

Sadhna  Vidyasthali

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Hamare do uddeshya -

“Ek Jeev ki Jeevika , Dooja Jeev Uddhar”

Background :

What is the purpose of education ? What is the need of education ? These are the fundamental questions on which our entire educational paradigm rests. While a lot has been said on this topic from education’s purpose being character building, nation building, career building to moksha. We have chosen two basic purpose of education which is also reflected in our Tagline -

“Ek Jeev ki Jeevika” : (Livelihood)

Education needs to offer a platform where each individual can acquire skills that interests him/her and come natural to him/her. (The Element - what you love to do, what you are good at). Livelihood skills will depend on -

1. Individual flair, talent and capacity
2. Social Context (Need of society , the larger world)

“Dooja Jeev Uddhar” : (Well Being to Ultimate realization)

Education need not limit itself to career building, skill building or livelihood as they are only means to live life comfortably. While that marks the primary requirement (Maslow’s pyramid) , it is just the beginning. Human life has far more possibility and it is when we explore our true potential that we truly walk towards “well-being”or “Jeev Uddhar”. Jeev Uddhar takes inspiration from our sages and ancient wisdom where universal values like compassion, deep enquiry , (Jigyasa - Mumuksha) , love, salvation, liberation are given importance.

The obvious challenge : Working on the first part appears challenging yet doable as it is dependent on human endeavor and resources. There can be a agreement on first part and standardization is possible. While the second one (Jeev Uddhar) deals with a completely different space and calls for a very different approach where no standardization is possible and no easy quick fix or processes are possible. One works in the realm of known, the second is in the realm of unknown. Thus, the biggest

challenge for us is how to work on the second part and strike the balance between the two.

Learning Process for Jeevika :

The learning process for Jeevika derives inspiration for various key educational insights of work of various educators. Some of them include -

1. Principles of Natural Learning as explored by Existential Knowledge Foundation. (Jinan KB)
2. **Work based / Theme Based** and Project based pedagogy that has been found effective across the world.
3. Understanding deeply the critique of Modern education as suggested by Ilich, Holt, Osho and Krishnamurti and trying to mitigate the damage.
4. Adopting various findings of modern sciences on cognitive sciences, psychology ,neurosciences.

Learning Process for Jeev Uddhar :

Jeev uddhar has no formula, no widely accepted process. There are multiple ways , ample methods and myriads of paths to ultimate realization. *Sadhna Vidhyasthali has chosen "The Bhagwat Geeta" as the foundation for this.* While we know this may limit us or even put us in categories, we feel it helps to keep things simple and practical. Bhagwat Geeta has been said to be the essence of all teachings and has been celebrated by various educators **as a beautiful guide to life.** *This doesn't mean that we will be against other methods or paths.* It is only that just as a ship need to anchor itself somewhere, we chose to anchor ourselves here in Bhagwat Geeta and yet the same time stay open, flexible and non-fundamentalist.

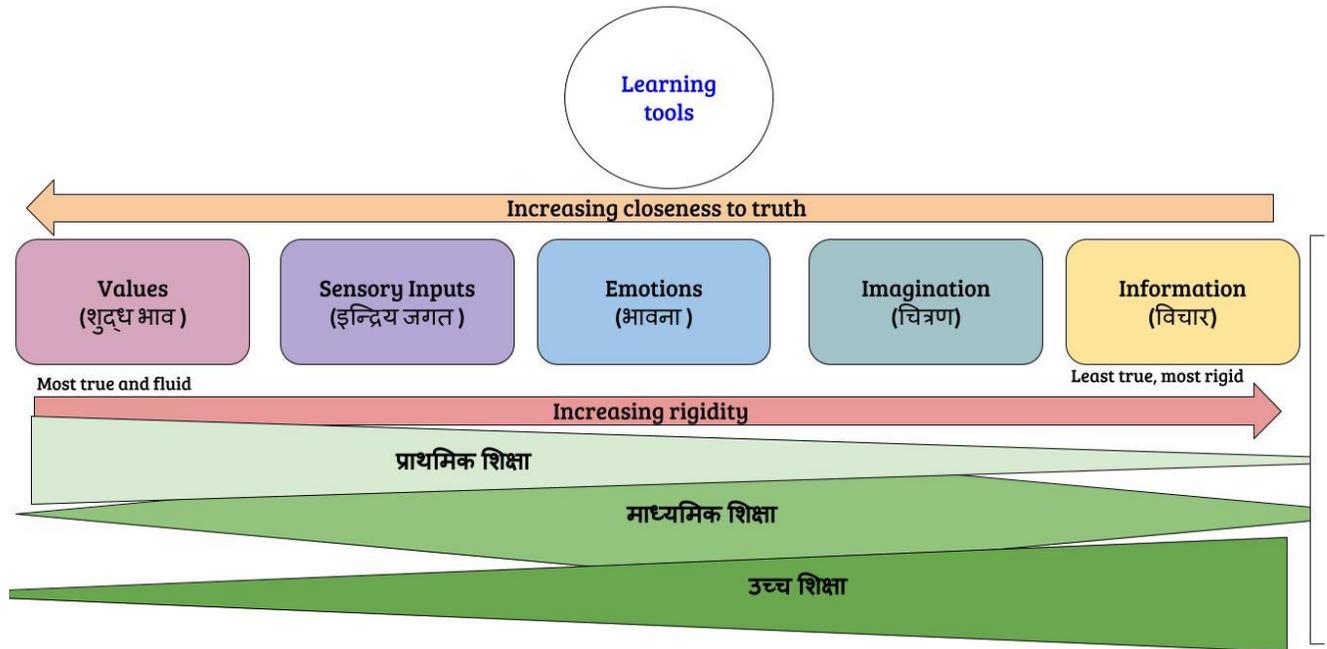
Values that emanate from The Bhagwat Geeta :

Detachment, Principle of Karma, Equanimity, Joyfulness, Responsibility, Service & Acceptance.

Focus Area in Early Childhood : Awakening Senses & Inculcating Values

Early Childhood calls for awakening of senses as it will not only develop their brain but also helps them in the rest of their lives.

The diagram below shows broadly the focus to keep for various age groups.



Source : Center for Alternative Education (Sanchi University of Indic-Buddhist Studies)
Early childhood must focus on values, sensory input more and slowly increase weightage towards the right.

Awakening Senses :

This will involve working with senses and designing activities that awaken and sharpen the senses of children.

Values :

Amongst all values - Love and Respect is what needs to be focussed on. The tools for values need to be carefully chosen. Values are not morals. Adults have to live the values if they want children to imbibe them. Thus this is an area that calls for deeper transformation in adults. Stories can be very carefully used but in limited capacity. Most of it has to come from the culture and culture will come from adults and people involved.

Deep Documentation :

Documentation needs to be a constant activity. As it is the documentation that will help in learning more about children.

Open Sourcing :

We wish to share our experiments , success and failures with the world so that we can all learn together. Thus , we will be constantly sharing our experiences and experiments with others through our website , and social media platforms.

Nature Centric Education :

Sadhna Vidyapeeth is hosted at The Madman's Farm. The Madman's Farm is an organic farm that has been experimenting with permaculture, natueco farming, food forest creation and sustainable living. The learning center will be integral part of this farm and children will have access to organic farm and all its activities and resources.

**Target Audience :**

The farm location is between three villages which has a mixed population of tribals, non-tribals, weaker section and middle class. We wish to cater to all sections of society while giving scholarships/concessions to the weaker section in case the finances become a hurdle. We wish to keep our final number of children to less than 20-30 in first year, 50-60 in second and maximum 80 in third year.

More links :

<https://themadmansfarm.org/>

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