

4th J N Dar Memorial Function

Theme : **Identifying and Nurturing Gifted Children**

Date : Oct 14th, 2017

Time : 3:00 PM to 7 PM

Venue : Ground Floor Auditorium, Vishwakarma Bhawan(TIFAC Bldg), Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110016

(Landmark – IIT Delhi Campus – Dept of Management, Entry easier from Katwaria Sarai gate opposite Sanskrit Vidyapeeth Bus Stop)

In our life we come across children, who seem different from the crowd. Some time they may be lost among themselves, some time they may look bored or even be aggressive etc. They may perform certain tasks exceedingly well much beyond the ability of their peer groups but do very poorly in others. Most of the time our education system tends to treat them poorly or even throw them out of it. Many of these children may be “Gifted”. How do we identify them? What role as parents/teachers/mentors we need to play? What role our education system or society has to nurture them? How do we ensure them to contribute effectively to our society and not get lost.[1]

We come across lot of variation in the way, we define “Gifted” children. Some time this term is used to indicate those who are doing exceedingly well in their academics. At times this is only confined to those children, who are among top performers in Science and Mathematics. In India, our effort to identify “Gifted” children has been limited and education system by and large does not cater to them.

NCERT started “National Science Talent Search Examination” in 1963. Similarly few Olympiads are organized in country in specific subjects such as Mathematics. A major boost came, when in 2010, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser supported first National Project in this direction - “Identification of Gifted Children Age 3-15 Years (With a Special Focus on Maths and Science)”. The three partners in this project were National Institute of Advanced Studies(NIAS), Bangalore; Delhi University and Agastya Foundation covering different groups.[2] A good write up on Gifted Children projects in India is given in a blog by Tim Dracup[3].

Different measures for identifying high intelligence have been developed including famous IQ test. However a breakthrough work was done by Prof Howard Gardner, who proposed “Theory of Multiple Intelligence” in 1983 to explain how mind works. This has had major impact on the way our education system is organized. Multiple intelligences theory proposes that it is more fruitful to describe an individual's cognitive ability in terms of several relatively independent but interacting cognitive capacities rather than in terms of a single “general” intelligence. [4] The greatest potential of a multiple intelligences approach to education grows from the concept of a profile of intelligences. Each learner's intelligence profile consists of a combination of relative strengths and weaknesses among the different intelligences: linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, naturalistic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and (at least provisionally) existential.

Most people have jagged profiles; they process some types of information better than other types. Students who exhibit vast variation among their intelligences—with one or two intelligences very strong and the others relatively weak—have what we call a **laser profile**. These students often have a strong area of interest and can follow a clear path to success by developing their peak intelligences. Given the ubiquity of high-stakes testing, educators' challenge with laser-profile students is deciding whether to accentuate the students' strengths through advanced opportunities to develop their gifts or to bolster their weak areas through remediation so that they can pass the tests. Policy and funding currently favor the second option unless the student is gifted in the traditional academic areas.[5]

Other students have a **searchlight profile**. They show less pronounced differences among intelligences. The challenge with searchlight-profile students is to help them choose a career and life path. Time and resource limitations often preclude developing all intelligences equally, so we need to consider which intelligences are most likely to pay off for a particular student. Policy and funding currently favor developing primarily linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligences at the expense of the others.[5]

Intelligences are not isolated; they can interact with one another in an individual to yield a variety of outcomes. For example, a successful dancer must combine musical, spatial, and bodily-kinesthetic intelligences; a science fiction novelist must use logical-mathematical, linguistic, interpersonal, and some existential intelligences; and so on.

In this event, we wish to focus on the category of students falling under the “Laser Profile” category. As mentioned mostly our effort is to try to enhance the weaker areas through remediation. Also most of the focus is on those students with linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligences, as seen by various programs focusing on Science/math etc.

In this event, we are bringing together both researchers and practitioner of issues relevant to theme. In addition, audience would consist of teachers and parents in addition to policy makers.[6-10]

About Function

J N Dar Memorial Function is organized by NOBA(Netarhat Old Boys Association), Delhi on topics relevant to education system. Netarhat School was set up in 1954 by Bihar Govt(Now in Jharkhand) as a boarding school, where meritorious students from any economic background could study starting from young age of 10. The education was based on India’s Gurukul system and over last 6 decades has produced a very high percentage of successful students catering to wide variety of fields.

Shri Jiwan Nath Dar was involved with setting up and managing many schools of repute across the country. These include Modern School-Delhi, Vidya Bhawan, Udaipur, Doon School, Scindia School. Iconic Netarhat School (now in Jharkhand) where admissions were made purely on merit and the fees were paid as per the students' family income. The school paid higher salaries than colleges. It was able to collect a distinguished faculty & attain very high academic standards. Today, probably no other school has sent as many students in the Civil Services of the country as Netarhat Vidyalaya. He resigned his job at Netarhat in 1966 as he was unwilling to give admission to a minister's relative who had not made the grades in the entrance test. Even today Netarhat Old Boys Association runs a prestigious award for all round excellence in Academic and Social Activities - Kamla Jiwan Nath Dar Prize. In 1966 After leaving Netarhat, he joined Vikas Vidyalaya. He led a retired life thereafter.

In the silver Jubilee year (1972) of the country's independence, the NDMC wanted to make a gift to its citizens in New Delhi. After due consideration NDMC decided to gift New Delhi with a school for the gifted children, which was similar in its flavor to Netarhat Vidyalaya. He was the Principal for Navayug School for 4 years (1973-1977).

References:

1. Parenting Your Gifted Child, Ajay Chandra, ParentCircle, June 2014
2. <http://prodigy.net.in/history/6>
3. <https://giftedphoenix.wordpress.com/tag/nage-india/>
4. Gardner, H. . Multiple intelligences: New horizons. New York: BasicBooks.(2006)
5. Orchestrating Multiple Intelligences, Moran, Kornhaber and Gardner, 2006
6. http://prashala.jnanaprabodhini.org/education_for_gifted_children.asp
7. <http://www.silveroaks.co.in/gifted-child-program/>
8. <http://kaveri.edu.in/kaveri-gifted-program/>
9. <http://www.cskm.com/actEnrichment.html>
10. <http://creativelearning.in/what-we-do/issue-briefs/creative-learning/>

Tentative Programme:

3:00 - 3:30 PM : Registration and Tea

3:30 - 3:35 PM : Welcome address by the President, NOBA Delhi

3:35 - 3:45 PM : Introduction to the Programme

3:45 - 5:05 PM : Expert Panel Presentation (Dr Ketaki Bapat(Scientist, PSA Office), Prof Anitha Kurup(NIAS, Bangalore), Dr Jyoti Sharma(Delhi University), Mr Vijoy Prakash(Chairman, Bihar Vidyapeeth))

5:05 - 5:30 PM : Address by Chief Guest (Prof C B Sharma, Chairman, NIOS - To be Confirmed)

5:30 - 6:20 PM : Open House Discussion

6:20 - 6:30 PM : Summary of Discussion - Mr Suraj Prakash(ex Navyug School)

6:30 - 6:45 PM : Vote of Thanks by the Secretary and National Anthem

6:45 - 7:00 PM : Interaction and Networking

7:00 - 8:00 PM : Dinner