

# ED-LINES TODAY

powered by Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham



## THE GREAT INSTITUTION

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (AVV) envisions to achieve the highest standards of academic excellence at the global stage. It has been the prime objective of AVV to nurture students in achieving academic success and evolve as Innovative, critical, and responsible citizens of the nation. Currently managed by Mata Amritanandamayi Devi's international humanitarian organization 'Mata Amritanandamayi Math', the Vidyapeetham was founded in 1994. Amma's vision has been the driving force behind AVV and the institute has focused on provisioning of value-based education to mold the character of the younger generation. This is achieved through a system of wholesome learning that stimulates progress and prosperity in life, which in turn is complemented by an ardent desire to extend selfless service to the society.

The value-based education model of AVV has garnered global appreciation and this is reflected in the recent international as well as national rankings secured by the University. In particular, AVV has been ranked as No. 1 private university in India and No. 1 Indian university in terms of international faculty and outlook by both Times Higher Education and QS World University Rankings 2020. Further, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranked AVV 4th best university in India in 2020. The excellent performance by the University on several academic fronts has attracted many curious students, national and international. Amrita Center for International Programs (ACIP) facilitates student exchange programs with best American, European and Ivy League institutions. Furthermore, a number of prestigious universities in Europe, Australia, East Asia, South America, and North America including the University of California campuses at Berkeley, Davis, and San Diego, Columbia University, the State University of New York at Buffalo in the US have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with AVV.



**"The main purpose of education should be to impart a culture of the heart."**  
-Amma, Mata Amritanandamayi,  
Chancellor, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

## DISTINCTIONS



In its journey of providing wholesome education, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham has garnered several honours and accolades over the year. Some notable achievements of the institution include: youngest institution to be awarded with an 'A grade' by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), accreditation to the laboratories of Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences by NABL- Constituent Board of Quality Council of India, achieving Number One rank in the 'Technical Institutions' category in the Swachhta Rankings 2017 and 2018 released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. At the international level, Amrita was presented with a 2008 NLM-UNESCO Award for Adult Literacy.

## MEET THE CHAIRMAN- BR. MAHESHWARA CHAITANYA

Accept the situation and move forward with courage. World is facing the biggest challenge in humanity. School teachers and the future generation are the most affected ones in this pandemic situation. How should we take this context now? Yes, we should have the courage to accept any adverse situation in life! I belong to a university headed by world renowned humanitarian leader - Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi. She says the only vaccine to this situation is to be courageous. This is in our control and we are the ones to drive ourselves. Situations will change, so are the opportunities. This situation shall be taken as a boon in my opinion. Situations creating tension, anxieties, worries will never end in our life. It is our responsibility to develop a positive attitude and courage to face the adverse situations in life. Teachers have shown tremendous courage and tolerance in facing this situation. I salute the school heads and principals who were torch bearers in this situation to guide their teachers! Students too shall understand this, the pain taken by the teachers and move forward with courage and confidence! Let's pray for the return of normalcy! Stay safe, Stay positive!!



Chairman (B.Tech Admissions)



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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Persistent questioning and healthy inquisitiveness are the first requisite for acquiring learning of any kind" - M.K. Gandhi*



**DEVYANI KAPOOR**  
Founder, Mentor - Edudevs



- Avoid policing but establish consistent discipline over the culture. Take all the stakeholders to create a common code of conduct acceptable to all and insist on adhering on to the same. Instead of punishments or sending out memos, have more proactive approach to the problems where it is not about "they shouldn't have done what they did" but stress on the "Why they shouldn't have done what they did" and "How it affects the culture that together is being built".

Changing the attitude of all the staff and students within your school shall not be an overnight process. This change should start from your office and sooner would have a ripple effect. So keep working patiently at building a school culture that fosters positive action.

## BUILDING A POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

For years, I have been a resource person for a major publishing house and in that capacity, I am required to visit various schools across the nation. This involves detailed interactions with educators, students and often administrators. More often than not, when I enter the brick building of a school, I instantly gauge into how a school operates. Surprising as it may sound, even the smallest of the detail such as the behavior of the man who greets you at the gate to ways in which the support staff is performing their chores, the way students are moving around in the campus, and the way educators take ownership of the prevailing environment may at times provide a clear visibility of the whole situation. The culture is also reflected in how teachers and students feel when they walk into school every morning. Is coming to school a dreadful task for the teachers or if they look forward to enthusiastically enter their classrooms? Do students walk into the building with their heads down, trying not to interact with others under surveillance or if they actively involve and collaborate with the teachers as well as other students and take ownership or otherwise indulge in bullying and vandalism.

What is a School culture? School culture comprises of the underlying influences and attitudes within the school — based on the norms, traditions and beliefs of the staff and students. The culture of your school affects every aspect of what happens in and beyond the four walls of your school. A school culture is often not codified in any rule book of the school, but it resonates in the environment, starting from the top where the management is perched. Having a positive school culture has an impact, not just on the attitudes of students and teachers, but on the entire learning experience.

As a school leader, you have a pivotal role in creating a positive school culture. It all begins by analyzing the school environment personally. You need to get out of the comfort of your office and identify the negative and toxic hubs existing in the premises of your school, while simultaneously also making a list of the positive elements in your school. Finally, the task is to promote the elements that add value to your system making them your school's sentinels.

Here are five tips you should follow to create a positive school culture that resonates with hope and progress.

- First and foremost, be the change you wish to see around and be the fountainhead of the qualities you hope to incorporate in the school environment.
- Uphold these three key words honesty, transparency, approachability and help every stakeholder of the school to imbibe them in letter and life.
- Create a student centric education process which leads to student empowerment and benefits them not just academically but also at the social and emotional level.
- Involve teachers in the decision making process and encourage them to create innovation in their classrooms by holding general staff meetings to brainstorm and implement new ideas and bringing teachers into the process of building your school culture.

## ED-LINES - FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- **Classes have gone open-air** across the valley in Indian-administered Kashmir. Educators are fighting to keep pupils on track amid repeated lockdowns, curfews and internet blackouts
- **Brighton and Sussex Medical School** is one of the top universities for student satisfaction, according to the 2020 National Student Survey. Universities of Oxford and Cambridge find themselves absent from the ranking table.
- The pandemic has induced a need for new-in demand skills. **Harvard University** introduced courses that open career paths such as product designing and professional learning instructions. At the same time, **University of Yale** now offers courses like **Understanding Negotiations and Introduction to Climate Change and Health, among others.**
- From **Byju's to Meritnation, Topper's Academy, and Unacademy**, India has seen the entry of various tech startups to empower students with the power of pursuing education. Online learning is creating more competition and in a sense also helping the ones with the internet.
- **Unlock 5 Update:** States receive flexibility for opening Schools, Colleges and Universities by 15th October, 2020.
- **New Zealand** strengthens educational ties with India as they announce "**New Zealand-India Education Week**". This online event is an opportunity to hear from Indian students in New Zealand exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the future of education.
- **IIT Kharagpur** organises a webinar to discuss education in post-NEP India. The webinar is going to witness **deliberations from eminent academic experts and administrators** from India and abroad.
- **Launch of Altura** - a blended learning solution from Macmillan Education India.
- **Education loans** see a **fall in demand** as admissions are shut during COVID-19.
- **UNHCR** urges more support for **refugee higher education** to withstand the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.



## TEACHER TIDBITS - 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

During the safety briefing on every plane journey adults are reminded that, in case of an emergency, they are to secure their own oxygen masks before they help their children fit theirs. The same is true of mental health, and it is something teachers should consider. After all, it is difficult to discuss good mental wellbeing with the students if teachers do not practice it. Follow these simple ways to boost their mental health:

**Connect-** Being more socially connected is the first step towards making you happier, healthier and with fewer mental health problems.

**Be aware-** It is important to focus on the present moment and practicing this skill will reduce stress levels and improve your ability to handle future stressful situations.

**Keep learning-** Learning does not always have to mean formal education. Step out of your comfort zone, try something new and develop knowledge in any area.

**Be active-** Physical activity can encourage better mental health.

## RENDEZVOUS WITH DR. PRASHASTI JAIN

**What do you think is the responsibility of a school in ensuring/creating awareness and normalizing the stigma around mental health? What is the role a school counsellor plays in making this happen?"**

Schools are the nurturers of the young minds and play an important role in developing perseverance in children. The stigma regarding mental health is internalized in the society which is evident in the thought patterns of the young minds as well. Schools and educational institutions are the agents through which psychoeducation can be imparted to transform the pre-conceived notions about mental health. In this regard, creating awareness amongst the budding minds is necessary but modification in the goals of educational institutions is the need of the hour. Stigma on health is a result of this lack of self-awareness amongst the young generation. The teachers are role models for their students and tend to leave a great impact on the overall personality of the child. Every teacher needs to be a counsellor in the present times. They can be trained by the school counsellors to identify and address mental health issues in the classrooms, which can give a safer space for the children to function. Apprising the students with the point of view that failure is a step to understand how to get better can develop acceptance towards failure and can transform the stigmatic thought pattern in general.

**"Suicide ideation at the age of 15-18 has been researched to arise from peer pressure, bullying, academic challenges, and parental pressures. These factors are not new, they have been there since the wake of education. Why do these factors have more impact on the students now, than it had before? How has the course of time changed the development of the students? What role does the school play here?"**

The world is generally perceived to be competitive at large where each one has consistently growing targets and achievement of these targets has become the ultimate source of survival. Problems like peer pressure, bullying, academic challenges and parental pressure are not new and have affected individual's mind set in previous generation as well; however, earlier the individuals were closely knitted to the social support that is now in-turn perceived to be one of the stressors culminating into competition amongst the loved ones too. Today people have high aspirations along with non-acceptance to failure. The growth of individualistic thinking and style of living has led to the isolated functioning of individuals. Value based education is lacking in the present system, which if taken care of, can contribute in building soft skills; empowering the young minds with courage, perseverance, optimism and resilience. Schools should encourage value based and skill-based education in order to direct the young minds towards a right and healthy direction.

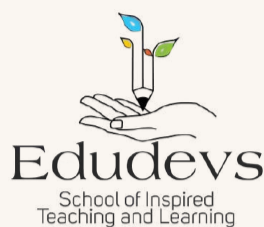
**"What are the key issues you think should be at the forefront when it comes to mental health amongst high schoolers? How do you suggest the students to cope up with the issues?"**

High schoolers today are found facing identity issues due to the growing competition in the professional world. The adolescents, apart from anxiety towards their career choices, also encounter various personal issues that they perceive difficult to deal with. Emotional health is an important aspect that needs to be addressed on priority. The younger generation needs to be trained on emotional management skills to attain stability in order to make sound decisions in their life. Cultivating self-awareness, self-management skills and interpersonal aspects of personality can enhance goal oriented behaviour. Practices like yoga and meditation, art work and other leisure activities can make the young minds move inwards and can help develop better coping mechanisms.



# Born Again

Devyani Kapoor's School of Personality



Edudevs  
School of Inspired  
Teaching and Learning

## VOICE OF A TEACHER

-DR. RAJNI HODA

Imparting Education to young ones has been part and parcel of every living being's life; be it birds, animals, or humans. The only difference is that birds and animals educate their children for the very basic aim i.e. survival and that is enough for them. However, humans being the supreme creatures amongst all, have an equally high idea of education. For us, education is not only survival, or basic needs fulfillment but a lot more than that. And, once we achieve that "MORE", it gets furthermore and more. This simply because our hunger for learning is neither satiable nor it should ever be deemed satiable.

In ancient times, education meant practical skill development, which was taught in Gurukuls. Later, came the era of educational institutions like schools and colleges with major focus on curricular accomplishments. Then, it enlarged its scope to more than 'just academics or cognitive aspect' and led to the introduction of extra-curricular activities. Subsequently, educationists felt as if "extra-curricular" was rather neglected and was transformed to "co-curricular", a batch of parallel-learning activities. Even with all these developments something lacks, and this is beyond academics and physical or social development. It is the Mental Well Being, which is much required and has become a necessity in today's such crucial scenario.

With context to the recent events around COVID pandemic, the clouds of uncertainty are hovering over the world with sudden changes in every aspect of life across all age groups. Not only the trauma being faced is unique, this may not be limited to their age radius. Therefore, it is not just important but critical that our children should be trained to achieve self-sufficiency in handling their challenges in their own unique style such that it is blended with their specific individuality.

The days of rote learning and spoon-feeding are long gone, and the youth should be made capable of handling all stress and anxiety. Also, exposed to the competitions in all genres of their life, peer pressure, performance anxiety and fear of nonacceptance calls for attention from educators. As facilitators in learning, it becomes our duty that we take this responsibility on our shoulders to develop mentally strong youth. This is not to benefit one or two lives, but in fact, to encompass in its umbrella, each child to ensure that the society emerges and blooms to its very best.



**Dr. Prashasti Jain**  
College Counselor, Assistant  
Professor, Manipal University Jaipur



**Dr. Rajni Hoda**  
Senior Coordinator, St. Xavier's High  
School, Gurugram



## IT'S TIME TO QUIZ YOU!

Mohandas K. Gandhi has been one of the greatest leader of his time. He has led the country to Independence and hence was the Father of our Nation. We educators, no matter the size, have leaders inside us too. Let's test how much we know about Gandhi via a small quiz based on his life.

**Q1. Which of the following, according to Gandhiji, is an essential principle of satyagraha?**

- (a) Infinite capacity for suffering
- (b) Non-violence
- (c) Truth
- (d) All the three

**Q2. Gandhiji's 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth' was originally written in Gujarati by.**

- (a) Maganlal Gandhi
- (b) Mahadev Desai
- (c) Pyarelalji
- (d) Sushila Nayar

**Q3. Who in South Africa gave Gandhiji 'Unto This Last' to read which proved to be one of the most decisive books of his life?**

- (a) John Holmes Haynes
- (b) H S Polak
- (c) Hermann Kallenbach
- (d) Louis Fischer

**Q4. Where did Gandhiji receive his primary education?**

- (a) Sudamapuri
- (b) Bikaner
- (c) Porbandar
- (d) Rajkot

**Q5. While holding a first-class ticket Gandhiji was ordered by a railway official to shift to the van compartment. On his refusal to comply with the unjust order, a constable was called to push him out with bag and baggage. Identify the railway station where this incident took place.**

- (a) Natal
- (b) Johannesburg
- (c) Pietermaritzburg
- (d) Durban

**Q6. At which place was Gandhiji arrested for the first time by the British Government for sedition?**

- (a) Bombay
- (b) Pune
- (c) Calcutta
- (d) Ahmedabad

**Q7. After many campaigns, activities and arrests in South Africa, Gandhiji returned to India for good on January 9, 1915. How is the date commemorated?**

- a) Ghar Wapsi Diwas
- b) Pravasiya Bharat Diwas
- c) Swadeshi Diwas
- d) Swatantra Diwas

**Q8. In late 1919, he assumed the editorship of two publications. Name both.**

- a) Harijan and New India
- b) Navjivan and Indian Opinion
- c) Navjivan and Young India
- d) Young India and Harijan

*(answers to be published in 3rd edition)*

### SEPTEMBER 2020: CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1. Classroom Management
2. Scaffolding
3. 21st Century Skills
4. Metacognition
5. PBL
6. Backward Design
7. Summative

**OLABS**  
ORIENTATION for  
Trichy Rockcity Sahodaya School Complex

DATE & TIME  
16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER  
11 AM

FOR  
PRINCIPALS &  
TEACHERS

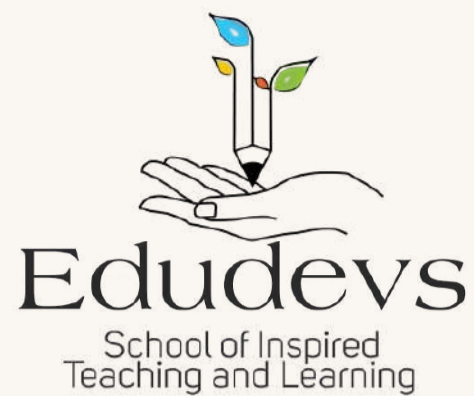
PLATFORM  
MICROSOFT  
TEAMS

**RESOURCE PERSON:**  
**Prof. Methil Krish**  
Chairman,  
Career Competency Development,  
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

**INAUGURATED BY:**  
**Dr. Prema Nedungadi**  
Director, AmritaCREATE,  
Chairperson, Dept. of CSE,  
ASE Amritapuri

AMRITA School of Engineering | IOE | OLABS

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

- MR. PREM OJHA

### GANDHIAN TEACHING IDEOLOGIES IN THE LIGHT OF 21ST CENTURY

There are a multitude of different ways in which the twenty-first century is shaping the world around us. At the junction of being a century of information, human machines and globalization; the twenty-first century is also witnessing a culture of competitiveness marked by social disconnect and insatiable human needs. As a consequence, the responsibility of an educator is paramount in nurturing the future global citizens who would contribute in shaping the world of compassion, mutual respect, symbiosis and cultural pluralism. Fortunately, in circumstances such as these, the experiences, beliefs and teachings of great personalities who inspired the world serve as a guiding light for educators. One such personality is our own Mahatma Gandhi; his teachings and philosophy being the guiding principles for most of us. Let me quote his words:

"By education, I mean an overall, all round drawing out the best in Child and Man, in body, mind and spirit." -M.K Gandhi

These words of Gandhiji have firmly stood the tests of time and it is my firm belief that his philosophy would always remain relevant irrespective of what century we are living in. Gandhiji has gifted us with invaluable principles of Ahimsa, Compassion, Truthfulness and Swaraj. We should all imbibe his teachings and reflect them on our students to make them valued individuals of this century.

Along with these values, it was in 1937 that Gandhiji seeded an important idea of an education system that is based on hands-on learning; the learning derived from one's own experiences. The hands-on education system makes no distinction between knowledge and skill-based work, following the notion that knowledge must help a person to gain skills. Gandhiji shared this vision of education at a conference in Wardha and referred to it as "Nai Talim". If we go through the NEP 2020, we will find the same spirit of indifferent words stressing on experiential learning, vocational education, and education through mother tongue. Gandhiji had shared this vision on education for 83 years; however, this is not only relevant but also guides educators in numerous ways.

Gandhiji is no longer with us, but his experiences and ideas are immortal and shall remain invaluable to humankind across all the ages.



**Dr. Prem Ojha**  
Principal, Gateway International  
School, Sonipat, Haryana.



## EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH



*Dr. Shyama Chona*

*"Live and let live."*

Founder of Tamana Foundation,  
Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri  
Awardee

### *Fun Facts*

Date of Birth:

12 August 1942

Place of Birth

Shimla

Zodiac Sign

Leo

First memory as an educator

Appointed as a lecturer in 1964 after my MA in Rajasthan University. This was Maharaja's College in Jaipur. The boys were really excited to see a 21 year old women lecturer. The next day the attendance doubled!

**Q: What is your vision with Tamana Foundation?**

The birth of Tamana my daughter led to my entry into the field of disability 50 years ago. How the pain in the heart of a mother can create wonders not only for her own daughter but thousands of others by setting up centers of excellence for multiple disabilities and Autism is all in front of you. What started from a shed with three students now caters to hundreds of differently abled individuals through Tamana's three centers in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi namely, Tamana Nai Disha: the skill development center, Tamana Special School and Tamana School of Hope: Centre for Autism. We are here to serve the multiply disabled with special reference to autism, the severely affected and differently abled. With Individualized education programs for each student which is a combination of trainable special education, skill training, therapeutic intervention, specialization and counseling, we endeavor to ensure that the differently abled are able to lead a life of dignity, self respect and economic independence to their maximum potential. We also ensure that the need for effective and specialized manpower in the field is met through Rehabilitation Council of India certified courses which are run for professionals in the field through our teacher training cell.

**Q: What advice would you give to young educators?**

I would advise them to really introspect and only take up profession if they have a calling for it. They need to be child centered, patient and empathetic to be able to enable each and every differently abled. Summing it up in one line, they need to have a zeal and love for life, their profession and the differently abled.

**Q: If you were to write an autobiography, what would be the title of it and why?**

I am already working on my autobiography, It is titled 'I AM ZERO' I chose this title because, as you know, the value of 0 increases to infinite with places with more digits. I am nothing. There is so much to learn, so much to do. Miles to go before I sleep.

**Q: In one of your interviews, you have mentioned that, 'you dream not for yourself, but for others who need hand holding'. What is the most rewarding part of having trained yourself as someone who can support others?**

The most rewarding part has been seeing my daughter evolve and grow from someone who could not walk or talk till the age of 9 to an accomplished woman of Today. She is a National Awardee, a Ted speaker, a marathon runner and is teaching at DPS. I sincerely believe that if Tamana could do it then so can all the other Tamana's of the world. Her rigorous routine of academic education, therapy, multifarious activities, enabled her to become what she is today and is proof that much can indeed be achieved by the individuals with special needs, if they receive love, laughter and affection in a homely and respectful environment.

**Q: What is the book that inspired you the most?**

Doctor Zhivago.

**Q: If not an educator, what would you have been?**

I would have been a doctor.

**Q: What are the four things one can always find on your desk?**

My mobile, my computer, a glass of water and a photo of Tamana, my inspiration.