



The ED Leaders

The Ed leaders from over 100
Schools celebrated Teachers' Day
on Curious Times

The ED Leaders

Special Edition Magazine

A woman with dark hair and a young girl with curly hair are looking at a book together. The woman is on the left, looking down at the book. The girl is on the right, looking up at the woman. They are both smiling. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor space.

**THE ART OF TEACHING IS THE ART OF
ASSISTING DISCOVERY.
– MARK VAN DOREN**

SANGEETA MUKHERJEE ROY

**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, GHAZIABAD,
MEERUT ROAD**

**Students, evolve as critical thinkers,
lifelong learners, change agents and
world leaders; be kind and
compassionate.**



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I embarked on my professional voyage nearly 15 years ago as an educator at Delhi Public School Ghaziabad. I wanted to contribute in a significant and meaningful manner to the field of education. Teaching is one of the most direct ways to make an impact, and if you are driven by the desire to help those around you, being a teacher can bring about an invaluable contribution. As an educator, I am more than just an educator – I am a mentor, a confidante, and a friend. It is my aim to make a difference in the lives of as many students as I can. In tandem with my philosophy of promoting collaborative leadership, I have trained educators by conducting empowerment conferences around the country. I strongly believe that education is a harmonious blend of academic acumen and creative effervescence. Being the Principal of the school, my motto is to empower the students to grow into strong and reflective individuals with discerning minds, prepared to make a mark in the global village.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Schools today are incredibly busy places. They're exciting with a diverse array of activities going on every day. It's a tough call for teachers and principals to manage the complexity of it all and to carve out the time and energy required to continuously plan for learning. To unlock collective genius and create a school community that is able to generate new ideas and innovations, is probably one of the biggest challenges I face as a Principal, I believe in the potential of every teacher and every student. I encourage my team to be creative and innovative thinkers and to establish new and exciting pathways for the students in the 21st-century world.

My belief in diligence, perseverance and strategic planning has helped me to face the challenges. The trust that my team has in me is my strength and pushes me to raise the bar. As a leader, I have to be a trailblazer and a beacon of light.

SANGEETA MUKHERJEE ROY

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Education in the 21st century is more dynamic than ever. The task is challenging for all levels of teachers, from pre-primary to senior school ones. Moreover, in the virtual mode, teachers often feel less connected to students and find it difficult to establish a good rapport with them. Authentic assessments in the online mode is also a challenge. Moreover, teachers have to keep abreast with the latest digital tools that can be used in education. Students today also have a different attention span and are not interested in classroom chalk-talk or learning by rote. They are becoming need-based learners. So, teachers have to meet their rising expectations by making lessons interesting and engaging. As the student expectations are huge, teachers can't afford to be complacent.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? The world today is changing at such an accelerated pace and we, as educators, need to pause and reflect on this entire system of education. We should be well equipped to prepare the children to face the challenges that the future holds. I would like to see all educators be self-motivated to go through a continuous process of reflection and keep working at implementing a well-balanced curriculum. This will ensure that the children who walk into the portals of the school will not just love their school years but truly be prepared to face life's challenges. It is relevant here to mention Margaret Mead who famously said, "Children must be taught how to think, not what to think". The school curriculum must be aligned with the NEP which is not limited to the scholastic needs of students but comprehensively addresses other areas. They include Wellness- physical, emotional, spiritual; Environmental Awareness, Social & Cultural Sensibilities, uninhibited artistic or literary expressions and fostering of Skills & Competencies for the emerging paradigms in the 21st century.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. An educator's effect lasts for eternity. The call of the vocation should be crystal clear in the minds of aspiring teachers - to build the competency of the next generation and create humane, caring and sensitive individuals. An educator reaches out to his/her students by helping them realise their potential, sets goals and achieves them through the right means. To be a successful educator, one has to be responsible, dedicated and compassionate in moulding the character of the next generation and transforming them into socially responsible and independently thinking individuals.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Education is about awakening - Awakening to the power and beauty that lies within all of us. It is about building character, enriching minds and about varied experiences that last a lifetime. Life is a voyage to be lived with an infinite passion. Life may not always be a bed of roses, you may come across situations where you are unable to make decisions. I exhort you to face the challenges with aplomb and accept success with humility. The real joy of living is not just to obtain knowledge through books. I wish that you be known as honourable players, not just winners; as wise, not just intelligent; as understanding, not just knowledgeable; as kind and compassionate, not just friendly. I would like you to evolve as critical thinkers, lifelong learners, change agents and world leaders.

HEEMAL HANDOO BHAT

HANSRAJ MODEL SCHOOL, PUNJABI BAGH

There should be a makeover of present-day education. The aim is to make our students, "job creators" not just "job-seekers"



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? The Dalai Lama once said, "Education is much more than a matter of imparting the knowledge and skills by which narrow goals are achieved. It is also about opening the child's eyes to the needs and rights of others". The flexibility and adaptability of the youth have constantly fascinated me to move towards teaching as I knew that this was the arena where I would blossom each day and never ever feel the fading phenomenon. I take immense pride in sharing with all that I am a teacher by choice. The thought that I possess the power to awaken the joy of learning, inspire hopes, ignite the imagination, and instil values and skills fills my heart with zeal and ardour for my profession. Teaching has offered me the platform to contribute constructively and make an everlasting impression on young minds.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? "Leadership is the capacity to transform vision into reality". Bringing a dynamic change in the perception of people around you is the biggest challenge every educational leader faces in today's world. I strive to bring a difference in my domain of influence and work towards nurturing a progressive thought in every individual. This can pull them out of their comfortable cocoons with a vision to sharpen their skills and make them acquainted with their unexplored talents.

Leading one of the biggest schools of West Delhi with a student strength of 5000+ puts across varied challenges day in and day out. Shaping the personality of students is a herculean task in today's world. I model what I preach and aspire to bring a shift from teaching to learning. As an educational leader, I aspire to remain a life-long learner with a desire to grow together.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The education sector has transformed into an arena of exploring self, touching new avenues, and reaching greater heights. Changing times call for a change in requirements. (cont.)

HEEMAL HANDOO BHAT

(cont.)

In the past year, educators had to put their brains together to design strategies to reallocate our resources towards isolated learning techniques where physical participation had to be replaced by virtual participation. Bringing it on a virtual platform has brought an immense transformation in the pedagogical structure and made the educators realize their potential to explore the unexplored. All this can go a long way in bringing a purpose to learning where the multiple intelligences of the students can be challenged and the cumulative benefits of holistic learning can be achieved.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? “Education is the passport to the future – for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”. The dream of creating an educated “New India” can be realized through the makeover of present-day education to an “education in totality”- a complete package. Education should aim to make students “job creators” not just “job-seekers”. The quality of education outweighs its quantity. Less importance on marks and more emphasis on the development of skills and personality would provide them with the gateway to learning. The coming years will be the dawn of a new era – the National Education Policy will take the center stage in all educational pursuits. We should all be more than willing to embrace and propagate the key features of the policy.

The quality which makes a person stand apart as a teacher is ‘being compassionate to the child and his/her circumstances’. It is essential to have the willingness and acceptance to understand that every child is special and possesses some qualities that need to be nurtured. A teacher must guide and motivate a child to the best of her/his abilities. Having said this, a teacher has to be a life-long learner too.

For the students, I visualize a paradigm shift from education only for better results and grades to education for self-belief, desire for innovation, the courage to experiment, urge to accept challenges, and yearning to push boundaries of knowledge and self-growth.

Our parents are the largest stakeholders in the teaching-learning community. So I believe in trust-building exercises with our parents wherein they know that they are a very important pillar of our organization.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. “Aspire not to be merely a teacher but an awakener”. I am still a young teacher as I believe a teacher remains young all through her life. But yes, of course, the day you cease to learn, you no longer can don the cap of a teacher. So I would just say that if you have chosen this profession, be passionate and willing to learn. Become a willing teacher and mould the soft souls of your young co-learners to help them blossom and shine brighter. Cherish the opportunities you are getting to bring an impressionable change in someone’s life, to bring a smile on a poignant face, to infuse serenity and curiosity at the same time in someone.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. I want to see self-empowerment in the students, society and nation at large. This would wipe out exploitation and vulnerability from the face of India and give birth to self-belief, confidence and prosperity.

ANUPAMA RAMCHANDRA

**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL ELECTRONIC CITY,
BENGALURU**

**Technology is here to stay and that
can be used as a leveller to bring
equity in education**



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? It was way back in the year 1990 that I chanced upon this profession when a temporary vacancy came up in a neighbourhood school. Although it was a short stint of 7 months and I had never considered teaching as a career option, the experience touched my life beyond words can express. The empowerment of changing lives for the better in myriad ways as a teacher made me take a firm resolve that this was my calling. Also, the love and acceptance of the children that I worked with reiterated my decision.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Teaching is never bereft of hardships and hurdles. As we had to move from state to state every 3-4 years due to my spouse's transfer, I could not anchor myself in one school or grow to greater positions. I also had to often start afresh as a new teacher in a new school in a new place, all over again! This saddened me initially but, later I realised that this was building many new skills in me, providing novel opportunities to learn at different levels and understand how different institutions functioned to achieve success. This richly added to my repertoire of teaching-learning skills and extended my network of educators who furthered my professional development.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? I believe that any change is a good change. We have all observed that education is evolving to be more student-centric, child-friendly, inclusive and holistic with new pedagogical practices. NEP 2020 has set a roadmap for us to be part of a dynamic and progressive system of education. We have also been witness to how technology has invaded our learning space. However, this is drawn a lot of criticism from different stakeholders. All of us as educators should accept the fact that technology is here to stay. It can also enhance the classroom experience and help us become more effective within the time available. Thus, I am happy with the changes.

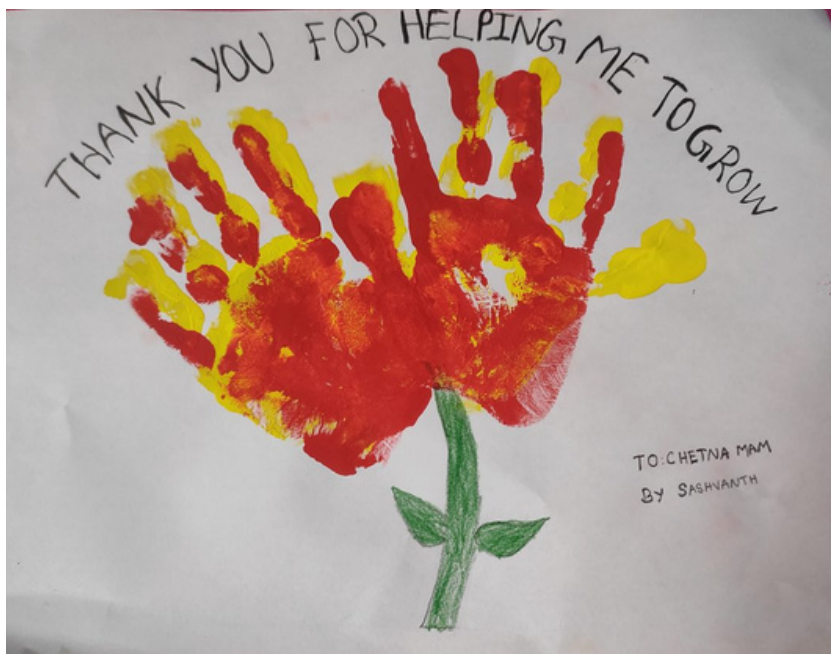
ANUPAMA RAMCHANDRA

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I am very optimistic that we will be able to achieve high levels of literacy and numeracy in India with the combined efforts of all stakeholders. I would look forward to being a part of a tomorrow where each child is provided with the empowering learning space to learn at his/ her own pace and marks alone will not decide the fate of any individual's future. It is the responsibility of each one of us to do our bit in making this a reality. We need to trust each other's role and support one another unconditionally to create an impactful system of education.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Each educator must consider herself/himself lucky to be endowed with skills and qualities to touch young lives. We are a part of nation-building and we have to take it up in all earnest. Give a fair chance to each child to perform and grow based on one's personality and potential. Always remember, No child is useless. He/she is only used less.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. My dearest children, you are very precious to us as educators and to the nation. Since you will be stepping into automated environments, always remember to preserve your values of honesty, empathy and sensitivity to the underprivileged. Your efforts to build your future will decide the quality of 'Future India'. Look beyond your horizons and fix your goal to be humane, balanced, happy and global citizens who can carry forward the legacy of this great country called India.

STUDENT'S CORNER



Sashvanth
Kindergarten, National
Public School Agara,
BANGALORE

SANGEETA TANDON

SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN SCHOOL, KOLKATA

Students, be the harbinger of change and remain humble and grateful to all



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? After thirteen years after marriage and having two children, I stepped into the field of education. Being academically decent, education was always my preferred field. So, I went to study again and did my B. Ed from Loreto College and was a batch topper. Thereafter, based on my performance, within thirteen years, I became the Principal of Shri Shikshayatan School which has 3850 students.

I simply enjoy the world of education and was never far away from it even as a homemaker as my children were doing quite well in school. In fact, I was often asked why I was not teaching. Hence, I decided to be in the world of education which I am passionate about. It has helped me to learn and grow as a person, at the same time, given me opportunities to contribute to society.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success?

1) The first challenge was to get back to the world of education and do my professional education as a teacher. I cleared the entrance examination and qualified in the prestigious Loreto College, Kolkata. Since the course was tough and had long hours, often I would get only two or three hours' sleep in 24 hours. Thankfully, with the support of my family and professors, I was first class first in my B.Ed. To be studying and at the same time, ensuring that my two children keep doing well in their schools was a challenge that I was able to overcome with the help of my spouse.

2) I was initially with Birla High School and continuously I was asked to take up more challenging roles. And I moved ahead with the help of my mentors in the school. Then, the School Management decided to reward me and shift me to one of their group schools, Shri Shikshayatan School, which was not doing well at that time. I accepted the challenge. I was asked to take the mean of the school from 75% to 80%. Today the school mean is always around 90%.

SANGEETA TANDON

3) Shri Shikshayatan school changed to the CBSE system, in which I am well versed. So, the transition from an ordinary school to one of the best schools in Kolkata was quite a challenge. In my five and a half years as the Principal of the school, the school has received the Best School award from the Telegraph, as well as received various other national and international awards. I am proud to add that even I have received the Best Principal award from Gurukul. The support from students, staff, parents and management has been phenomenal.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes?

I have witnessed remarkable changes in the field of education:

- 1) The concept of on job training for teachers has taken root.
- 2) Slowly, schools are realizing the importance of co-curricular activities along with academics
- 3) Exponential growth in teachers' learning has taken place during pandemic lockdown
- 4) Technology has found its foot firmly in teaching-learning
- 5) Schools have truly become one without boundaries and interaction is on a global platform

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this?

Government:

- 1) Make better infrastructure and provide quality education in Government schools.
- 2) Implement NEP properly and reach out to all children of India.

Teachers:

- 1) Keep learning and growing.
- 2) Try to reach out to the last student who needs help and not to the toppers alone

Students:

- 1) Be self-disciplined and responsible for your growth.
- 2) Resilience and persistence are the keywords to be incorporated in your behaviour and attitude

Parents:

- 1) Give freedom to children to choose their careers and live their dreams.
- 2) Accept the strengths and shortcomings of your children and love them for who they are.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Keep learning and adapting to the changes with an open mind. Combine your interest and passion with hard work. Be true to your profession and try to reach out to a greater number of students for the world who need you.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. There is no shortcut to success so work hard. Your dreams and innovative ideas matter, for you, are capable of bringing about the change the world needs. Be the harbinger of change and remain humble and grateful to all.

MRS SURJEET KHANNA

**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, GREATER
FARIDABAD**



Dear Students, each day matters. The dots of life connect over a period of time. The stronger the dots, the stronger the line.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I had three aspirations – to become a civil servant or an actress or a journalist. But that was not where life was leading me. After my Master's degree, I joined the B.Ed course at Jamia University and I went for teacher training at DPS Mathura, which really made me fall in love with teaching. Later, I joined as a teacher at DPS Noida, where I learned a lot and really pushed me towards education. Then, I planted my roots then and I grew.

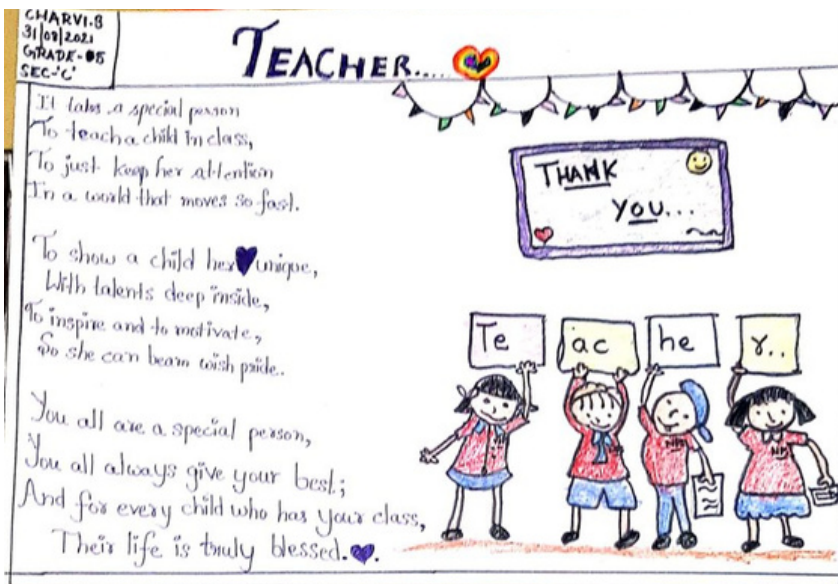
A teacher's new role in terms of advancement in technology. The greatest technology is that of connect. A huge plethora of information and technology is available now. But one must have a plan as to how to use it. Technology is only as good as the user. So, teachers need to update themselves and must also familiarise themselves with new technology. At our school, we wanted to incorporate technology from day 1 but teachers did need a bit of nudging. But when the pandemic hit, the IT team of our school really stepped up. We got a lot of training and there was even a lot of collaboration among the teachers. Even now, there is a good amount of technology use happening and I feel we will do well with online schooling, no matter what happens.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. You should love life, with a willingness to learn and share. That is the first prerequisite to being a teacher. Integrity and honesty are non-negotiable. You can grow in your students only what you have. There has to be a strong element of flexibility and creativity. We have some teachers who constantly are coming up with new ideas and it is amazing for productivity and the school spirit, and pushing the children to reach their potential. Of course, proficiency in language and comfort with technology is also quite important. Language is especially important for a school like ours where English is spoken only in school and not at home.

MRS SURJEET KHANNA

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. You will face uncertainty in life; we all do, just like the pandemic now. But you are conquerors; walk with strength and confidence. Growing up is exciting and tough but it is something you can do well. Your school is listening and watching and so you must reach out to adults who can hear you and support you. Be positive and take an active role in your own development. Each day should matter. The dots of life connect over a period of time. The stronger the dots, the stronger the line. Physical health is very important. Appreciate what you have and that is so important.

STUDENT'S CORNER



Charvi S
5, National Public
School Agara



Lishika
Kindergarten, National
Public School Agara

ARCHANA SINGH

**MAHESHWARI PUBLIC SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL, JAIPUR**

The use of technology through blended learning means does wonders for education



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator?

Personally, having witnessed a sacred and untainted trend of education since I was a child, I had always expected myself to become a figure of similar essence. It was only after stepping into academia that I realized there was a monotonous and rigid trend of teaching or even interpersonal relations between the educator and the learner. That's what made me decide to envisage a pattern and style that gave learners the voice to question and be curious than engulfing broad texts. A repetitive and traditional curriculum had compromised many people's sense of deep reading and expression. So, I decided to be the change and started interacting with the learners – elder or younger alike, and the rest followed.

A crucial trait of an Educator is teaching without books and confidently. And all that motivated and inspired me to be in this profile.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success?

Teaching, a noble profession is a daunting and challenging task. In the present era, with the advent of new methodologies in teaching and the way digital and smart learning has made inroads into the field of education, the role of we, the teachers, has also greatly evolved over a period of time. I have always enjoyed my career first as a teacher, a mentor and a facilitator.

On one hand, where I have tried keeping pace with my knowledge, I also faced various challenges. The greatest challenge was to know my students well. I wanted that my students should feel free to broach me regarding any subject and express all doubts whatsoever and that I should be approachable and accessible. A broad mind and a friendly attitude on my part made all the difference.

Principals are held to a very high standard—as we should be—because we are hired to be leaders, to be in charge, to meet the expectations that our students and staff and communities bestow upon us. When sometimes I do feel the weight of too many problems and responsibilities, I just literally get up, walk down the hall, and find myself with some students. I sit with them and immersing myself back into the world of students brings me joy and relief, all at once.

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**The ED
Leaders**

ARCHANA SINGH

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The traditional learning delivery mechanism has, of course, changed, drastically, with the advent of the electronic medium and technological advancements. Blended learning brings to the forefront, the diaspora of imparting training, be it educational or be it professional, through traditional as well as electronic mode. The dawn of electronic platforms, for example, Google Classroom, have enabled the teachers as well as the administrators of a particular institution to communicate effectively with the end learners and, at times, their parents, which inculcates a habit of imitation of a well-meaning dialogue. The cumbersome task of collecting assignments, giving valuable feedback, and marking the answers has been eased through these platforms, which, in essence, allows the trainer/teacher to focus more on providing quality education.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Technology has brought with it the ease to invite the experts, in a concerned field, to deliver and share their excellence, via the virtual mode. This further delves into the very root of blended learning. With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in the entire world, being privy to technological advancements and seeking refuge under the same has become the norm for the better societal good. An electronic library can be set up with ease using the means provided under Google Classroom/Google Drive, which would drive all the learners to educate themselves with the material in one place without waiting for the “traditional” methodology to revive. This makes the learning public. The workforce training has its own benefits too when coupled with the scenario delineated hereinabove. Be it military or law enforcement, studies show that blended learning having technology as their base have resulted in being highly sustainable modes that allow the instructors to update themselves without delay at just the click of a button. This provides for a much-assorted variety of approaches to instructions which are, in effect, specifically for the end addressees, which are the learners.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Dear Teachers and the Leaders of tomorrow, Always remember that You play a vital role in shaping the future of the students and thus of the Nation. I believe that Teachers in particular work day and night to ensure that the students given under their care reach their fullest potential and excel in all areas including Academics, Sports, CCA and other walks of life. This is the Day to salute you all for your great contribution in bringing laurels to your career. Keep up the good work and go forward with the same spirit always. Always believe, that you must be the change you want to see in the world. Be the ROLE MODEL and try to be the FOOTPRINTS for each and every student to follow.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. My dear students, Life never reveals itself with an elucidation; neither it's a game of rebuttal nor it's a quest of submission. Instead, it's a voyage, a junket to unravel the mundane humdrum and yearning for absolute success with tranquillity and love. It never demands any justification, it's not going to go with the stride. Instead, it's taking it in the strides of our indomitable endurance. The answer to all your doubts, your fears, of all your agitation and fright is FAITH which is infallible indeed. Just have faith in yourself.

VANDANA KHARAT

SPM'S BLOSSOM PUBLIC SCHOOL (NEW),
PUNE

Students, kindle your imagination with the help of the school to explore your talents.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? Honestly speaking I never dreamt of becoming a teacher. It was my mom who insisted that I think about it. Later as I started working as a kindergarten teacher and understanding the needs of the little ones, I decided of pursuing this profession as a career. Slowly, a passion for it grew in me and I wanted to bring about change. I taught in pre-primary, primary, secondary, senior secondary and also graduates. This helped me to know and understand the socio, emotional, psychological and educational requirements of the growing students.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? The challenges I faced were not very unusual – they were the same as what every Indian woman faced. I had to balance home and career after marriage, as well as manage time with the family and complete my own education such as masters n professional degrees. Otherwise, personally speaking, during the pandemic, transforming offline coaching to online and adopting this change was also another challenging task. We had to keep the students actively engaged during the online session and struggle to deliver effective learning. We overcame all this by arranging teacher training using various technical tools and techniques and also adopting new NEP pedagogical plans. I think life itself is a big challenge and we have to face it strongly and positively. I could do the same with my family's cooperation and blessings. I would say my success pillars were perfect time management, timeless efforts, optimism, dedication, honesty and complete faith and belief in myself.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? I have observed massive changes in the education sector as I started my career a while ago in 1991. Technology has been an integral part of this change and has transformed the education ecosystem. The methods of teaching, as well as learning, are on an evolutionary curve too. Yes, I am very happy with this transformation in education. Of course, there is still a long way to go and am sure there will be a new revolution with the implementation of NEP 2020.

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VANDANA KHARAT

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? The introduction of the New NEP and its implementation would result in inevitable excellence and success in the education fraternity, ultimately for the success of the next generation.

Stakeholders should also be putting themselves in the school's shoes and understanding their position; getting involved in their ward's education and adhering to the school norms. After all, it's only a strong alliance that can raise and nurture the future generation.

The key role of the government is that it should be more empathetic towards private institutions, and should provide some funds for the upliftment of staff and schools. This will ultimately result in the school development and progress

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. First I would like to congratulate and appreciate the teachers and the leaders of tomorrow for choosing this noble profession. Teachers, you are the backbone of our society. You have to contribute to building a great nation with ideal progressive, innovative, and eminent citizens. Remember, you are the second mother of a student and your dedication, honesty, hard work, innovation, enthusiasm in educating the students, is going to make a huge impact in the life of future generations. Do keep doing the same good job by giving the best of your vital knowledge to life and to make them successful, not only in their careers but also as an ideal person in the society. Dear facilitators, this had been a unique year; the COVID - 19 pandemic has put huge pressure on you all to adopt online classes and it was a revolution that occurred within a very short span of time. But you did it very effectively and comprehensively, you are still continuing the same. "You are the Change required so be the Change".

Best Wishes with lots of blessings.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Dear students, you are the future of our country and the nerve knots of the schools. Enjoy your school days by enjoying every moment of the day and get yourself involved in both scholastic and co-scholastic activities of the school even if it's only online. Kindle your imagination with the help of the school to explore your talents. Learn the values and morals taught you by the school and it will help you to carry your tomorrow positively and to shoulder your responsibilities effectively and successfully. Do whatever you do with zeal, dedication and intention and not because of force or compulsion. At the same time respect your nation, school, teachers, parents and believe in them. All the very best for your future with tons of greetings and blessings.

DR. THAKUR MULCHANDANI

SUNRISE ENGLISH PRIVATE SCHOOL, ABU
DHABI



Allow flexibility in the completion of a course to allow genuine breaks, allow the student to pace his education based on his comfort

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I stepped into the field of education around 30 years ago. My love for children and learning motivated me to be an educator. The intense love that I had for learning and acquiring knowledge in such a way so that I can impart it to the children created in me a passion for teaching. I was also eager to make a difference in the whole world.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? These are some challenges I feel I have faced in my journey as an educator: 1. Balancing the different learning needs of students. 2. Respecting expectations from parents and stakeholders. 3. Helping parents and students meet long-term goals. Teaching can be challenging at times, but as long as you really care about your students and really want to help them, both with the materials in your class and their struggles outside your class, it can also be very rewarding. I learned to help them in this way and thus could overcome challenges that arose on the way.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes?

1. Increased diversity: there are more differences among students than there used to be. Diversity has made teaching more fulfilling as a career, but also made it more challenging in certain respects.
2. Increased instructional technology: Classrooms, schools, and students use computers more often today than in the past for research, writing, communicating, and keeping records.
3. Greater accountability in education: Both the public and educators themselves pay more attention than in the past to how to assess learning and good quality teaching. The attention has increased the importance of education to the public and improved education for some students. But it has also created new constraints on what teachers can teach and what students learn. (cont.)

DR. THAKUR MULCHANDANI

(cont.)

4. Increased professionalism of teachers: Now more than ever, teachers are able to assess the quality of their own work as well as that of colleagues and can take steps to improve it when necessary. Professionalism improves teaching. However, by creating higher standards of practice, it can also create greater worries about whether particular teachers and schools are “good enough”. These are the aforesaid changes that I feel very happy with, as an educator.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? As an educator, I would like to see an innovation that is the need of the hour. It is to allow flexibility in the completion of a course to allow genuine breaks and also allow the student to pace his education based on his comfort. Further, we could have a system in which the students can acquire learning on a continuous basis and get certified upon completion of certain milestones – say a certificate after writing an exam after six months, a diploma after a year, and a degree after two years – with the stipulation that they should complete the degree within four years of starting.

This will allow a good blend of theory and practice and also minimize dropouts during the education process.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. The message that I would like to share – Teachers can work all over the world. Teachers can change the lives of children. As a teacher, we have the ability to reach out and be a supporter and role models for kids who need it. Teaching is the best job in the world. Not only because it is a noble profession, but it also allows us to be continuously creative and be better professionally. In every lesson, you can hone your creativity by adding interest to capture your students’ attention. A teacher is the only person who can touch lives and create a sea change in this world of endless opportunities.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. A teacher’s profession teaches all other professions. I urge you all to choose this noble profession, a career that gives utmost satisfaction and content. To be in the current generation and at the same time assist knowledge transmission to the progeny is the most commendable of all jobs. Therefore train your minds and souls to indulge in it.

JACOB P. AJITH MATHEWS

THE CHOICE SCHOOL, KOCHI

Subjects as per one's interest and the connection between theory and the real world make learning exciting and purposeful



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I started as an educator in 1995; my parents were teachers themselves too. It was the call to make children happy at school and the power of catching pupils young and right to make them think and be positive was what motivated me. Additionally, my mentor Principals – Mr. Abishai whom I met at St. Paul's School, Refinery Township, Begusarai, Bihar and Dr. PC Thomas of Good Shepherd International School, Ooty, Tamil Nadu, really inspired me as well.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Some challenges I have faced include, winning the confidence of students, peers and leaders, the challenge of embracing the need to support co-curricular activities, as well as, the challenge of keeping up-to-date with matters in education. But hard work and focused efforts to be at your best in all that we need to do can go a long way on the journey towards attaining excellence. Moreover, it is also important to have the motivation and need to explore new things and be a willing learner to support programmes that bring smiles to children. We should also be engaged in activities that stimulate the brain whilst being faithful at reading widely. All this have helped me become accepted as a teacher with a heart, warm towards students and colleagues.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? A powerful engagement shaping one's thoughts and attitudes towards fine living, the choice of subjects as per one's interest and the connection between theory and the real world – all these make learning exciting and purposeful.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? There should be more effort to engage students in learning life skills and also to make sports and games part of school education supported by good infrastructure. (cont.)

JACOB P. AJITH MATHEWS

(cont.)

All stakeholders need to come together to understand what life is all about and to give credit to all fields of life that spell growth and progress celebrating the art of living.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Each teacher has something valuable to offer to the community of learners. Let us stand true to ourselves to be happy and fulfilled in our thoughts and actions. The nation requires committed, knowledgeable, wise, inspirational teachers. A teacher should show the way to positive living by embracing such oneself.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Enjoy your life with responsible learning and application. Your application of knowledge starts from home and with oneself. Be the change to effect good citizenship. Your attitude to life matters. Be curious to live well.

STUDENT'S CORNER



AARAV BHASKAR
5, 70991

Technological evolution has made learning available at home. Wi-fi availability in all areas is essential for continuity of schooling.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? Ever since I was a child, I was an independent child and really enjoyed school. I think that's what was also the foundation of my love for learning and teaching. In fact, I wanted to become a principal to guide teachers. When I became a teacher, I fell in love with teaching and children. I encountered many wonderful children, who faced challenges and I tried my best to encourage them. This made me realise that different children require different types of learning. I've changed a lot of schools throughout my career because I wanted to grow as an educator. As I had wanted to become a principal, when that happened, I wanted to be a good principal.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? I'm a very frank person and I can honestly say that the first challenge is the society, the second, government, the third, parents, the fourth, the management and finally the mindset of the people. If we can help children overcome the rigid challenges that they face, they can flourish. A big problem is that society defines jobs and makes them hard to get and this restricts children and their dreams. The system doesn't want children to learn. Reservation is also an issue we face and government education systems are also neglected. Moreover, the quality of teacher education is also not good and needs a massive overhaul. Parents should also stop judging schools by marks that children receive in classes 10 and 12. Education is not just for a job or career; it's to change the world and contribute to society.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a lot of technological changes but not for all. Many schools and children are lagging behind, while many have also misused the online system. This needs improvement. Wi-Fi should be freely available to all so that online education can be accessible to all.

NITA ARORA

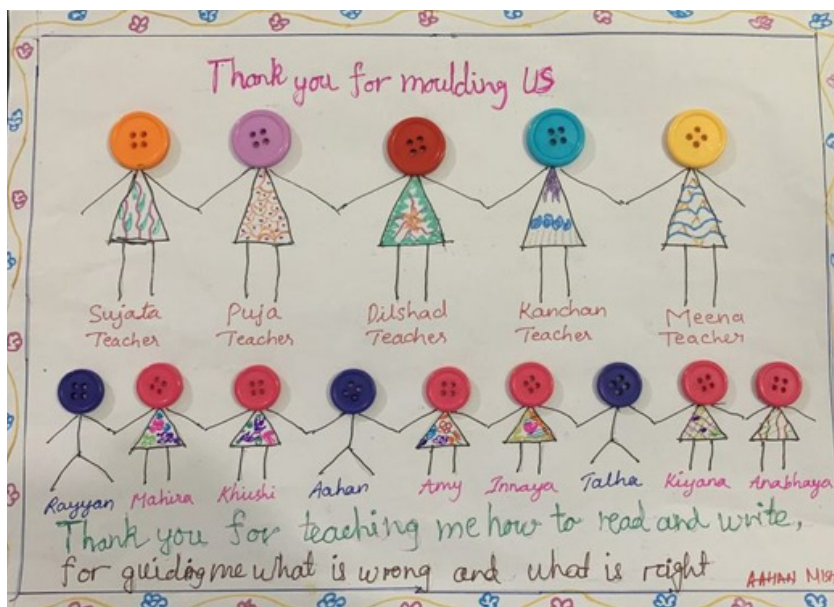
What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? It's important to educate teachers to be well-prepared and trained. At my school, we have regular training and tests for teachers to inculcate skills that they need to teach children in the right way. The government also needs to pay a lot more attention to government schools, where the majority of children in India study. Education revolution is the need of the hour but no one has talked about it yet. True education needs to be available to all. There should be no compromise in the quality of education.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. As social beings, humans need to interact with each other. So, teachers have an important role to bind society, children and families into a cohesive and fruitful community. They will never become redundant as they are the ones who have a psychological understanding of children. It's also important to make children independent learners. However, teachers who don't change with the times will become redundant. So, they must keep learning and changing with the times.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. See the positive side of things and enjoy them. This is a good time to learn about yourself. Each of you has immense talent and be fearless. Be humble and kind and always revise your dreams. Always have a plan B. You will find your calling one day. Life is beautiful as long as you are happy with yourself.

For us, as a school, we consider challenges are an opportunity to innovate.

STUDENT'S CORNER



AAHAN MISHRA
2, ASHOK ACADEMY,
Mumbai

SHIKHA BANERJEE

**SETH ANANDRAM JAIPURIA SCHOOL,
KANPUR**

**Giving back to the world more than
the world has given you is a success.
Be truly educated and not just
qualified.**



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? Being an educationist was a dream I had, right from my school days. Some of my excellent teachers left an everlasting impression on my life and made me respect this fraternity all along. As I grew up, I realized and understood the need for educators in society at the national as well as at the global level. I was more and more convinced that if I had to give back something to society, I had to be an educator.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Some of the rigidity that I observed in parents' mindsets posed the greatest challenges to me at every step. These challenges I faced included, gender-biased notions around the upbringing of sons and daughters, as well as subject and stream choice being imposed on students. There were also instances of a lack of flexibility towards allowing children to choose unconventional career options and so on.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The field of education is evolving at a great pace and thankfully, towards a better tomorrow. Some changes that I feel are very positive are, the inclusion of Information Technology in the teaching-learning process, a holistic approach towards the grooming of students, various skill-based teaching pedagogy and integrated learning. All these are enriching the curriculum and benefit students a lot.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? The changes that we see in the education sector is heartening but this is just the beginning. We still have a long way to go. For each stakeholder, be it the students themselves, the teachers, the parents, the Management or the government, a lot of flexibility is required. We are the citizens of the world and working in a synchronised manner is essential. Adaptability to change and also, being the agents of change is essential. (cont.)

SHIKHA BANERJEE

(cont.)

A total participative approach in collaboration with one another can take us towards the desired destination.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Be the change you want to see in the world around you. If you are not willing to do it for yourself, no one will do it for you. You have immense potential. Look within you and you will see that nothing is impossible. Love your students and put in your best with complete honesty. Nothing can be a substitute for honest effort.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Awake, arise and wait not till you reach your goal but be careful not to be compassionless while you work for yourself. Be a team player, be empathetic, be sensitive towards social issues and the environment. Just remember, "Giving back to the world more than the world has given you is success". Be truly educated and not just qualified. Your emotional quotient should be much higher than your intelligence quotient. Be the reason for the smile in someone's life.

STUDENT'S CORNER



8, Divya Jha

Teaching is a Calling. The power in the hands of a teacher, which can be a strong tool to build a right and happy childhood.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I started as a teacher in 1995. Along the way, I realized 'Teaching is my calling'. To be able to build a child's life, to be able to channelize their thought process, to be able to contribute in bringing out a Leader, a Painter, an Artist, a Planner, an Executioner etc in children - are some of the key factors that keep motivating me to continue as an Educator.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? The challenges have been there but the desire to make my students truly shine has been so predominant that the challenges never mattered and were always taken in stride. This is especially when students themselves have been my pillar of strength. Their unconditional love & respect has always worked as a motivator for me and given me my confidence.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Change is the only constant...we know that. There has been a paradigm shift in pedagogies, school culture, the relationship between the Teacher & the Taught, both Parents' & School's approaches etc. Every change has been a necessity to keep up with the changing times and has had both good and flip sides. If I were to quote an example, the active involvement of Parents as Co-Educators is a good measure; but sometimes it's sad to see the decline in the effort to develop respect for teachers by parents in their wards.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I wish and pray that any individual entering the role of an educator does not take it as simply a job. 'Teaching is a Calling' and they must realize the power that comes in their hands as a teacher which can be a strong tool to build a right and happy childhood. A Teacher's impact goes a long way.

NEERU BHASKAR

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Dear Aspiring Mentors, I wish and pray that each one of you turns out to be a 'teacher-at-heart' who would change people's lives just because you would have sent out wonderful scholars to society - Scholars with not only intelligence but with core values of empathy & compassion, capable of success in the diverse world yet connected to their ROOTS. May you impact your students' lives in the most positive way possible...!!

Share your message for your and Curious Times students.

Dear Students

Thank you for giving me a chance to discover my strengths & weaknesses because while teaching & grooming you, I myself evolved both as a professional & an individual. Your trust and love and respect works as a booster for me and give me my life goals. May each one of you turn out to be a happy person and bring sunshine, hope and happiness into the lives of people around you. May you grow and enable people connected to you to grow too...!! All the Best...!!!

STUDENT'S CORNER



Hushan
10, Ashok Academy



Varun Nembhani
10, Ashok Academy

Use the internet as a tool for education, not just for entertainment. It will give you far-reaching effects.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? The dedicated work of my parents motivated me to give back something to the community. That's how I decided to be an educator who can contribute to the betterment of our society.

I started as a kindergarten teacher in 1985 in Tamil Nadu. That's where my journey as an educator started and I was so fortunate to teach so many young children. I'm from an army background and my father always encouraged me. Teaching for me was and is a passion. I wanted to be a role model for the youth of tomorrow. I consider myself a lifelong learner and education has and will always be my cup of tea. I'm so proud of all the students I have taught across the year and that's what motivates me too.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? I love the word 'challenges'. Early on, I went abroad to teach, leaving my family in India and it was not easy at all. There was hardly any technology at that time. However, I was fortunate to have a prestigious organisation select me and send me for a new challenge and I'm always so thankful for their mentorship. While I did find the assignment difficult initially, but my husband supported me a lot and I cannot thank him enough for always encouraging me. Eventually, after the initial hiccup, I did great. So, whatever you do, have your own style and celebrate yourself. Self introspecting and learning to say "yes I can" is important. All this can help you overcome challenges. Every challenge is a beautiful opportunity for learning. Also, always be learning and adapting to new situations. That is very important.

As a leader, the biggest challenge is aligning meaningful, continual, professional development programmes for teachers.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. A leader's role is a responsibility as much as an opportunity. Keep cultivating skills. Keeping the bigger picture in mind is very important. As leaders, you must build more leaders.

PREMA MURALIDHAR

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Use the internet as a tool for education, not just for entertainment. It will give you far-reaching effects of becoming a real educated person. You don't need teachers or classrooms to educate you anymore if you know how to use the internet wisely. Remember that every choice you make shapes your character. So choose wisely because you are never too young to make an impact on anybody

Share your message for your and Curious Times students.

Dear Students

Thank you for giving me a chance to discover my strengths & weaknesses because while teaching & grooming you, I myself evolved both as a professional & an individual. Your trust and love and respect works as a booster for me and give me my life goals. May each one of you turn out to be a happy person and bring sunshine, hope and happiness into the lives of people around you. May you grow and enable people connected to you to grow too!! All the Best..!!!

STUDENT'S CORNER



Kanak Mehra
9, DLDAV Model School,
Shalimar Bagh, Delhi

KAVITA CHATTERJEE DAS

ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL, CHANDIGARH

Students, celebrate yourselves. You are unique, you are you. Don't compete against others but yourself.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I'm a fourth-generation teacher in my family. So, you could say teaching runs in my blood. It's a passion or vocation, not just a job. This is how I got into teaching. Now, I'm managing 2000 plus boys as a principal, which is a lot of fun. Loving what you do together with knowing your subject matter means you can never fail as a teacher.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? It's been a challenge converting teaching to an online mode but we did it gradually. We faced the challenge, trained and educated our staff as well as ourselves, our parents and of course our children. We had to work out ways to interact with the children as well as assess them in the right way. Now, a lot of stuff in the school are happening online, not just academics. We also faced challenges with EWS children as many of their families did not have the means to help their children study online. But, thanks to our wonderful alumna and their support, every single child has been able to study online. We also try to ensure that all our children get all the attention they require to grow and flourish. We have a programme where each teacher is a foster parent to three EWS children, throughout their school life. This helps us keep in close contact with them and their families and close the gaps. We are proud to say that we have not lost one child over the pandemic. We are a close-knit community that try to take care of each other.

As an educator, I have faced challenges but it's important to not have an ego and to communicate well, not just with your peers but also with the children. I am open to suggestions and that's what I feel has helped me improve as a teacher.

Role of teacher vis a vis technology in education today. Teaching is a relationship-based profession. So, whether it is offline or online, the essentials of teaching don't change. However, with technology, it's important for teachers to also adapt and up-skill to be in touch with the changes. Children need to trust their teachers and that is very important.

KAVITA CHATTERJEE DAS

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Really celebrate yourselves. You are unique, you are you. Don't compete against others but yourself. And if you need help, we are always there.

We need to respect the dignity of our children and reach out to each and every one of them. Get to know your children and let them know they are loved.

STUDENT'S CORNER



Nandini Sethi
8, Sri Venkateshwar
International School



Yukta
10, Ashok Academy

Give the child a chance to choose their career rather than forcing the choice of the parents.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? To be honest it was my father who forced me into this profession but once I was into it, I realised that I enjoyed it and found it fulfilling.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? The beginning of my career as a teacher itself was a challenge for me as I was compelled into this profession. But I was lucky enough to start my career from a residential school managed and run by the Ministry of Defence under the Government of India (Sainik School, Chittaurgarh). I had always wanted to be in a set up of the Armed Forces. So, to my pleasant surprise, I found that it was a pleasure to be there and I started enjoying my job. And there was no looking back.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? As we know, changes have happened everywhere and the education sector is not an exception. When I look back at the almost 39 years of my career in education, I can see many changes. Most of them are positive and a few negative too. The syllabus/curriculum has been advanced and the teaching methodology has changed. New learning techniques have been introduced which are certainly good, provided they are used in a proper way. Even teacher training has been redesigned. The only negative change that I find is the relation between the teacher and the taught. I feel that the relationship has become more materialistic.

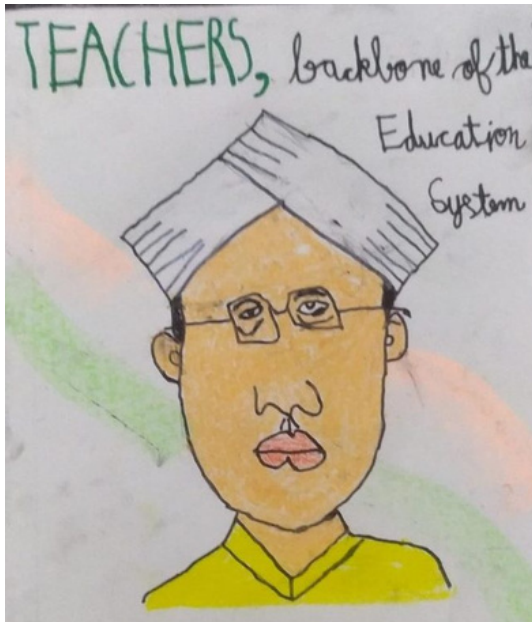
What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Education is the most important sector that caters to the needs of all other sectors. I personally feel we must introduce more practical things rather than theoretical aspects. Governments have to draft the policy, teachers have to execute them, students have to adapt and parents have to understand the need. Moreover, parents should not force their own choices on children when it comes to choosing a career. We should have a system where we can identify the talents/ aptitude of children at an early age and give the child a chance to choose the career related to his talents and aptitude rather than forcing the choice of the parents.

DR. ANIS AHMAD

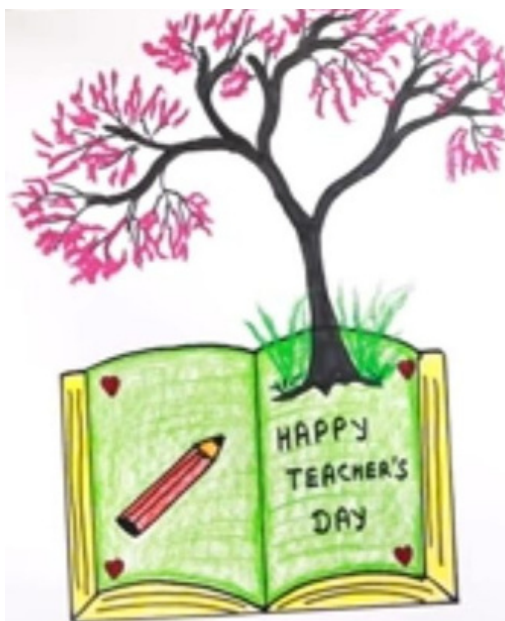
Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Teaching is not a profession like medicine; it is an obsession and not a vocation. It is a life commitment rather than a livelihood.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Change is inevitable and we must learn to adapt to changes.

STUDENT'S CORNER



Tanmay Sharma
5, Delhi Public School,
Sonapat, Delhi



Anishka Maheshwari
7, Maheshwai Public School
International



JOBLE BIJOY

VIDYA VIKAS ACADEMY, GOA

There is a need to personalise education as all students don't learn at the same pace

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I had always wanted to be in this field, inspired by my mother. Roleplay as a Teacher was one of my favourite pastimes since I was young. So, on completion of my masters, I felt that I need to plough back into society all that I had gained in my learning process. Education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to bring about positive changes in the world.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Teaching during the pandemic was a challenge as we had to keep the learning going on and continue unimpeded. Reaching out to the students even in the remote areas to ensure that learning is not impacted, is a challenge. Understanding the changing trends in education and resorting to a well-executed asynchronous blended learning strategy was the need of the hour. This is the ideal solution when classroom attendance is limited or not available. This style of learning has brought its own challenges. 1) It imposes new burdens on educators - As instructors must interact with both in-person and remote students. Educators find their attention divided more than they would with in-person instruction alone. 2) It requires greater comfort with technology - Teachers would need training and ongoing support.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? From depending exclusively on books for information and knowledge, education, as well as the availability of knowledge and information, has undergone a huge leap. This is due to the availability of an enormous amount of information and knowledge through the internet today. Multimedia tools and social media has revolutionised the way children are taught and educated. A shift from rote learning and lecture method of teaching to a more active Competency-based Education system has shifted the role of teachers. Now, the role of a teacher is that of a facilitator making education more child-centric than teacher-centric. I am happy and confident with these changes.

JOBLE BIJOY

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? While we all understand how crucial education is to shape our lives, it has also been a major problem in our country. There are several issues that the Indian education system is grappling with. We cannot deny the fact that the Indian Govt. and other institutions have been working to reform the existing education model. However, there are still several issues that require to be taken care of. 1) Rote learning needs to be eradicated from schools at all levels. Schools must be encouraged to introduce conceptual learning so that students don't mug up and instead understand concepts better so that they are able to retain and apply them better. 2) Education should move from being exam-oriented or marks-based to a more practical, skill and interest-based approach. 3) Indian schools should embrace technology and education and propagate the same to the students as it is there where their future lies. 4) Need to personalise education as all students don't learn at the same pace. The grasping power of every student is not the same. Schools need to look at Artificial Intelligence as a helping hand for the teachers and students as it is not possible for a single teacher to pay attention to every student. 5) Education needs to be value-based. Students need to be taught that life is much beyond money and success is not measured in money. Teachers and parents need to infuse this into the minds of students and play their role in imparting values and providing guidance to their children.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Work with passion and dedication and be committed to your profession. Only the teachers who are truly passionate about teaching can make students truly passionate about learning. Having the willingness to accept and adapt to change and being ready to unlearn and relearn is the need of an hour.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Believe that you are the person who can change the world. You have a big responsibility to make the world better. Always be determined about what you want and work thoroughly to reach your goal. Be a good human, a good friend, a good soul who is honest, trustworthy and responsible and happiness will find you.

ANUPAMA MEHRA

NAVY CHILDREN SCHOOL, GOA



You don't have to be like someone else, don't copy your peers, just be the best version of yourself. Be Yourself.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? It started twenty years ago. I have always been a good corporate trainer and working with my own children made me step into education too.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? I moved a lot of schools due to the frequent transfers of my spouse. So I saw the best and the worst in terms of my experience as an educator. On one account, I can say I adapted faster and it helped me work better with different teams. On the other side, I could see what was wrong with the system. To be honest, as an educationist, I do not like "corporate-ising" the education sector and in education, everything is not about making money. So my dilemma was around the numbers game and my personal beliefs as a visionary, educationist and policymaker. I worked in a lot of private schools, where sometimes, the management gave educationists an upper hand, while in some others, the management was heavily numbers-driven. These challenges gave me the strength to say what works for me and what does not and how I can stay true to my mission.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The field of education is far more fluid and flexible now than it used to be earlier. We are more open and moving away from the traditional concept of education.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I feel that there should be no subject barriers in school. There should also be vocational training in school, no board exams, and sustainable development of education.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Aspiring teachers should come into this profession if they feel deeply. It is important to feel strongly as a changemaker. Today's teacher has to learn like never before.

CURIOUS TIMES.IN

The ED Leaders

ANUPAMA MEHRA

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. School may have stopped, education has not! Take complete onus for your education. All students today are going through a beautiful change....adapt to it!! Most importantly, you don't have to be like someone else, don't copy your peers, just be the best version of yourself. Be Yourself.

STUDENT'S CORNER



Aakrity Singh
6, DLDAV Shalimar Bagh



Aakrity Singh
6, DLDAV Shalimar Bagh

**Allow children to question, to dream,
to explore, to travel, to experiment.
Teach them to rise again if they fall.**

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I started as an educator in 1999. I was disturbed to see the growing trend of tuition and rote learning and I wanted to change that.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success?

1. When I decided to establish an activity and competency-based learning structure without textbooks. We had to conduct a lot of training sessions to orient the parents and teachers. There was also constant counselling and involvement of stakeholders. All this proved to be quite challenging but seeing the progress of the students helped us realise the benefit of all the work we put in.
2. When I suggested shifting our focus to skill-based courses instead of conventional subjects. Again, we faced the spadework of discussion with students, teachers and parents. But talks by resource persons from different skill-based fields really helped.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Digital literacy has definitely made a huge difference and remote learning is here to stay. The revamping of the National Education Policy with a focus on FLN, Competency and Skill development is also an indication of the progressive approach. Cross-curricular and exchange of educational projects with countries across the world are enabling today's students to become global ambassadors. I am extremely happy that Mental health and Physical well-being too are getting due weightage.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? In the coming years, I would like to see more industries, sustainable development agencies and organizations offering opportunities to young learners to take up internship projects and help them get hands-on experience in real-life working environments. This can really help make the transition to the world beyond schools much smoother. (cont.)

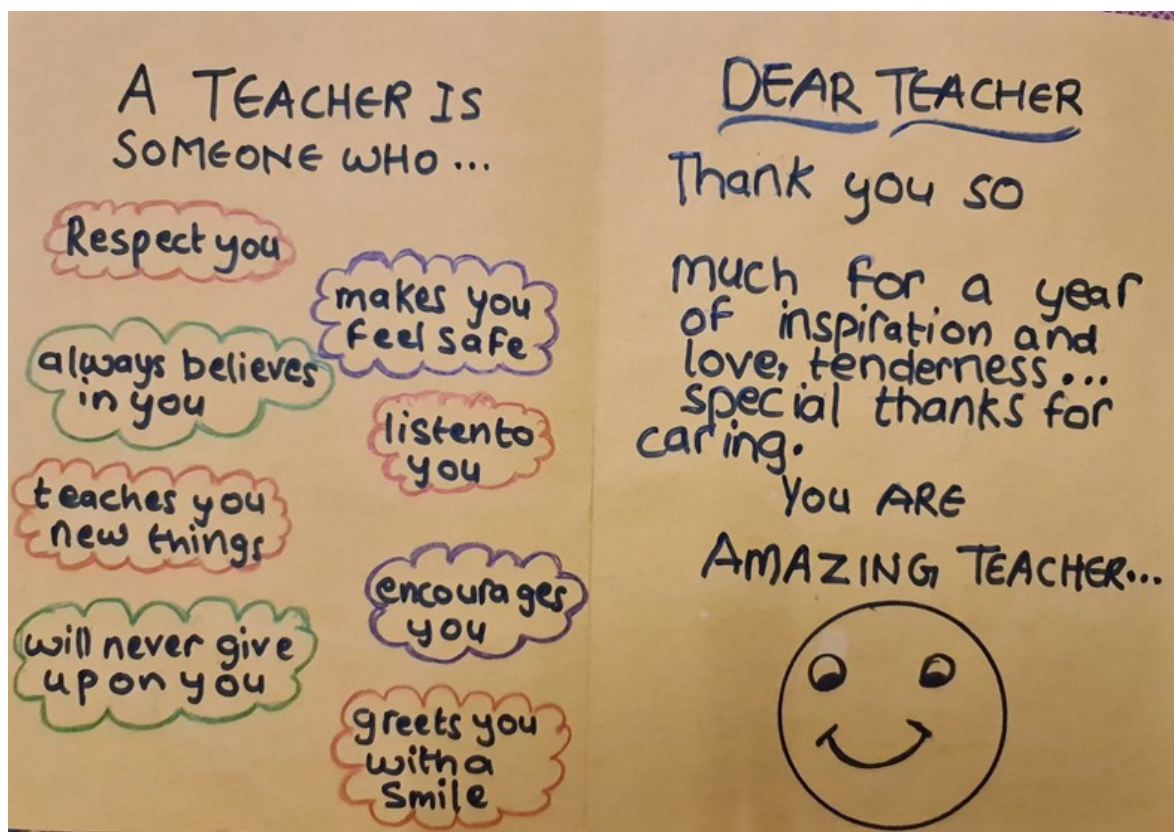
(cont.)

Signing MoUs with Education Boards of nations across the world for international projects, travels and certifications for school students would also really benefit students.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Allow children to question, to dream, to explore, to travel, to experiment. Teach them to rise again if they fall, to be resilient and empathetic, and teach them to respect nature. Do all this and you will never have to worry about the future.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Taking the first step is usually a challenge but when you learn to walk it gives you the confidence to run. So, go for your dreams, run and catch them!!

STUDENT'S CORNER



Sanaya Khatri
2, Delhi Public School, Sonapat

DAMAYANTI BHATTACHARYA

JASUDBEN ML SCHOOL AND BLOOMINGDALES
PRE-PRIMARY, MUMBAI



Empower children rather than making them dependent on support at all times.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I decided to step into the world of education when I realised that I enjoyed reading, teaching and interacting with youngsters. Finding that I fitted into this world quite easily and effortlessly was what gave me great motivation.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? For me, the biggest challenge was to sustain the interest of my students. I slowly started realising that children need to feel that they are a part of the class – not just faces in the classroom. I started to interact and engage with children based on their personalities. Some wanted to talk, to be included, to be addressed all the time. Others wanted space. I realised that I couldn't expect the same responses from all my students. I respected them for what they are. For the most part, this worked. I was able to bond with my students and then teaching and holding the interest of the children was a cakewalk! As I grew in my job, I was able to leverage this realisation and used the same tactic to involve the teachers, engage them and interact with them. It worked for me!

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? For the most part, I am happy with the changes- interactive learning, experiential learning, use of digital platforms, tools. But somewhere along the way, in an effort to make everything easily understandable & child friendly, we are perhaps failing to focus on basic learning skills such as Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Rigour is important as is healthy competition. I wish we could use the modern tools and retain the rigour.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? The government must be proactive and introduce changes in the system that will ensure education reaches ALL the children in the country. They must ensure that the teachers are well paid, qualified and dedicated. We need to be a bit choosy about whom we give this job to. (cont.)

DAMAYANTI BHATTACHARYA

(cont.)

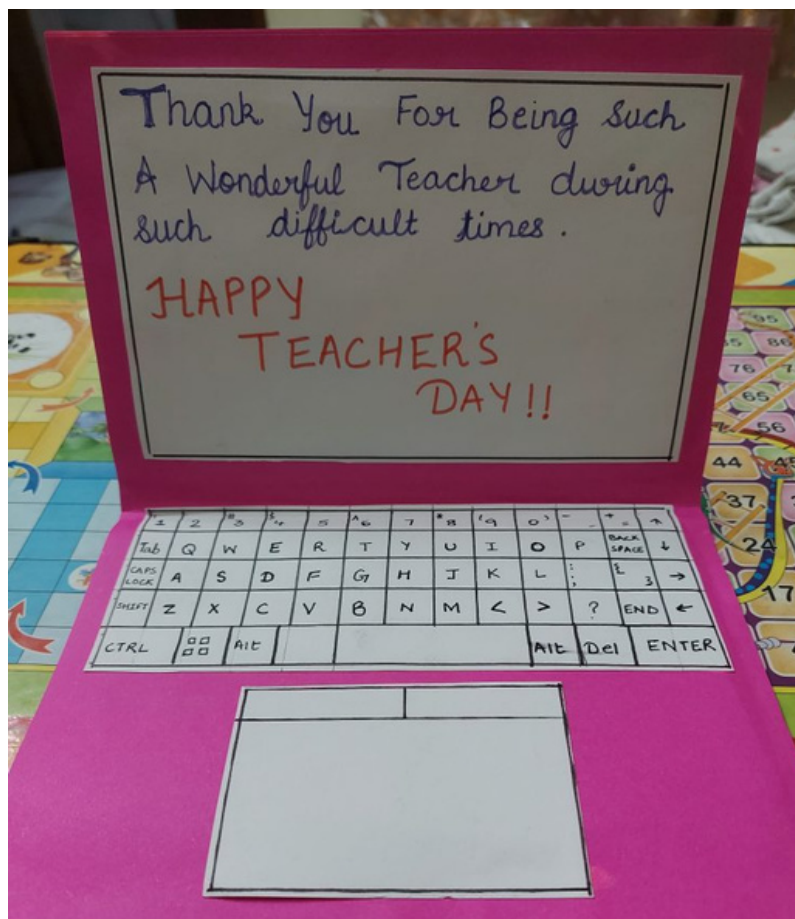
It is NECESSARY for teachers to improve and upgrade methods of teaching, assessing, create an atmosphere of learning instead of just teaching the text.

Parents must support their children without becoming their crutches. Empower them rather than making them dependent on support at all times.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Teach to Empower!

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Remain hungry and curious as long as you live. We die the day we stop learning.

STUDENT'S CORNER



1, PARUL AGARWAL

MILDRED LOBO

BUNTS SANGHA'S S M SHETTY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND JUNIOR COLLEGE

Let the focus be on learning and not testing. Students' grades are not the only barometer of their achievements.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I stepped into the formal world of education in the year 2005. However, even before that, I do believe that I was in it right from the start. My parents were both educators and our conversations at the dinner table always revolved around school and everything that came with it. So, teaching came my way by default and not by design and my first experience as a classroom facilitator just told me that I had finally found my niche. I haven't looked back since that day. The impact that each educator has on each student is immeasurable. As I watch students thrive under the guidance of a teacher, I am more and more motivated to make a difference in a child's life

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? I have faced many challenges along the way. Completing a teaching degree after 14 long years of being out of the formal system of education wasn't easy, especially with two young children. But perseverance and resilience and the strong support of my family and teachers helped me go the distance. I use that experience to support my teachers as they upskill and upgrade their qualifications in the midst of challenging circumstances. My greatest challenge came when I took over as the Head of School. Building a team that works towards one goal has been my sole objective and the vision, mission and core values of our school served as my North star. Everyone has their own ideas and opinions and perspectives and all of them are important. The challenge was to find ways to work as a cohesive unit and I am proud that today, we are a successful school with everyone pulling in the same direction. Through it all, the importance of relationships was the key and valuing and empowering people has helped me immensely too. I will continue to consistently support my teachers and my students to achieve their own greatness.

MILDRED LOBO

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The COVID 19 pandemic brought about a distinctive and dramatic change in education which has kind of superseded most of the changes across the years. I believe that the changes are here to stay and we will see an acceleration of the integration of information technology in education. Online education will become a vital part of classroom learning. I am happy that with training and the right growth mindset, teachers and students adapted to the new model and are thriving in the new normal. The New Education Policy is also a step in the right direction with the shift from content to skills and essential learning.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? If there is one thing I would want to change in education, it is the excessive reliance on grades. This puts pressure and anxiety on everyone. Let the focus be on learning and not testing. Every stakeholder has a role to play in this. Students need to know that the goal is to learn and that it is about optimizing effort to enhance learning. Parents must reiterate to their children that their grades are not the only barometer of achievement. Teachers can give feedback assignments that are written and evolving, with grades only at the end. This will prepare students for life when they have to write drafts for different projects.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. I read a quote by Kalu Ndukwe Kalu that says The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy. My message to myself and all teachers is - Let us leave a legacy.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Set SMART goals. Cultivate a growth mindset. Be open to new ideas and different perspectives. Seize every opportunity that comes your way. Work in collaboration rather than competition. Read, Read, Read. Be kind to yourself and others.

Schools and teachers have to move beyond just stuffing information to application of concepts.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? My grandfather, family always believed in the importance of education and giving back to society. My passion as a young person was sports and children too. So, while I have a background in finance, with tremendous support from my family, especially my father, we were able to set up the school and now I am doing what I love. The teaching, the children, the education, it's really my passion.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? In changing career paths, the first step is the most difficult. But I was very lucky that I had my father's support. My father and I travelled around the world visiting different types of schools, understanding what to do. We used what we learned into creating this school and its values. Team building was also another challenge. But our hearts were in the right place and with a strong team, we were able to overcome challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation. It was initially quite a challenge and we didn't have the set up to switch to online mode immediately. We experimented with a few modes, and while that took some tries, we could do it. While I have always wanted to switch to a more technological setup. Without the pandemic, it would have taken us about 10 more years. Parents later reached out to us, with their appreciation and many teachers are also well-trained now.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. As a school, we believe that you must create leaders. A good leader must create leaders. Leadership skills are transferable as long as you have some base skills. The most important thing is that your heart must be in the right place and you need to have passion. Secondly, as a leader, you have to be able to manage people; in your school, your colleagues, co-teachers, students. Moreover, you also need to be a good communicator, in a clear manner and have a clear thinking process. All these can make you a very successful leader. (cont.)

MADHAVI AGRAWAL

(cont.)

Of course, you may make mistakes but you have to own up to them and move on. Technology in teaching. Technologically is not taking the load away from teachers, but you have to view the role differently. While information is so easily available today, as a teacher, you have to move beyond stuffing information to its application.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. In this overwhelming world, try to find something that makes you happy. Find ways to learn the skills to turn what makes you happy into a profession. Don't give in to the pressure of technology, as it's very lonely. Be proud of your values and try to stay healthy too.

I can say with pride that we work towards bringing more happiness to our children and when students leave our campus, they are Happy.

STUDENT'S CORNER



Ananya Mahajan
1, Delhi Public School



Society including parents and teachers should move towards practical and skill-based learning, which will benefit students in the long run.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? The moment I started doing B.Ed., I decided to step into the world of education. As an educator, we have the ability to bring about many changes in society and that is what I wanted to do.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? One of the most difficult challenges I faced was dealing with parents, who are not literate and from the poorer strata of society. Sometimes, it can be difficult to convince such parents or children of the value of education in life and society. But on the other hand, it can be quite gratifying to be able to motivate and encourage such parents and convert these kinds of challenges into the pillars of success for their children.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Over the years, I have observed that students are scoring better in academics and this has come with a change in the format of the question paper from subjective to objective style. This reflects their in-depth understanding. There is also increased practical-based learning/ skill-based learning rather than rote learning. All these changes have made me happy.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? There should be practical and skill-based learning in the field of education. I feel that society as a whole should move towards this type of learning and it will benefit us all – be it, teachers, students and parents alike.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Teachers and educators are responsible for the upliftment of the students and the cause of education. We should always do our best to inculcate higher values and learning in our students so that they can be good future citizens of India.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. I encourage all students to be disciplined, obedient and respect their parents, teachers and society.

STUDENT'S CORNER



Aakrity Singh
6, DLDAV Shalimar Bagh



Aakrity Singh
6, DLDAV Shalimar Bagh

We also need to personalize education; the education system should teach the purpose of education.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? The science teacher of my school when I was young was a real inspiration and she is one of the major reasons among others that I pursued a teaching career. Her ability to guide students, her fairness and her sense of justice made me aspire to bring these things into my own classroom. Also, my love of children drew me to teaching students. Moreover, I found it very interesting to help other fellow students in their studies.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Throughout my career, I have faced many challenges like, inspiring students to be more self-directed, improving learning outcomes, differentiating and personalizing teaching, getting the students to do their work outside the classroom, finding the time to keep up with administrative tasks, understanding changing technology & parental involvement. I overcome these challenges by using my time effectively & efficiently and also by facing the challenges positively.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Teaching has evolved & adapted itself well with the changing times. E-learning is central to most academic programs. Teachers are leading everywhere, apps are used frequently, mobile learning has become an integral part wherein the students can get up from their desks and walk around in ways that enable learning. Additionally, students and teachers are always connected, while digital games is also a new entrant in the world of the teaching-learning process technology which surely has potential.

Information is everywhere but wisdom is scarce in the 21st century. The job of the teacher has become more demanding & challenging as we have to provide the right & correct information to students wherein they are having access to all information at their fingertips.

ANJU VEDI

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Not everyone can afford the education system that we have. So, that needs to be addressed. What also needs to be done urgently is to eradicate rote learning from schools at all levels. There should also be an evaluation system that accords equal respect to all subjects; there should be better training of educators and the introduction of technology. We also need to personalize education and above all, the education system should teach the students the purpose of education. Thank god that NEP has the potential of bringing all the above-stated changes.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. My sole message for the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow is - adaptability, organisation, emotional intelligence, communication and vision. All the above skills have the potential of creating a better you.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Don't study to earn but study to learn. What you learn today is what you will become tomorrow



The journey of mass education should be modified to the needs of each child and delivered accordingly.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I started my journey in education in the year 2000. It had always been on the horizon and the desire to be a part of the education revolution in India was very strong. Just as the 90s belonged to telecommunications, the 21st century will see a revolution in Indian Education. This firm belief propelled me to become an active participant in this journey.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? The biggest challenge was to understand the dynamics of parents, students and teachers. We are all striving for the same result and yet we appear to be working as opposing forces. We should keep the child at the centre of the triangle – the School, the Teachers and the Parents, and all must strive to enhance the inherent potential of each child. This very struggle has become the motto of Eklavya School – discover yourself, be your own light, make your own path.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The recent introduction of NEP 2020 is a culmination of years of struggles and challenges. It is the beginning of a new era in Indian Education. The paradigm shift in how we deliver and understand knowledge has put us on a trajectory of course correction for the future. Implementation of the spirit and intention behind NEP will be a huge challenge for each Teacher but it is a welcome step.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? As I mentioned, implementation is key. But I would like to see education be a journey, where each child has a unique and individual experience. The journey of mass education should be modified to the needs of each child and delivered as per his need. The government's role in redefining policy is crucial to achieving reach and scale. Parents have to shed their inhibitions and trust the Educator to deliver the best possible experience for their child.
(cont.)

SEEMA HANDA

(cont.)

Teachers must overcome their inertia and teach from the heart. And most importantly, the students must engage actively in the learning process.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. We are living in times of flux! As front-line warriors, we must be the change that we want to see in the field of education. We all have huge challenges to overcome, on both the professional and personal fronts. Let us not lose our focus and instead, let us put our energy into creating thinking and feeling citizens of tomorrow so that we can proudly look back and say – he/she is my student.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Dear Students, you are our tomorrow! For decades to come, you will be the generation that overcame all adversities and they made you come out stronger, more resilient, and totally independent. Your education will be reflected not in your paper degrees but in your social and emotional maturity. Many new and unforeseen opportunities will await you. Your creativity and adversity quotient is what will determine your success.

It gives me immense pleasure to wish each one of you all happiness and a great future!

BENO KURIEN

**INTERNATIONAL INDIAN SCHOOL, ABU
DHABI**

Technology has opened great possibilities to how lessons are being delivered and have changed the teachers' strategies.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I decided to step into the world of education at a very young age. I am very passionate about learning, and my teachers have inspired me to pursue a career in the education field with their unconventional techniques, and their ability to hone each child's talent and potential. The inspiring words and encouragement of my teachers played a huge role in my decision of becoming an educator. Now that I am in the leadership role, I also want to do the same and inspire the students, teachers, and parents that they can reach their dreams, and turn their vision into reality.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? I think one of the most recent challenges I have faced in my career as an educator was during the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was challenging because we had to fully shift to a new learning model in such a short span of time. This unprecedented crisis has made us make a full 180-degree turn on our whole school system alignment, and as a school, shifting our vision to what's important helped us turn these challenges into success. We have focused on providing the best learning experience for our students and their well-being. With this set of goals, and having an intact team and amazing teachers, we were able to deliver a successful remote learning experience to our students.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The main aspect of what has changed in the field of education is the crucial integration of technology. Technology has opened great opportunities and possibilities to how lessons are being delivered and have changed the teachers' strategies and learning models. Nowadays, in education, students have more options and involvement in how they learn and the teachers have become facilitators and partners of learning. With these changes, learning is more personalized and it offers flexibility, which I believe is great as it provides equity to learners.

BENO KURIEN

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I would like to see more national educational projects that focus on the future skillsets, providing readiness and competencies for teachers and students of the future. Since education is at the heart of global progress, at times of crisis, it is also great to have a well-aligned system and there should be a high priority on providing resources and opportunities for students, teachers, and parents, especially those who are underprivileged and are located in remote areas.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Always be kind, gentle, and motivating because you don't know how your words and actions can make an impact on someone's life. As a teacher and a leader, it is our duty to ensure that we teach and leads by integrity, provide the best possible environment and experiences, and develop individuals to their best character and full potential.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. My message to our Curious Times students is to always believe in yourself. And while sometimes we doubt our capabilities, it is important to turn these doubts into a challenge and take it as a step for improvement. It is also essential to have a good character, as it will take you to places and open unlimited opportunities. Stay safe and may this pandemic remind us that there is hope and we are the ones to decide our future, and that depends on how we make the most of the present.

ANURADHA RAMESH

NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, AGARA

**If we want to see a better world,
we must create a safe and secure
learning environment , which
fosters collaboration.**



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I stepped into the world of education immediately after my graduation (as I was awaiting my results). As a teenager, I used to conduct classes for the other children in my apartment and gradually developed an interest in teaching. After my graduation, I got an opportunity in a convent to teach English to middle school children and I landed there as an English teacher. Being young I was able to establish a connection with the students. It was short a stint as I got selected for my masters in psychology. But as an educator, my journey continued after that.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? When I was working as the Regional Head of a corporate company, I was in charge of a school in rural Karnataka where the majority of the staff were male teachers. It was a real challenge for me to groom them and train them. Initially, I faced a lot of resistance but slowly I gained their confidence. I listened to them, empathized with them and took up their concerns with the management. The management was also very supportive and I was able to bring in the desired change.

Another time as well, I was in charge of a residential school in rural Karnataka. Residential schools come with their own challenges. It is important for us to be on campus throughout the day. My day would begin at 5.30 am in the morning to 10.30 pm in the night. We had children running away from school, scaling the compound wall. It was important for me to ensure their safety first and then to make them attend school. I had to work with the core team in charge of the hostel very closely and make the day interesting for the students to ensure they attended classes. Gradually I gained the student's confidence and was able to bring in the desired changes.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Changes are bound to happen and we should see that as a positive sign. There is a shift from lecture-based teaching to activity-based teaching, rote learning to concept-based learning. (cont.)

CURIOUS TIMES.in

**The ED
Leaders**

ANURADHA RAMESH

(cont.)

Teachers are now mere facilitators. The entire approach to teaching has changed through massive strides in digitalization, so it is important to evolve and continue to learn with a growth mindset. However, I am not satisfied with the change in the value system and that is something we, the schools, should work on.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Now is the right time for collaborative work! If we want to see a better world, we must create a safe and secure learning environment for children, which fosters collaboration. In order to make that happen, all stakeholders need to lead from the front, work together responsibly and be accountable for decisions taken.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Do whatever you do with passion and commitment. If you are not passionate about teaching and solving these problems, please do not take up this critical responsibility. At the same time, if you enjoy the aspect of teaching, it reflects in your outcomes and motivates others around you. As a leader, you need to don various hats. The role of a counsellor is at the top of my mind and it is equally important to play that role not only with your students but also with your teachers and colleagues.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Respect and cherish what you learn. Adapt yourself to the changes and have an open mind to learn. Stay focused and give your 100% to whatever you do. As the quote goes "Nobody's perfect, that's why pencils have erasers". So, Don't focus on being perfect; instead, try your best always.

There should be an emphasis on a flexible curriculum, innovative research-based education to enhance critical thinking skills in students.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? Being born in the land, Maharashtra, that has given the first female teacher, Smt Savitribai Phule as well as the first female doctor, Anandi Joshi, it was always my passion to be an educator. I was fortunate to be able to pursue my passion as an educator from a very early age. Now it has been a continuous journey for me, stretching more than 32 years. An educator is a lifelong learner. Teaching is a noble profession that plants the seeds of knowledge that creates enlightened curious young minds and nurtures the character to enhance the life skills of a child for a lifetime. So, essentially, a love for learning & love for learners has motivated me to step into this profession.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Challenges are always part and parcel of our life. Making the right use of technology, balancing diverse learning needs, designing innovative pedagogies, and learning outcomes to measure students' potential, are some challenges I have faced. Along with them, I have also had to manage my home affairs, social life as well as face other challenges that comes along with a serious and demanding profession. But as they say, rough seas make stronger sailors. So, these challenges made me more competent, taught me to take purposeful learning steps to update myself to handle any situation in my career journey. My inner strength, patience, passion for my profession, and the support from my family and team members converted these challenges into pillars of success.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The rapid changes and increased complexity of today's world put new demands on our education system. Earlier, education was teacher-centred; the students were passive recipients of knowledge and learning achievements were measured by standard tests. But modern education is student-centric, and learning achievements are assessed by a variety of educational tools. (cont.)

VINITA KHALADKAR

(cont.)

A Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation system has been accepted by all educators. Education today focuses on the Holistic development of the child that includes intellectual, emotional, creative, & physical dimensions. Moreover, inclusive education develops life skills in students. Due to the pandemic situation, all members of the education community has adapted the latest technology, digitalization and virtual mode of education. Need-based changes have the ability to change the orthodox mindset. I have accepted all the changes graciously to engage, explore and experiment with new things in the field of education.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? The education system is a vital contributor to the growth of the country. The education policies of India saw various reforms in the post Independence Era based on the need of the hour. We are also waiting for the implementation of the New Education Policy 2020 which suggests many required changes. We, educators, are looking forward to seeing Early Childhood Education – Foundation of learning getting strengthened, and getting its due importance as a part of the formal education stream. Holistic education for all to identify and foster the unique capabilities of each student is also important. I also believe that equal importance must be given to all subjects including Sports, Performing Arts and Co-scholastic subjects. Moreover, we, educators, also wish to see education being available to all and equal opportunities given to deserving students without any reservation barriers. There should also be more emphasis on a flexible curriculum, innovative research-based, concept-based education which would enhance critical thinking skills in students. Nothing is possible without acceptance and strong teamwork. So, to implement these changes, everyone including Government bodies, Education departments, Parents, Educators, and Students have to work hand in hand in their individual capacities to achieve quality education goals for building a Self Reliant India.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Dear Teachers, You are the backbone of all Educational Institutions. Take pride to be in this noble and very responsible profession. Teachers are always Life-Long Learners. Keep on updating yourself by attending various Continuous Professional Development Workshops. You can also make a difference by nurturing your emotional quotient along with your intelligence quotient. You may be very highly qualified, but when you are with school children, you should ensure to deliver your knowledge by adjusting to their level. If the child can't learn the way you teach, teach the way the child learns.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Dear Students, the world STUDENT itself teaches you many things.

S-Sincere: Be always sincere in whatever task is given to you

T-Tolerant: Accept the diversity of our country to maintain unity

U-Unique: Believe in yourself.

D-Determined: Don't give up until you reach the destination

E-Effervescent: Always be enthusiastic about everything around you

N-Novel: Be curious and innovative in your work

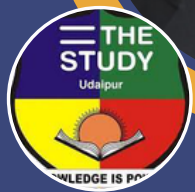
T-Tireless: Work tirelessly to achieve success in life

I wish you all to be fearless, confident, courageous to face the challenging world I wish you all to be Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens & Effective contributors.

AVISHEK MAJUMDAR

**THE STUDY SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL,
UDAIPUR**

**All of you have the potential,
recognize your opportunities
and make your own path of
success**



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I was a learning disabled child and as you can imagine, there were some challenges. But, I could find my place in this competitive world because my teacher helped me to believe in what I was doing. This motivated me to take teaching as my hobby to help those who needed it the most. Then, I changed my hobby to a profession in 2001 after the World Trade Centre incident of September 11, 2001.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? I actually started teaching professionally without a B.Ed. degree. I worked for 2 years and then thought of doing B.Ed. Special Education- MR from RCI. Completing this curriculum from both the University and Hospital along with teaching at school was the toughest task I had to do during my initial days. Unfortunately, I also did not receive adequate support from the school. However, I am happy to say that I still could make it to Rank 1 in Gujarat in 2005 and all India Rank 31.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The changes were very discouraging as we were more innovative during our times and were very could handle the pressures better. Today, I feel we are forcing our students to have innovative ideas (which were natural during our times) and they can also be poor at handling pressure at the workstation.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Natural teachers are the need of an hour. Most of the teachers are by force and not by choice. It's good that the government has given thought to this and has started an integrated course for the aspirants. Also, there are skill-based courses that a student can opt-in to during grade 11. We as teachers have the biggest role to counsel parents to help the child to pursue their own dreams.

AVISHEK MAJUMDAR

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. If we have 100% intent, we will have 100% implementation and then we can make a 100% impact. Focus on planning and learning outcomes will make it sure.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Nothing can make your teacher more proud than seeing being recognized and appreciated in whatever you do. All of you have potential in you and I know you will achieve what you dream. Recognize the opportunities, identify the challenges and make your own path of success. Every success story will delight us and make us proud that we were a part of your life someday.

RAINA KRISHNATRAY

**DELHI WORLD PUBLIC SCHOOL GREATER
NOIDA**



The race of high scores should be slowed down to enable all the learners to feel worthy

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I stepped into the world of education in 2001. The fact that Educators have the passion and power to influence and transform lives motivated me to become an educator.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? I have faced a lot of challenges while working in various capacities in the School System. But I have been able to take the challenges in stride with an insightful analytical approach wherein the root cause of an issue is figured out and resolution or troubleshooting is done with immediate effect. All is this done keeping in mind a win-win result.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Over the years I have observed that teachers have become more approachable and flexible. They have transformed from teachers to educators. The conventional teaching methodologies are now largely complemented with Interdisciplinary Learning, Multiple Intelligence Approach, Experiential Learning, Project-based Learning and Art Integration as well. Also, the curriculum content delivery has changed in very many versatile and interesting ways owing to the influx of IT.

The Assessment methods and patterns too have variety now and test the critical and creative thinking skills of the children. Differential Teaching and Inclusion is followed more than ever before. Yes, I am absolutely happy with the present day child-centric approach towards learning.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I really wish to see that the students be able to make an informed choice of subjects from a variety of subjects right after Class VIII. We should also encourage them to do fieldwork and genuine community service in Old Age Homes Shelter Homes, Charitable Hospitals, Animal Shelters must be made compulsory and should reflect in the Progress Report as well. (cont.)

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**The ED
Leaders**

RAINA KRISHNATRAY

(cont.)

Community service must be an essential component to be considered as criteria for College Admissions. The race and obsession with extremely high scores should be slowed down to enable all the learners to feel worthy in whatever field they are doing well. Aptitude tests should also be given more weightage.

Stakeholders must be positive and have faith in each and every child. They should not have unrealistic lofty expectations. The children must be made to feel happy for who they are and their accomplishments; whether they are small or big, they must be appreciated.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Teaching is a passion that transcends the profession. I suggest that only those who have tons of positivity and patience should take up this responsibility as it requires total dedication and undying commitment. But indeed, it is immensely gratifying at the end of the day!

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Dear lovely and awesome children, do not ever be scared of trying anything new or expressing yourself. Play a lot, keep fit and eat well to stay healthy. Be kind to others and be compassionate to the animals. Do meaningful activities that make you happy!

IVAN SMITH

COLUMBIA GLOBAL SCHOOL, RAIPUR

**There should be a greater focus on
Experiential Learning and
Competency-based learning
systems**



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? Coming from a family with many teachers, since a young age, I had been seeing teachers around me and so, was influenced very early to enter into education. Looking at my Mother, Uncles & Aunts as teachers motivated me to take up teaching. I did try to explore other career options but could not do them for very long. I always felt an urge, a voice, a calling in me to be a Teacher. And so, today, I can proudly say that I feel I was born a Teacher.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Being a teacher is not easy. Life throws up many challenges all the time. As a Teacher, one thing that I have understood and strongly believe is 'To Stay Positive, and be Optimistic'. This mantra has always guided me through all challenges. A constant challenge that I faced in my career journey was to begin from the START every time - whether it was my first job as a teacher out of my home town of Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) or when I returned home to complete my teacher's training and took up a job in my hometown (starting from scratch again). But I accepted those challenges and kept doing my work without expecting rewards. I strongly believe in 'Karmanye Vadhikaraste ma phaleshu kadhachana'. I always took up the challenge willingly and I achieved success and growth. I learned an important lesson from my professional guru, a former Principal I worked with, who told me once - "Mr. Smith, Don't Say You Can't, Say You'll Try". When you try, you will either succeed or you learn a life lesson that will help you somewhere in the future.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Over the years there has been a lot of change in the field of Education. The most striking change from our times of schooling to the current times is the fact that today's education system is giving students an opportunity to learn by doing; where the students today not only gain knowledge but also learn how to apply it. This is a very positive change as it is important to know how to apply our knowledge. (cont.)

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**The ED
Leaders**

IVAN SMITH

(cont.)

For instance, I always wondered as a student as to why or how is the Pythagoras Theorem relevant to me, until I came across a programme that explained the construction of a bridge that used and applied the theorem. We merely mugged up the theorem when we were in school just to pass an exam. So, it is good to see today the efforts being put in by teachers to help students understand concepts rather than mere rote-learning.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I would love to see a change in our education system where there is a greater focus on Experiential Learning and Competency-based learning systems where students learn more by doing and applying. I also hope that our students are made more job-ready through education, as one cannot get a job today by just being a graduate or postgraduate in a subject. Somehow specialization is required to get a job or a candidate has to learn the skill sets required at a job. The National Education Policy 2020 envisages this dream and has come up with a great plan to improve our education system, to suit the 21st century needs. Now, it remains a task for all stakeholders whether it is the government, teachers, parents or students to help implement these changes. Over a period of time, we should be able to bring about change.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. To All aspiring Teachers and leaders of tomorrow, remember that Teaching has always been regarded as a very noble profession. You are the builders of a Nation's future generation, which is a big responsibility and so you should be very serious with your work. Remember, you should be a 'Teacher by Choice' and 'not by chance'. This is not a field where you will earn a lot of money but you will definitely win a lot of respect, love and affection. The best reward for being a Great Teacher is when years later, you still get love and affection from your new and old students. I'm sure each one of you still definitely remembers their Favourite Teacher and many may still be in contact with them.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Dear Students and Readers, remember that 'Learning' is a 'continuous and lifelong process'. It will never end if you are open to learning. My advice to you all is 'Find every opportunity to learn and be sincere in learning whatever you can. Don't think anything is too small, little or insignificant for you to learn. Even a Rickshaw puller along the road can teach you a good lesson on hard work. Stay focussed, positive and optimistic. This will guide you in your learning adventures. Learn to ask questions - I mean a lot of questions(with many ????????s). No question is insignificant. It may be as silly as possible but that is perfectly all right. Love what you do and make it your passion and you will surely succeed. Thank you for reading all this patiently and wish you all the very best for a bright future!!!

TUSHAR RAMESH YERPUDE

MERITORIOUS PUBLIC SCHOOL, TIRORA

There should be - learn anytime, at any place along with personalised learning at one's own pace



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? One of my early mentors was my best friend's father. He was a very successful and famous teacher in my village, and he was the one who encouraged me to explore opportunities in the field of education. But ultimately, it was the combination of my own explorations, along with the guidance of my parents while in school, that confirmed teaching was the perfect path for me.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? In my life, there were times when many people told me that, I am not good enough in the field of education. I believe that the most successful people are able to accept this kind of criticism and overcome the challenges that rejection brings. You can learn from rejection and can even use it to build up your character for further success. But for this to happen a person must be able to overcome it and learn how to capitalize on its advantages. In my long career as an educator, I encountered rejections in many interviews and sometimes the remuneration was not given on time. During those difficult times, sometimes, I was sorely tempted to turn away from the field of education. But, thankfully, I persevered, was able to join a very good school and was able to continue following my passion. So, I believe such challenges are very important in life and they can help you succeed.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Here are some changes I have observed, point by point:

1. Focusing on Root learning by schools.
2. Introduction of new evaluation systems or marking schemes.
3. Training facilities for educators online and offline.
4. More emphasis on placing importance equally on all subjects.
5. An increased focus on teaching children about the purpose of education.
6. Expansion of child-centric education.
7. Introduction of technology in the field of education.

(cont.)

TUSHAR RAMESH YERPUDE

(cont.)

Yes, I am happy with these changes. But I also feel that as per the changing times, we should continue to be even more innovative and creative in the field of education.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? In my opinion, the new NEP will be the best option to change the world of education. A significant change that we are seeing happening around us is the rapid emergence of skill-based courses in areas such as retailing, banking, selling, mobile repairing, embroidery, fashion, and jewellery designing.

There should be more of the idea of 'learn anytime learning and at any place' along with personalised learning at one's own pace and speed. Moreover, education today has more flexible paths and more choices of subjects. The pandemic has also brought in blended learning and flipped classrooms. There should be more project-based and experiential learning. And we should give more importance to data interpretation and data analytics. Student ownership in the learning process is increasing and he/she would need to take more responsibility in the learning process. However, the teacher's role would now be the clarifier and the problem-solving specialist. Everyone is important in the teaching-learning process (All stakeholders).

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. I don't think that I am the right person to give a message to teachers and leaders. As a wise man once noted, Teaching is the only profession that teaches all the other professions. But, according to me, The best teachers are those who show you(students) where to look but don't tell you what to see.'

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Now in this time even as a leading educator, sometimes, I feel very helpless while trying to provide quality and good education to my students. But during this pandemic, I feel that our responsibility has increased even more, towards you, students. So, I want to convey the message that we are trying our best to give you the best quality education possible, for your betterment. I believe that schools are closed, but not the education. And that is my guiding principle.

Treat your time at school as a time of self-discovery, don't worry about careers. You will find your true calling.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I was always into role play; as a child, I enjoyed playing the role of a teacher. But I realised I really wanted to teach when I was in college. I enjoyed teaching my juniors and since then, I haven't looked back. You want to empower children and guide them on their journey.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Initially, I had challenges with behavioural problems of children. But now, I would say, as the pandemic hit, technology became a challenge. We have to change our system overnight and shift to the online mode. We also wanted to help kids and parents overcome all the anxiety of the pandemic as many faced a lot of loss too. So, we introduced yoga and more to help them manage their mental health. And the results were great and I am happy we overcame the challenges. As a school, we are also a 'fit-India' school. We organised a number of online competitions on fitness which saw a lot of participants. We could reach out to so many people and that was wonderful.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I wouldn't really dare to advise people. But I can say that once school restarts, we will see how dynamics have changed. We have to make a paradigm shift in our way of transacting the curriculum. Last year, my organisation (a group of schools) came up with a curriculum design that focused on skills and competencies - art, music, sports. After that, the NEP came out and we felt justified in our vision and ideas. The government has also come up with ideas around vocational skills and we must look into that.

Education has changed and all stakeholders need to collaborate to make a difference. Everyone has to contribute to making education a success.

MEERA MATHUR

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Treat your time at school as a time of discovery, self-discovery. Once you enter college you will have to make many choices – all these will depend on who you are. So, discover yourselves and don't worry about a career. You will find your true calling. Choose a career not because you visualise yourself as something but because you enjoy it. School and college days are a memory of a lifetime.

As educators, it is our role to lead children to self-discovery.



KAPIL TALWAR

**AL MAHD DAY BOARDING SCHOOL,
SAMAHEEJ**

A society learning platform and all stakeholders collaborating will bring interactive Education model comprising of 21st Century Learning Skills.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? It was in the year 2006, after my Post Graduation, that I decided to move into the world of education. It was my passion for experiential learning and teaching which motivated me to be a part of this noble profession.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? The biggest challenge in my journey as an educator was getting the opportunity to explore global education systems so that later I could support my students with my experiences in the teaching and learning field. Then later, I got my first foreign job in the current school Al Mahd Day Boarding school in Bahrain. The school provided me with the exposure to interact and execute the global education system in our school.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Technology has impacted the education system a lot in many ways. The technology-driven education system is really a boon for our young learners. It has made them understand concepts in a much deeper and thorough way.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? The main change I want to see in the field of Education is an interactive model of education in which every student gets an opportunity to learn from society. So, you could say, a society with a learning platform for all our young learners is my dream.

The Government can also provide support in building the infrastructure needed to realise this model of interactive Education. Moreover, students and parents can collaborate together and come up with a vision to support an interactive Education model comprising of 21st Century Learning Skills.

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**The ED
Leaders**

KAPIL TALWAR

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. To teach with a combination of both heart and brain should be our aim. Learning together with a real-world application must be our goal of Education.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Students, today is the time to focus on developing skills and not just focus on adding knowledge to our brains. Try to do your best to add a skill to your repertoire and it will be invaluable in your life.



Education is a lifelong process and not something that stops after school.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I came into this profession by chance at the age of 26. But it is by CHOICE that I choose to be in this profession. I have enjoyed every moment of the past 26 years and I truly believe I get paid for what I enjoy doing the most. It was by God's grace and the goodwill and mentorship of a good friend that I came into this profession. I see the Lord's hands in her.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Every day is a challenge in a new way. Once we manage the challenge successfully, we are able to look back with a sense of achievement and learning. All teachers across the world will be contributors to change in some way or the other. The past two years have been the most challenging times. This has been a time of unlearning, relearning, adapting and implementing the best methods of technology-aided education. The Virtual Classroom has become a way of life. Staying safe and healthy was the biggest challenge this year. This was where we had to change and adapt. We had to think of the possibility of turning this crisis into an opportunity. We had to face something that we never imagined could happen even in our worst dreams; having to start all over again, take baby steps and completely change the plans, events and curriculum. We saw a paradigm shift in the attitude of our teachers and students, as we found confidence, positivity and creativity in every task or activity assigned to them. It has been months of discovery, exploration, fun and at the same time some serious learning

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? A lot of positive changes have come about in the field of education. It will continue to keep changing and at a much faster pace in the coming years. All of us need to be ready for the rapid changes. A few positive changes I have observed over the years are:

1. Experiential Learning has become the order of the day.
 2. Teachers have become facilitators.
 3. Technology has taken over in a big way
- (cont.)

RACHEL IGNATIUS

(cont.)

4. Students and teachers are always connected.
5. AI is being introduced.
6. Media content is shared willingly
7. Information is everywhere and free availability of content
8. Online classes
9. Chalkboards are being replaced by smart boards

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Education is a lifelong process and not something that stops after school. Everyone has a role to play in this. There is a long way for us to go and grow in this field.

Humanism needs to be given a lot of attention and importance. We need to give equal respect to all subjects. Let's empower our teachers and together celebrate our positives and grow stronger rather than treat the world as a competitive field all the time. These are times when we especially need to give each other the emotional support required.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. As an academician, I realize that the students look up to us all the time. We need to be able to inspire the future generation and be able to guide and mentor them. What the world, the society, the family needs at the moment is a generation who will grow up with an attitude of gratitude. We should be able to nurture the right values along with the knowledge skills they acquire in school. Character building is the need of the hour.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Dear Students, you have adapted and have successfully completed 17 months of online education which was totally unheard of even two years back. Let's hope and pray that the world heals fast and we get back to our normal routine. Determination plays a huge role in our life. Always be determined on what you want and work thoroughly to reach your goal. You have a big responsibility to make the world better. An attitude of gratitude will make you a better person. God bless you!!!

This is the best time to be born as a learner. Never in history was knowledge so freely available at a click as it is today.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? Coming from a family of educators, it was the most natural transition for me to step into the life I had seen my parents leading all my life.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? The first turning point came in my life when I realised that as an educator, my job was more about turning my students into independent thinkers and learners and not merely the reproducers of the knowledge we put into them. As daunting as it was initially, what helped me sail through, was the guidance of my mentors and the courage to accept failures as stepping stones. Ever since I started the role of a school leader, my major challenge has been to make the teachers unlearn and relearn the pedagogical practices suitable for this century's learners. It is challenging because most teachers come from the background where they were taught in a traditional 'sage on the stage' manner. The constant support that we provide to the educators starts with the "mistakes being our best teachers" approach. This is followed by individual performance improvement plans that have helped teachers evolve into successful educators of the 21st century.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? As mentioned above, with the ever-increasing role of technology, it has become evidently easier to make learning self-paced, creative and critical thinking based. Knowledge is no longer the prime mantra of education now. It is the application of this knowledge coupled with other elements of analysis, evaluation and creation that have reshaped the whole landscape of learning in the most recent years.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? As we are on the threshold of a new era in the history of education, I think we need to equip and empower our teachers in such a way that they jump into this profession out of choice and not out of compulsion. (cont.)

PRANJALA DUTTA

(cont.)

They must feel rewarded for the efforts they put in with their learners. All the stakeholders could make it their collective goal to contribute effectively as parents, governors and community members. They could co-plan learning opportunities with the school and get more closely involved as partners. A school must be seen as everybody's school, not just the students'.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. There is a heavy responsibility on our shoulders specifically because of the speed at which education is changing; we need to keep pace with it by incorporating new pedagogical practices, discarding redundant parts and collaborating with educators locally and globally. Unlike our predecessors, we are preparing our students for professions that do not even exist today. Therefore, the best we could do is equip them with such skills that will be equally useful, irrespective of their future job profiles. Creativity, Critical Thinking Collaboration and Communication are broadly considered to be the universal skills that were unfortunately not given much emphasis during our years as students. Hence there is a need to first acquire these skills and then practise them with our students.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. This is the best time to be born as a learner. Never in history was knowledge so freely available at a click as it is today. So, all that you need to do now is identify your true potential (for which, plenty of assessments are available online). Then use your potential to explore all that you find interesting and build lifelong skills that will not only help you become successful in your work but in life too. This luxury was not available to your parents or teachers, so go grab it with your head, hands and heart. Caution: beware of distractions.

Application-based teaching with the help of various industries and internships should become a norm.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I belong to the Defence fraternity. After completing my post-graduation in Nutrition, Dietetics and Business Management, I shifted to a different state in the country. Here I happened to get an opportunity to teach the secondary section in a CBSE School. Inspiring feedback from a very dynamic principal, students and the immense acquired joy after teaching directed me towards Teaching Learning.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? I am confident that challenges always come your way to polish you and chisel you to make you a finer person. Being transferred every couple of years was not easy, neither on the professional front or the personal front. I followed the mantra that I believe in "Give your best wherever you are and in whatever you do". My travels all over the country ended up as an enriching experience for me and that is what makes me what I am today.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? I am really happy that we have reached a place where teachers are taught now not to be "the sage on the stage" but a guide by the side. We are now talking about being teachers being lifelong learners and exploring ever new and innovative ways to reach the learners. I am extremely happy with the NEP 2020, because, If not anything, at least we have begun to change the thought process.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I would say Community connect is the keyword. We cannot and should not function in isolation. Moreover, educating the parents and taking them along, as well as collaborating with them should be taken seriously. Application-based teaching with the help of various industries and internships should become a norm.

GURDEEP KAUR

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Be a teacher because you want to make a difference. Every teacher is also a leader and needs to create situations where he or she is not required for the learning process and the students or the team can take the lead.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Life is a huge canvas, choose the colours you desire and make a unique painting that would be your signature style.

DR. MITA SARKAR

DAISY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Online classes, experiential and blended learning has changed how students are interacting with the educational content.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? As a founder, director and principal of Daisy Montessori, I am often asked what prompted me to start Daisy Montessori. After my Master's degree from IIT Delhi in 2004, I went to pursue my PhD in Engineering from the USA. After I was awarded the PhD, I started my corporate journey from August 2008, first in the USA and then moving to Bangalore. At the time of quitting my corporate career in February 2017, I was working as a Senior Research Engineer in a Europe-based MNC and had also become the mother of two beautiful kids. I had wanted to be involved in something where I could take a more active part in shaping the future of our country and still be surrounded by young children, the best gifts we can have. After many anxious discussions with my husband, finally, on 14 February 2017 (yes, on Valentine's Day!) I officially quit my corporate career and found a new love in working full time towards the creation of Daisy Montessori School.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? We at Daisy Montessori School are trying to find the solutions to create the 21st century's high-quality and safe preschools. Any institution or organization is not easy to create and there will be bad times. Admittedly, the initial days are always challenging and it can be hard to get many students as we are in the process of creating a strong brand. So, passion for what we are doing is very important to keep us going. My mindset is that of a first-generation entrepreneur, who sacrifices her comfort zone, career stability and take risks to create something meaningful that she is passionate about.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? We have seen rapid changes in the Indian education system in the last decade. So, here are a few changes I have observed in the last 10 years:

1. Chalkboards Replaced by Smart Screen - Most of the private schools have replaced the traditional Chalkboards with smart boards.
2. Different learning approaches like experiential and project-based learning: These approaches have become an important part of the curriculum. (cont.)

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**The ED
Leaders**

DR. MITA SARKAR

(cont.)

3. Online Classes and Physical Classroom converted into E-classroom – Online classes were first started with the adoption of technology by the private sector. And they showed how online education can be an effective tool in the first half of the decade. However, now it has become the main means of education in the ongoing COVID crisis.

4. Free Availability of Content: One of the significant changes that have taken place in recent years is the free availability of content. A plethora of online websites and Youtube channels are providing free content for all the courses. The Ministry of Education, NCERT and other government bodies have also made educational content available for free. Initiatives like E-Pathshala, Online NCERT books, Educational TV channels have been started to provide content for free.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? As I had nurtured the dream for a while and being involved in Early Childhood Care and Education, I was reading a lot about child psychology, the Montessori education system and state-of-the-art early childhood care and education all over the world, especially in the USA and India. Due to my educational and professional background, I am always a follower of how the world around us is changing at a very fast pace by embracing new technologies. I am convinced that almost every aspect of our children's lives will be much different from ours. So, in this digital age, the need for children to learn and memorize facts is diminishing. It is being replaced by the need to learn how to filter and assess information critically for any kernel of "truth". Today's preschoolers will enter the global workforce around 2038. Although we cannot contemplate exactly what their world will be like then, we do know that children and adults will continue to need the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. They will also need a greater ability to learn "how to learn", and possess problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, and be resilient in the face of fast-moving change. Most discussions about "21st-century skills" emphasize the need for schools to focus more on so-called "soft" skills and character traits such as creative thinking and curiosity in addition to cognitive skills. Learning in the early years should have a stronger focus on the child's all-round development than just school education. The family's role is also essential in nurturing and enriching young children's development.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Teaching is a noble profession. A teacher is a person who provides knowledge and guidance to the future generation of a society and a country. Be proud of your profession. It seems easy to define the work of a teacher but we know that a teacher is one of the greatest people on earth. A teacher can mould the future of a generation. However, as we know, teaching can also be stressful, tiring, demanding, and amazingly rewarding. So, although there will be days when you will feel like tearing out your hair, there is one important reason to teach, above all: The children need you.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. I express my sincere thanks to our students and parents. Without their support, encouragement and constructive feedback the journey so far wouldn't be possible. Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future. Yes, my dear students, you are the precious pearls of society and the building blocks of a strong nation. Dear children, you have proven that your practice, your presence and your determination is what makes every school vibrant and colourful. Student life is a beautiful part of life. Enjoy the process of learning. "Do not give up no matter what, always try just one more time, and eventually you will be successful".

CHANCHALA YELAMANCHI

SRI SRI ACADEMY, HYDERABAD

Accept every child who has come to you and don't just teach them for marks but for creating global citizens with the right attitude.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? It actually started when my kids started going to school. I realised that instead of constantly complaining about the system, I wanted to be a part of the system. I wanted to understand it completely, bring in the crucial changes and serve the community of students.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? I would say, there were quite a few challenges. One of the challenges I faced as a leader was when I was looking into the planning and discussion around the curriculum together with the teachers. I felt I was not doing justice to all the subjects, in a manner similar to what I was doing for my own area of expertise. So, in order to overcome this, I started involving myself in-depth with the content development teams and this helped me in understanding all subjects, the gaps and requirements for remedial and acceleration courses. This way, the issues of equity were better dealt with.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? There have been many changes in the field of education, especially with our venture into online education and NEP. Of course, I'm really happy with the changes. But there's still a need to look into all the aspects of teaching philosophies. I have always believed in the philosophy, "Broaden the vision, deepen the roots".

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? There are quite a few changes that are required in the field of education, especially where education becomes important, not just in terms of marks or grades, but for creating citizens with values.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Dear aspiring teachers, now that you have decided to be a teacher, please strive to ignite young minds to become lifelong learners. Accept every child who has come to you and don't just teach them for marks but for creating global citizens with the right attitude.



CHANCHALA YELAMANCHI

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Never give up because there's always a solution. Trust your skills and remember to accept incidences of defeat as stepping stones to success. Have gratitude for everything you have and also, love for everything around you.

Instead of becoming a "factory of marks", students should focus on developing skills that can help them be innovative and self-sufficient



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I would say that I am a "genetically blessed teacher". I was inspired to join the world of education as both my father and my uncle were professors in the university, teaching the same subject. I always closely observed their achievements and the increasing respect they got in society. So, knowingly or unknowingly, all these registered in my subconscious mind, which triggered a yearning for teaching from childhood and finally, as a grown-up youth of the '90s, I started my career as a TGT-English teacher. I visualised the journey called education as a long and beautiful train that is propelled by the engine of knowledge, passionate love for teaching and an emotional bond with the profession. And even today, this train really looks beautiful.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Frankly speaking, I find the word "challenges" has a negative element. But as a nation builder, I feel these challenges do come in front of us with hidden opportunities behind them. Challenges are part of every profession.

So far as my teaching career is concerned, yes - there were challenges. This was especially in terms of increased awareness on the part of stakeholders. But this has compelled teachers to remain updated on the latest innovations. Sometimes, I have also found that sometimes, the stakeholders entered into discussions a little too negatively and were overtly critical. However, these challenges did not affect my passion for teaching. I have always maintained a mirror-like image in front of students. This way, they get confidence that their teacher will never mislead them. This attitude built a positive bridge of acceptance and understanding between me and my students.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Earlier, teaching was extremely conventional with the proverbial "chalk and duster". However, gradually the advent of the internet has led to a paradigm shift resulting in a reduced teacher-centric environment. However, as an educator, I have never felt the stress of this transformation because I am very straightforward, with my own clear ideas and mindset but I am also open to suggestions. (cont.)

MILIND KALUSKAR

(cont.)

For me, since change is an inevitable part of life, I have always enjoyed it. For example, there may have been a time when I couldn't imagine teaching online but today it is a happy reality. Adapting to new times is difficult, but gradually everyone started understanding the hidden benefits.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? You cannot imagine society growing and developing in the absence of a strong foundation of education. I feel that in future if the schools continue to remain closed, we should refrain from mass promoting everyone because anything achieved without effort is valueless. The future is definitely going to be of a blended learning system. Many sectors are likely to experience automatization, Hence it is a serious responsibility on part of teachers to create citizens who are ready to accept and adapt to these new ideas.

The government must essentially provide the required basic infrastructure for effective implementation and proliferation of these changes. Moreover, the teachers, as always, should keep themselves abreast of the changing times. The students, instead of becoming a "factory of marks" should focus on developing skills that can help them become innovative and self-sufficient.

Parents will have to play a key role too. They need to stop imposing their expectations on the children. They should create an environment that is supportive and conducive to developing their children's skills. Parents also need to teach cultural values to their children and narrate the stories from religious epics like The Mahabharata and The Ramayan.

if we are able to provide a part of, if not everything, from this, then, future students will have a visionary and positive approach towards their future and for the country. Otherwise, they might become easy prey to anti-social elements.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Aspiring teachers must remember that teaching is a noble profession. When you become a teacher, you are taking up a huge responsibility of shaping the youth and thereby contributing to the transformation of the nation. Teachers should enter this profession only if they are ready to take up these responsibilities and if they are ready to keep themselves updated with the changing times. Since the teaching profession is the noblest one, a teacher also needs to be noble, knowledgeable and open to ideas and innovations from stakeholders.

Leaders need to be highly motivating, innovative and real mentors for the youth. in the absence of a futuristic approach, leaders might not be able to provide the required pivotal force to the teachers' efforts. Leaders should create a skill-cultivating environment in the school. Moreover, they should constantly remain in touch with industries to cope-up with the skill demand.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. My dear students, you are all the epitome of energy, ideas and skills; however, your energy requires proper channelization. Your textbooks are your binding friends, do not part with them. Reading books will increase your visualization power and this visualization skill will take you to the mountain of success. Once you reach there, you will get a superior vision for attaining the desired outcome. Be a polite, obedient, innovative professional and responsible citizen of India. When you grow up, be the strength of your parents, and create such an identity that your parents feel proud of you.

ABHILASHA SINGH

**SHINING STAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ABU DHABI**

**Students, be a global change-maker
- think global, act local. Adopt a
sustainability goal and work
towards it.**



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I started my teaching career about 23 years ago. As an army wife, teaching was the best option as a career for me. But when I started teaching, I realised I absolutely loved it. And there was no looking back. I learned a lot from many educators and teachers along the way. You see your work through your students and I feel very motivated by them.

About Shining Star School Abu Dhabi. Shining Star is a fairly young school but we have made rapid strides. I have been the principal since 2019 and yes, COVID-19 changed a lot of things. But it's been a busy time and the school has been doing so well.

Challenges faced during the pandemic. We were somewhat prepared already, as a global school that does a lot of volunteer work with schools in different countries. So, creating a system for online schooling was not that difficult. We were already trained on many online platforms and that really helped us make a smooth transition. Teachers here are also trained on many Microsoft platforms, so it made things easy. We also made training courses for parents. The government of the UAE also provided a lot of help.

Thoughts on NEP 2020. It could not have come at a better time. Right now, we are more open to change. We are at the education reimagination phase. We have revised and incorporated the new changes in the curriculum and we are looking forward to it.

Learnings for India. The difference between India and the UAE is that the growth mindset in the UAE is very progressive and is a great learning opportunity. I feel that the Indian education system is more rigid and we should be more flexible. We have to create competent and independent learners and so for that, only focus on academics will not do. Empathy should also be at the heart of education and that's something we are trying to do in my school as well. Indian students are well known for studies globally but there is also a need to learn about much more than the syllabus.

ABHILASHA SINGH

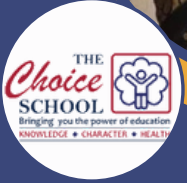
What do you think is the role of the teacher today, with so much change in technology and its importance? Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Teaching is a work of heart, a calling. Teachers should join teaching as a choice and as a first choice. Teaching is important for nation-building. So, today, teachers should be facilitators and guides, a friend and philosopher. You must teach and also confirm that learning has taken place. Teaching is also a demanding profession today. So, teachers need to step up and raise independent thinkers. The new generation is much smarter than us. So, stepping up is important.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. We get this life once and it's precious. We must be empathetic, kind and help those who are in need. Be a global changemaker – think global, act local. Ensure that you are doing your bit to achieve global goals. Don't just live for yourself, live for others.

ANJANA UNNIKRISHNAN

THE CHOICE SCHOOL, CALICUT

Technology may not replace a teacher but a teacher who doesn't use technology might get replaced.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I was a teacher by chance. But when the opportunity came, I didn't let it go. You don't know what you want unless you try it. This is my 26th year of teaching and working with The Choice School. It's been an enriching journey and I am always willing to learn – from every training and every conversation. You should also be happy doing it (teaching) and I approach it that way too.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education – at the organisational level and beyond? Are you happy with these changes? Change happens slowly and you have to convince people on why it's important. Slow change is important. Today's children are different from how we were and technology is a big part of their lives now. Technology may not replace a teacher but a teacher who doesn't use technology might get replaced. We have to keep up with technology. We have to grow with the growing times. It's always a give and take; as teachers, we have a lot to learn from students too.

KCH –Knowledge, Character and Health. These are some of the core principles of The Choice School. However, we don't just say it, we try to make them understand their importance. Convincing children is very important and this is why communication plays a big role.

What role do you see teachers play in education today, with technology playing such a huge part? Ever since the pandemic started, the dependence on technology has widely increased,. Now, the role of teachers should be as a guide or mentor. Students have easy access to information but teachers are the ones who have to guide them towards the right values. Children could get lost in the world of technology. The human touch is also very important – this is something technology cannot provide. And this is where a teacher comes in.

Thoughts on NEP 2020. What skills do teachers need to adapt to it? At The Choice School, we have been doing a lot that is in the NEP. So, it's not new to us. But it's important for teachers to be very good communicators, training is necessary – teachers have to be constantly training. This is the best way we can go about implementing the different aspects of NEP. Collaboration with the community of teachers is also important.

ANJANA UNNIKRISHNAN

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Children, we are very fortunate that we got you and we got to love you. Don't forget your teachers, especially the ones who taught you when you were very young - it would bring us great joy. Be grateful and humble for what you have. God will bless you.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. We get this life once and it's precious. We must be empathetic, kind and help those who are in need. Be a global changemaker - think global, act local. Ensure that you are doing your bit to achieve global goals. Don't just live for yourself, live for others.

REENA RAJPAL

**DLDV MODEL SCHOOL, SHALIMAR BAGH,
DELHI**

Blended learning is here to stay. With the help of all stakeholders, the education system will become more progressive and dynamic.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I hail from an Arya Samaji family in which education was given supreme importance. During the early 20th century, when women's edification was ignored, my grandmother had the courage to go for higher education. This legacy continued among the women in my family and my mother herself also excelled as the Vice-Principal of her school. Moreover, my father-in-law, a retired colonel, had also held a Principal's position in various military schools. It was, thus, only natural that I decided to pursue a career in the field of education.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Challenges go hand in hand with life and as an educationist, we tell our students to turn challenges into opportunities. So, when your attitude is to accept every situation as it comes, you tend to turn it into a stepping stone. You know that all your children are looking up to you and you can't afford to let them down. For instance, last year, turning the entire school into a virtual format was a challenge, but with sheer determination and great perseverance, we could do a wonderful job. It also led to a tremendous amount of research and learning.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Last year, the conventional meaning of school changed and now we have divided it into "online" and "offline" schools. But on looking back, I am proud to say that we can pat our backs knowing that the amount of learning which took place for students, teachers and parents could not have been possible if this challenge had not come knocking at our doors. As I said earlier, it's the attitude that matters the most. So yes, I am happy with the way we have accepted all these changes.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Blended learning is here to stay. Everyone has realized the huge advantages that technology can bring to education. (cont.)

CURIOUS TIMES.IN

**The ED
Leaders**

REENA RAJPAL

(cont.)

So, if all the stakeholders contribute to this process of blended learning meaningfully, then the Indian Education system will definitely become more progressive and dynamic.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Once you enter this profession The work that you and your team have to do has to be great in quality as well as quantum. Last year, the virtual platform was new to us and could have been a setback. But the world needs to appreciate that turning difficulty into opportunity are not just words. So, you have to become the people who can prove this to be true.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Always try to be the best version of yourselves and learn to give and share.

SUSAN RUBIN VARGHESE

THE INDIAN ACADEMY, DUBAI

Children have a major role to play in solving the world's problems like the environment, world peace and more.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? When I was in university, getting into education was not in my dreams at all. But during my Masters, I felt I would be good at it. I started as a lecturer in Mumbai at a university and since then, I got into education. Connecting with young minds and envisioning that they would see a better world. That's what motivates me. It's been wonderful to see so much cultural diversity here in my school in Dubai and I enjoy seeing them grow intellectually and emotionally.

About the school: It's a co-educational school, CBSE-affiliated focused on skill-based learning. We are an inclusive school and believe that every child is special and we try to ensure that every child grows as the best version of themselves.

Role of teachers in the changing world where technology plays an important role. In my school, technology was a part of our school culture. Of course, the pandemic really pushed its use a lot more. Technology makes learning easier. It also helps to make learning better for students, especially those who may struggle in a conventional classroom. But children need to learn what to look at and what not to. Teachers have an important role as guides for them. Teachers and students are all learners in the game. Hybrid learning is here to stay.

Thoughts on NEP? We consider this as a new opportunity. We as a team are always wanting to experiment. We have integrated new ideas from the NEP skill-based programmes into our school. NEP is a blessing and prepares children for vocational skills, not just academic ones.

Best practices. Being in Dubai, a developing city, the standards are very high. We are always preparing children to be global citizens and everything is child-centric. Skill acquisition and real-world application are very important. So, I'm happy that CBSE is moving towards that as well.

SUSAN RUBIN VARGHESE

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. There is no limit to anything you can do. Children have a major role to play, to be ambassadors and solve the world's problems in the future, like the environment, world peace and more. So, go for it and you can do it!

**Students must have willpower,
courage and strong determination.
These will create possible ways to
achieve all their dreams**



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I stepped into the world of education after completing post-graduation and B.Ed. A passion for teaching, love for students and a dream to change the education system always motivated me to become an educator.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Lack of training of the teachers was the major challenge I faced in my career journey. But I could surmount this challenge by trying to stimulate their interest in the field they liked the most and once it was created, there was no looking back.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Major changes have been observed over the years in the field of education: Progressive learning environment is now seen in the schools in the form of ALL, STEAM, STEM, Experiential Learning, Project-Based Learning, and Design thinking. All of them have replaced Rote learning and only book knowledge. Digital devices have changed everything. Various apps are the new textbooks. With the development of technology in Education, the speed of gaining knowledge has increased tremendously. It seems good but somewhere along the road, this change is also affecting the health and the social behaviour of the students.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this?

Changes needed in the field of education:

1. Evaluation system: The focus of evaluation should be classroom participation by a student, projects, communication and leadership skills and extra-curricular activities.
2. Proper training of teachers.
3. Personalized education is needed as all students have different learning paces. For this artificial intelligence can be used.

NIRALI DAGLI

(cont.)

4. Students must be taught about technology right from the early years of their education so that it does not become an obstacle for them later in life.

5. Prioritize what a student likes or is interested in: Students should be pushed to pursue the subject that they like the most instead of creating a hierarchy of importance among different subjects.

Role:

Government: Must Formulate policies to reform the existing education model. Policies must be based on developing the skills of the students away from rote learning.

Teachers: They must be ready to accept the change in the education system. They should be well equipped with modern technology so that every aspect of students' development is taken care of by the teachers.

Students: They should adapt to the new method of the teaching-learning process. They must also use the technology in their holistic development.

Parents: Must Cooperate and collaborate with the School and Government for the overall development of the students.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Aspiring teachers and the leaders of tomorrow with their passion, positive energy, enthusiasm and experience must cultivate academic excellence, different skills and nurture the hidden potential in next-generation of leaders, that is our students

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Students must have willpower, courage and strong determination. These three qualities will definitely create a possible way to achieve whatever they dream of. They must learn from every little thing, get experienced and success will surely touch their feet. Never believe in procrastination.

MAYA, REMA AND SHAILAJA

TATTWA CENTRE OF LEARNING

Tattva is our endeavor to bring back interest in the teaching profession. Bring joy and creativity in learning, besides offering society a choice in the field of education.



Located in Girinagar, Kochi, it is an educational venture, which was founded in June 2016 by seasoned educators who wanted to give an impetus to alternative forms of schooling. The founders envisioned a format where they could implement new instructional techniques to give individualized care to learners who want flexibility and choice in education. It was designed to help children learn at their own pace. It aspires to be a learning organization aimed at developing lifelong learners. The students are a diverse group including intelligent, talented children wanting something different, and also those who want a flexible study schedule.

This required the school to be different and they could not align themselves with the CBSE and other state or International Boards. It would be interesting to note that the school utilizes the platform of the National Institute of Open Schooling Board (NIOS). And it offers an interesting mix of subjects that helps students to follow their passion in the field of their choice.

The aim of the founders was to give students a well-rounded personality and make them at par with students of other boards. So this is how they treated their curriculum and methodology. The subjects, besides being both conventional and unconventional, ranging from Mass Communication to Painting, are balanced by a totally new approach to education. Traditional forms such as yoga, the arts, training methodology, and skills development are blended so that students can cope with and face the challenges of contemporary society.

The team at Tattwa takes education for a Sustainable 21st Century very seriously. The urge to improvise, to adapt and yet retain some elements of traditional education underlines the need to come up with innovative methods in education. 'Art in Education' is one such innovation and it has taken on a mainstream hue, emphasizing the need to sensitise children to the degradation of the environment through art.

Regular drama classes, communication skills development programmes, Neuro-Linguistic Programming, financial literacy and digital marketing have ensured an all-round development. Football, yoga and all sports form are a part of the curriculum in the NIOS Board school. (cont.)



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MAYA, REMA AND SHAILAJA

(cont.)

Value education is a very important part of the Tattwa curriculum as it aids students to cope with the stresses of life today so that they combat them with equanimity.

Tattwa is also a Centre for Learning strategies and teaching practices. They hope to train more teachers with newer formats of teaching to adapt to the needs of the hour. They intend to strive to ensure that this endeavor will trigger an interest in the teaching profession and bring back the joy and creativity of learning, besides offering society a choice in the field of education.

The school has in its four years of its existence moulded aspirational youngsters into well-grounded and capable citizens.



Education has become child-centric from being teacher-centric, from rote to experiential learning.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator?

I came into education as a teacher of the Russian Language. This happened when I was doing my college. I entered into the field of education by chance but liked the dynamics of this sector and decided to stay on.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success?

1. Overnight transition to complete online teaching due to pandemics is the biggest challenge that schools have ever faced. Older staff was not tech-savvy but with constant training, teachers have combated this challenge very well.
2. Bringing acceptance in parents for new concepts entering education has also been a challenge but regular orientations have helped in changing their thought processes.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes?

Education has moved from rote to experiential learning. It has also become child-centric from being teacher-centric. These are welcome changes.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this?

Changes that NEP is suggesting for restructuring of education are very good. The only concern is the implementation of the policy for which all stakeholders have to play their part. Facilitation on part of the government, effort on part of teachers and acceptance for change on part of students and parents will be required.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow.

Teaching is not a profession, it is a commitment. Make sure you put in your best efforts.

MANISHA ANTHWAL

Share your message for your and Curious Times students.

You are the future of the nation. Invest your effort in developing yourself so well that you can contribute to nation-building.

RAGHUNATH MUKHERJEE

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, RAIPUR

Technology helps give more children the opportunity to succeed



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator?

In 1987, I had studied my Masters in Electronics and was looking for a job to help support my family. While I got a good offer in Mumbai, my father did not agree. So, instead, I got a job teaching at a convent school and to my surprise, I absolutely loved it and wanted to pursue it. According to me, teachers are born not made.

Let me tell you about an incident in my life. I was not from a well-off family. When I was about 3 years old, one day, I followed other kids to school, without really knowing about the concept of school. I did not have many resources, not even a tiffin. There, a teacher was really kind to me and this has really stayed in my mind and inspired me too.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success?

Whenever you start anything, if you fail or you find it difficult, that's actually good. Because failures make us better learners. When I first started, the school where I taught was 20 km away, plus I had my M.Phil coursework and coaching too. So, it was quite tiring. But the teachers at the school really supported me. The school schedule was really heavy and people said I should quit but I saw it as an opportunity for learning. This opportunity was what helped me get a job in another school, where I worked for 16 wonderful years. That's where I met my wife too and, now I have a wonderful family. So, without all my difficulties, I feel that I would not have all the success that I do now and I'm grateful for it.

Changing the system. In the Indian education system, principals build an aura around them and there is a hierarchy. And that's what I was used to. But later I got the chance to teach at a school in England where things were very different. They had a sense of equality and I was really inspired by it. I thought that when I become a principal, I will build a family, and not focus on hierarchy. That is what I'm happy to be doing at DPS Raipur.

There are many changes in education today due to technology. What is the role of the teacher now? Today, there is much more technology in use in schools. (cont.)

RAGHUNATH MUKHERJEE

(cont.)

This is a good change. Technology helps give more children the opportunity to succeed. Of course, change is hard and teachers also had reservations. But now, they are masters at using technology and it is making education that much better. Teachers now need to guide children to use technology in the right way. I feel that teachers' responsibility has increased too.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. We are in the 21st century and the mode of education has changed as per the need of the age. So, students need to learn 21st-century skills to succeed. But they must also keep Indian culture and ethos. Become a successful person with human values. Compete with yourself, not others. Moreover, physical and emotional stability is also important.



Teachers are the oil that smoothens and moves the gears of a child's learning experience.

A great teacher isn't in the classroom, or in books or presentations; they are someone who keeps their students wanting to come to school to explore and discover beyond the four-walled world. They are expert craftsmen in devising learning experiences that stimulate their students, just like being thrown into the deep end of a swimming pool. It compels them to explore avenues to engage in activities/tasks which the internet cannot solve.

The shift from the physical paradigm to a digital milieu has been a dramatic transformation in the world of learning. The sudden switch has left millions of teachers struggling to captivate their students- "How do I connect with my students when they can't connect to my classroom?" With the average human attention span being less than a goldfish, it is an even harder task now to engross a student in the process of learning online. And one cannot forget the diminishing work hours gradually receding into their home hours.

On another note, while the Pandemic has taken a huge toll on the mental, emotional and physical health of parents, students and teachers alike, it has also imbibed in all of us a sense of being kinder and more empathetic beings towards one another. This challenge of cultivating more empathetic human beings in the limitations of the pandemic has driven educators and policymakers to envision the need to bridge the learning gaps which led to the modification of The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

It now also focuses on inculcating a more integrated and inclusive approach to learning and child development by building SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) competencies such as self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, social awareness, and relationship skills. This would aid them to build a more emotionally intelligent and resilient version of themselves for their holistic development.

One cannot disregard the efforts put in by teachers to turn these proposals into reality. Teachers are the oil that smoothens and moves the gears of a child's learning experience. (cont.)

SUDESH SINGH

(cont.)

The Enculturation of Teacher Empowerment as proposed by the NEP gives teachers the freedom to fabricate their own teaching methodology and is an encouraging step towards creating more inclusive classrooms by infusing socio-emotional learning. This is not only for students but also for providing teachers with the tools to maintain a proper work-life balance without burning out.

With the strain of working odd hours and tirelessly grading tests on a screen, we must applaud their determination to retain the truth in “learning never stops”. Teachers are maximizing the potential of online learning, for which we are extremely grateful and are indebted to them for keeping the flame of learning kindled.

APARNA SEEBALUCK

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL, SRINIVASPURI

We need to eliminate rote learning, develop a standardized evaluation system and inculcate holistic development in all children.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I was inspired by my own teachers to enter the world of education. And always wanted to include innovation in the field of education since learning should not trigger boredom. My biggest motivation has been the students I have worked with and taught over the year. This has given me the opportunity to comprehend their educational needs.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? My career journey has faced many hurdles including trying to create a better administration, making teachers get familiar with technology, and inculcating new strategies after assessing students' learning outcomes. With diligence, research and hard work, I have converted these challenges into opportunities to improve and contribute to society.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? The biggest change is the shift towards E-learning and remote learning. Apart from that, the modern learner expects equity, identity formation and active engagement. These changes are certainly desirable in tandem with advanced teaching methodology as well as child-centric education.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Our education system has progressed a lot but we still need to eliminate rote learning, develop a standardized evaluation system and inculcate holistic development in all children. The government needs to give opportunities to teachers and students alike to participate in national as well as international exchange programmes. The teachers need to incorporate 21st-century skills in their teaching methodology which should also be interdisciplinary. Finally, the students and parents need to welcome the modern education system by exploring, introspecting and imbibing.

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**The ED
Leaders**

APARNA SEEBALUCK

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. To quote John Hattie's words, "Teachers should build classroom climates where errors are welcome, student engagement is the norm, questioning is high and students gain reputations as effective learners". A true leader leads by giving opportunities for self-expression to his/her followers.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. All children should feel empowered to succeed through self-evaluation. The focus should be on strengthening the character and with that, the vision to achieve will automatically channelise one's path.



SURJIT SINGH

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, RUDRAPUR

Make classrooms and the places of learning happy, engaging, interactive, fun-filled, blended with 21st-century skills.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I was inspired by my own teachers who contributed to the field of education and wanted to start a school showcasing 21st-century values. I also saw that many children lacked opportunities and facilities and I was motivated to do something for them.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? Some challenges I faced included a shortage of financial resources as well as seeing a lack of like-minded and forward-thinking people. But working hard and with firm determination helped me overcome the challenges.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? I have observed that many educational institutes still follow the traditional ways in the teaching-learning process and there is a dire need for the complete overhauling of the system. So, I would say, I am not exactly happy.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I would like to see the skill and value-based education which produces mindful, compassionate and caring citizens. All stakeholders need to have the same vision and mission to bring about the change and they need to work with uniformity and conformity.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Make classrooms and the places of learning happy, engaging, interactive, fun-filled, blended with 21st-century skills. This will help them meet the challenges and demands.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Learn, Unlearn & Re-learn.

 **CURIOUSTIMES.IN**

**The ED
Leaders**

SR. CARMEN

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, ABU DHABI



I would like to see more focus on life skills and application of knowledge rather than the standard testing.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? My passion for learning and love of children made me step into the world of education. Teachers make a difference in the lives of the children-create a lasting impression and this is truly a motivation.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? A challenge I have faced is elevating the performance of students. Another is keeping oneself abreast with the latest technology. But thankfully, I have been working to overcome them.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? There has been a change of the old system where teachers were the facilitator and students were the centre of learning. Now, the system is different. From a lecture method, the mode of education has become more tech-savvy.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? I would like to see more focus on life skills and application of knowledge rather than the standard testing. This would benefit everyone.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. The teacher is an educator and a Mentor. Bring out the best in your students. Be a good role model. Our most influential role as an educator is that of who we are as a person.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. What you give, you will get back, be it respect, love, humility, or service. Be the best you can be.

CURIOUSTIMES.IN

**The ED
Leaders**

JOY PADAYATTY

OLIVEMOUNT GLOBAL SCHOOL

I am happy; today, students learn everything by doing things, trying out the practical aspects of learning.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I wanted to work in education from my school days. I was inspired to be an educator by my school teachers, whom I really admired.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? One of the challenges I have faced is handling kids who are not very strong emotionally. It is important to give them the right kind of support. But I am happy to say that I tried to be there for them in the role of a close friend so that they do not feel alone and know that there is someone who will be always there for them.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? I am happy with many changes in education today. Today, students learn everything by doing things, trying out the practical aspects of learning. As we know, earlier, there was not that much emphasis on this and so, I'm happy about this change.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Teachers should be learners and always try to understand the children by getting into their shoes. We should make them understand the various concepts by explaining them in different ways, as per the child's particular needs.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Teachers, nowadays kids are facing so many challenges. So, we should be there for them and always try to understand their needs. Never judge them.

Students, be genuinely curious to learn about the whys, the hows and the whats.

When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I stepped into the world of education on 6 June 1996. I wanted to become an educator because I wanted the power to be able to change lives one at a time.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? As an educator, we do face many challenges. One of them includes dealing with members of the staff when we have differences and are unable to come to a middle ground. I have also found it challenging to deal with difficult parents who are hard to convince. But thankfully, all these challenges have helped me to grow as a more mature leader/ individual who can now navigate all situations.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? Over the years, I have observed that the quality of students, the quality of teachers, and the expectations of management have greatly improved.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? Education has to be more skill-based. We should align ourselves towards a more skill-based mode of education. This will benefit all stakeholders.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Teaching is a powerful profession – don't get into this profession for monetary gains. What we do as teachers is beyond that kind of material remuneration.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Be interested in everything you do. Be genuinely curious to learn about the whys, the hows and the whats.

KULSOOM FATIMA

ASHOK ACADEMY, MUMBAI

Rote learning has been changed to experiential learning. This is a good change and enables kids to learn.



When did you decide to step into the world of education? What motivated you to become an Educator? I stepped into the world of education after completing my Post Graduation in 2002.

Share some of the challenges you have faced in your career journey. How did you convert those challenges into the pillars of success? One of the challenges I have faced is how to deal with the average and below-average kids. Working with them made me realise that if we motivate them and give them chance to show their own uniqueness, they will surely flourish and encouragement always brings out the best of them.

What are the changes have you observed over the years in the field of education? Are you happy with these changes? One big change I've observed is that rote learning has been changed to experiential learning. And yes, I am happy about this because this enables the kids to learn. It helps them to deal with the situation on their own, and it makes them understand the concept better.

What changes would you like to see in the field of Education? What role can the various stakeholders like the government, teachers, students and parents play in this? NEVER DEMOTIVATE THE CHILD, NEVER COMPARE. This is a very strong message that I want to convey. Education should be student-oriented. It's the combined effort of all stakeholders which will help shape a child into a responsible human being.

Share your message with the aspiring teachers and leaders of tomorrow. Give your best to educate the future of the nation.

Share your message for your and Curious Times students. Never underestimate yourselves. Believe in yourself. It's possible to make all things happen wonderfully through your own consistent efforts.