and caring for a garden can teach responsibility, patience, and an appreciation for nature.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, it is imperative that the Indian educational system incorporate 21st-century abilities to equip students to succeed in a world that is becoming more inter-connected and complex. By developing critical thinking, creativity, cooperation, and technological competency, educators may provide students with the tools they need to manage future problems and opportunities. Prioritising flexibility, cultural sensitivity, and lifelong learning will improve academic performance while also advancing children's overall development. places a high priority on these abilities will be crucial in producing a generation of creative, resilient, and internationally conscious individuals as India continues to make an impact on the global landscape.

Fostering education in Youth- Panacea to all problems

Dr. Rajesh Kumar S. Nair
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Education is a very important aspect for the development of youth. It shapes the future of individuals, various communities, and societies in general.
There are various challenges that one faces in the pursuit of quality education that need to be addressed immediately.

- **Education affordable to all:** The cost of higher education is not affordable for all; it is therefore necessary to offer scholarships to deserving students on the basis of economic criteria. It has been observed that some students are getting benefits on the basis of their linguistic background, which needs to change to the economic background of students.

- **Skill Development to bridge the gap between academics and industry:** It is important to bridge the gap between academics and industry by integrating relevant knowledge and skills in the education sector to bridge the gap between academics and industry. Courses like Design Thinking, Artificial Intelligence, Analytics, and Data Visualization should be integrated across all industries.

- **Entrepreneurship among Youth:** How do we develop entrepreneurship among youth and make them have a mindset of Job givers and not Job seekers? It is important for entrepreneurship to thrive. Innovation Labs must be inculcated right from schools to higher education—postgraduate students. Funding bright ideas and mentoring students is important to bring youth into entrepreneurship mode.
- **Mental Health:** Students are under immense pressure, and the focus of education should be to equip students with how to manage pressure. Yoga education should be mandatory right from schools, and it should be credit-based so that students take it seriously. Counselors should be there from schools to higher education, and counseling sessions should be made mandatory for all students. It has been observed that some students are not aware of mental health issues, and it has become overbearing for them as they can't discuss them with family and friends. The role of counselor is therefore important for mental health guidance and support.
- **Experiential Learning:** The curriculum designed should look into hands-on experiences that can be integrated with education. Outbound activities and project learning, which encourage teamwork, should be part of the curriculum for students' teamwork, communication, leadership, and initiative to learn from new experiences should be evaluated.
- **Cultural Exchanges:** The opportunities for cultural exchange programs should start with school levels and go to post-graduation levels. Cultural exchange programs promote diversity and understanding of human values and bring deep levels of bonding with different communities. Cultural exchange programs are essential to bring human aspects to the student community to encourage a deep sense of brotherhood.
- **Sustainability:** The youth have prime responsibility for ensuring sustainability. Education in real sense focuses on economic development along with environmental and social sustainability aspects. Education should always focus on saving the environment, reducing carbon emissions, planting trees, and ensuring a safe environment for future generations to grow and prosper.

Vaue-based education with an emphasis on learning new skills and embracing new technologies is a panacea for all problems in life.

Youth and education: The path to a brighter future

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Education has always been a cornerstone of progress, shaping the minds of young individuals and preparing them for the future. Today, as the world undergoes rapid transformations driven by technology, globalization, and shifting societal norms, the role of education in shaping the youth has never been more crucial. However, education must evolve beyond traditional learning to truly empower the next generation.

For young individuals, education is more than just academic knowledge; it is a tool for personal growth, self-discovery, and independence that empowers them. A well-educated youth is equipped with the skills to question, innovate, and lead. Education instills confidence, helping young people break barriers and achieve their aspirations. Yet, despite the recognized importance of education, many young individuals still face challenges such as limited access to quality learning, outdated curricula, and financial constraints. Addressing these issues is essential to ensure that every young person, regardless of background, has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Traditional education models often focus on memorization and theoretical knowledge. While these aspects are important, they do not fully prepare students for the complexities of the modern world. Today's youth need an education system that focuses beyond traditional learning, which emphasizes:

- **Critical Thinking:** The ability to analyze, evaluate, and create solutions rather than just accepting information.
- **Practical Skills:** Learning through real-world applications, internships, and hands-on experiences.
- **Adaptability:** Preparing for industries that are constantly evolving and embracing lifelong learning.
- **Emotional Intelligence:** Developing interpersonal skills, empathy, and mental resilience.

Educational institutions should integrate these aspects into their curricula to create a more holistic learning environment.

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Technology and Digital Learning is the game changer in this 21st century. Technology has revolutionized education, making it more accessible and engaging. Online courses, virtual classrooms, and interactive tools have opened new doors for learning, allowing students to gain knowledge beyond geographical and financial limitations. However, digital education must be inclusive, ensuring that all young individuals have the necessary resources and connectivity to benefit from it. Moreover, with artificial intelligence, machine learning, and automation reshaping industries, it is essential for education systems to incorporate technological literacy. Schools and universities should prepare students not just to use technology but to innovate and lead in the digital era.

One of the biggest concerns among young individuals is employability. Many graduates find themselves unprepared for the job market due to a gap between what they learn and what industries demand.To address this,

Education must focus on:

1. Skill-based learning that provides vocational training, entrepreneurship courses, and industry-relevant programs
2. Internships and apprenticeships that sharpen the students skills through real-world exposure and practical experiences;
3. Soft skills development through which the individuals will be able to refine their skills in communication, leadership, and teamwork abilities.

By aligning education with career readiness, it would equip young individuals with the confidence and skills to thrive in a competitive world.

Education should not be a one-way process where students merely receive information. The youth must take an active role in shaping their own learning experiences. Engaging in student-led initiatives, mentorship programs, and advocacy for better educational policies can bring real change.

Furthermore, many young entrepreneurs and innovators are creating new educational platforms, apps, and learning methods that challenge traditional systems. Their fresh perspectives and creativity are essential in making education more relevant, personalized, and effective.

The Importance of Global Learning and Cultural Exchange

In an interconnected world, understanding different cultures, perspectives, and global issues is crucial. Educational systems should encourage students to engage in international collaboration through exchange programs, global internships, and cross-cultural projects to help students gain diverse perspectives and build international networks. It should aid them via language learning by opening the doors of the multilingual arena to enhanced career opportunities and improved cognitive skills. Education also increases the awareness of Global Challenges like climate change, sustainability, and social justice that need to be integrated and implemented to create responsible global citizens.

Discussing all these further, one has to also look at the challenges and the road that is ahead. Despite advancements in education, challenges such as financial barriers, outdated policies, and lack of inclusivity persist. Governments, educational institutions, and private sectors must collaborate to create a system that is

Accessible: Ensuring that education reaches every young individual, regardless of economic background.
Innovative: Incorporating new learning methods that keep up with industry and societal changes.
Supportive: Addressing mental health and well-being, helping students navigate stress and career uncertainties.

Conclusion

Education is the foundation of progress, and the youth are its driving force. By transforming education into a dynamic, skill-oriented, and inclusive system, we can empower young individuals to create a brighter future for themselves and the world. The responsibility lies with educators, policymakers, and students alike to redefine learning in a way that prepares the youth not just for jobs but for leadership, innovation, and meaningful contributions to society.

India’s youth: The architects of tomorrow

Ms. Akanksha Bhende
(Associate Economist, CARE Ratings Ltd.)

India has made significant strides in economic development and is the fifth largest economy currently, with a nominal gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 3.6 trillion (2023). This marks a notable improvement compared to its position as the tenth largest economy a decade ago. In recent years, India has demonstrated a remarkable resilience, sailing through the turbulent waters in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, widening geopolitical conflicts, volatile commodity prices, and several other global economic challenges. Despite several headwinds, India has maintained a strong footing, having recorded a healthy 8.2% real GDP growth in FY24.

Initiatives like the Goods & Services Tax, Make in India, PM Gati Shakti, Digital India, etc., are a testimony to India’s continued reform commitment. These initiatives have proved to be the crucial steps for enhancing the country’s economic performance and strengthening the overall infrastructure scenario. Overall, India is establishing its presence on a global stage with its growing economic as well as political stature.

At present, India stands at an extremely crucial juncture with a favorable demographic structure. In 2023, the working-age population (aged 15-64) accounted for around 68% of India's total population. World Bank projections until 2050 show that this share is projected to remain above 65% for India.

However, this share is projected to decline considerably for economies such as China (to 58.5% in 2050 from 68.9% in 2023) and Japan (to 51.4% in 2050 from 58.5% in 2023). This data underscores the potential of India's large working-age population, with an emphasis on the role of youth. Looking ahead, the critical aspect will be the ability to capitalize on such a favorable demographic structure by focusing on quality education and skill development.

Today's youth bring with them innovative ideas, boundless energy, and a new surge of creativity. They not only have the commitment towards their passion but also the courage to pursue the unconventional paths. Thus, the youth remain at the very core of our country's future success story. All educational institutions have a pivotal role in molding the youth into thought leaders of tomorrow. In addition to offering quality education, schools and colleges are endowed with the responsibility of developing the necessary skills to equip young people to meet the demands of a modern and ever-changing workplace. They also play a crucial role in fostering the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship amongst youth. In essence, educational institutions provide a space for holistic learning, serving as a fertile ground for talent and innovation.

The professional demands of tomorrow are likely to be very different from those of the present due to the rapidly evolving global landscape and the increasing role of artificial intelligence. Thus, industry collaboration, internship opportunities, mentorship from professionals, and vocational training will help keep the youth abreast of the evolving professional requirements. Looking forward, bridging the gap between the skills imparted by traditional education and those demanded by the industry will remain the key in fully harnessing the potential of India's youth.

To conclude, while there are many important catalysts for a country's growth, the youth play a pivotal role in shouldering the responsibility of their country's progress.

As Nelson Mandela rightly said:

"Young people must take it upon themselves to ensure that they receive the highest education possible so that they can represent us well in the future as future leaders."

Prioritizing education: A fundamental right

Ms. Rajeswari Nair,
Science coordinator, SIES

As a nation, it's essential to recognize that value-based cultural education is a fundamental right and privilege for future generations. However, current trends in education are alarming. The field is transforming into a business-driven, profit-oriented industry that benefits even the uneducated and unqualified, who manipulate and manage for personal gain.

The younger generation is growing up in a society where learning takes a backseat to non-academic priorities. This irony is staggering. Instead of addressing the root causes, society and concerned authorities are busy in assigning the blame game. The most affected by this trend are the young people, who risk their most indispensable golden period of their time and become directionless and lost as they navigate life's challenges. Furthermore, society is focusing on acquiring knowledge of irrelevant subjects rather than practical, essential life skills.

What's the future of education, and how can we reclaim its true purpose?

The Future of Education: **Reclaiming its True Purpose**

To reclaim the true purpose of education, we need to shift our focus from business-driven, profit-oriented approaches to student-centered, value-based learning. Here are some possible solutions:

1. **Emphasize holistic education:** Focus on developing the whole child, including their intellectual, emotional, social, and physical well-being.

2. Prioritize practical life skills: Teach essential life skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration.

3. Foster a love for learning: Encourage curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning, rather than just memorization and rote learning.

4. Make education accessible and inclusive: Ensure that education is accessible to all, regardless of socio-economic background, culture, or ability.

5. Support teacher training and development: Provide teachers with ongoing training and support to stay updated on best practices and technologies.

By working together, we can reclaim the true purpose of education and empower future generations to thrive in an ever-changing world.