

THE BIG LEAGUE *institutions*



DR.K.N. MODI UNIVERSITY RAJASTHAN

From the Editor's Desk



DR. ANUJ PRATAP SINGH
ECONOMIST, CENTRAL BANK OF IRELAND

Edlines extends good health and strength to stay strong to all its readers in these extremely difficult times.

This edition of Edlines brings the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic in the Principal's Desk column. The pandemic has forced us to move towards hybrid learning and enhanced adaptability which has unknowingly been a great learning process for everyone. However, we should all remember that this learning comes at a great expense of life and capital. We need to stay composed and determined that we shall strive and survive. Meditation for teachers could be vital in navigating through these difficult times while maintaining a positive environment in the classrooms, as highlighted in the 'Mindfulness for Classroom Management' by Mrs. Devyani Kapoor. Further, this edition also brings insights on 'Parenting with Purpose' in the Voice of Educator section, providing some key suggestions on parenting through the COVID-19 crisis. This edition features Ms. Kalpana Singh in the Educator of the Month column and the Rendezvous with Ms. Shwetangana Santram presents discussion on digital and blended classrooms. Last, but not the least, this edition features Dr. K. N. Modi University (DKNMU) in our Big League Institutions.



Dr. K. N. Modi University DKNMU, established in 2010 is a State Government ordained, UGC approved private university, situated on a sprawling 45 acres campus of Newai in the Tonk district of Rajasthan. Our Founder Dr. Kedar Nath Modi has been a stalwart in contributing to the cause of the society and a pioneer in establishing educational institutions to offer quality and value-based education – from primary to higher levels of professional education including PhD programs. His profound message- "Education Builds Nation", has been the motto of our university and has motivated the members of the education community belonging to diverse economic strata of the society.

Dr. K. N. Modi University believes in education for all. Since, the majority of the Indian population lives in rural areas, providing awareness and imparting knowledge in these areas has been of utmost importance. Our main goal at DKNMU is to provide education and equal opportunities to students with rural background and train them compete globally.

VISION:

Our vision is to prepare our students for life by broadening their horizons and deepening their thoughts. We aim to provide a world-class education and facilities to our students so that our university is known for innovation & learning, imparting quality education across all levels. Our faculty and staff work towards making the Dr. K.N. Modi University a prominent self-financed education provider in India as well as a preferred destination not only in the state of Rajasthan but also nationally and internationally. We strive to provide high quality and value-based education, where it is a part of the development process to enhance students' ability to apply what they learn, believe in the lifelong learning and dedicate themselves to work for the common goal.

MISSION:

Our mission is to set up an educational institution that provides a healthy environment for both faculty and students and stimulates a spirit of teamwork, encourage innovation and deliver excellence in all branches of learning. Our aim is to enhance academic development by offering undergraduate and post graduate programmes employing state-of-the-art technology and cultivating knowledge through research in the rural areas of Rajasthan. Additionally, as a university, we develop a perspective of future growth in our students by identifying areas of specialization and forging alliances with other progressive institutions, national and international level to ensure better exposure and learning opportunities for students and staff. Finally, we lay emphasis on value-based education, promoting India's heritage, history, culture and spirituality-while encouraging holistic personality development of all students.

CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE (DR. DEVENDRA K. MODI)

My association in the field of education has been a rather long-one as my forefathers were always interested and worked towards giving back to the society. They had established four cities and, in every city, one of their primary objectives was to setup educational institutions for the children of their workforce. From a very young age, we were encouraged to go and be a part of the institutions. The first institution under the flagship of Dr K N Modi Foundation came into being in the year 1942. I have been the Chairman of Dr K N Modi Foundation in the year 1994 and since then my aim has been to make a difference to the society by imparting knowledge and imbuing in our students to become responsible citizens of the world. The institutions under the Foundations made their presence felt with quality education and became the most favoured destination for students, parents and corporate recruiters.

In these times when innovation and change are the mantras of success, my personal style of leadership is to be flexible so that everyone around me can strive to build a society of responsible and informed citizens. Leadership is not so much in the solution but in the process of getting people to identify the problems and to address those problems with diligence.

MINDFULNESS FOR CLASS ROOM MANAGEMENT

“Live the actual moment. Only this moment is life.” – Thich Nhat Hanh

Teaching is an extremely challenging process where being attentive is critical. Further, a teacher can be regarded as one of the most important element of learning as his/her emotional state is transmitted to her students. Therefore, it is very natural that a teacher remains aware of every moment around her, remaining the central pillar of the classroom.



START WITH THE SELF

It is foremost that teachers take care of themselves during burnout or stress, which is quite normal given the responsibility and devotion that the profession entails. To begin dealing with this stress is not too complicated and a normal start could be spending time with yourself indulging in things that you love-getting outdoors, running, painting or cooking. If you really want to bring these practices to your students, take the time. Like Linda Lantieri always says, “You’ve got to do the work before you do the work.” So take the time, develop your own personal practice and slowly start sharing it with your students.

A teacher should behave in the same way as they would expect their students to behave in class and beyond. If a teacher wants their students to be composed and respectful, follow the same behaviour. As a teacher, one has to work on cultivating the inner resources and be self-aware. It is important for the teacher to be able to regulate her emotions. A confident, courageous, determined, persevering, accepting mind set will help a teacher to support her students.

A teacher should be mindful and accepting. It is extremely important that a teacher understands the basic notion that no two individuals are same. It is this acceptance that transforms into respect from students, who in turn use this as an opportunity to indulge in mutual learning and symbiosis. Additionally, this way of life ensures a non-judgmental environment around us that is driven by curiosity and learning.

If you feel comfortable, and close your eyes, or maybe even just turn your gaze downward towards the floor, and just breathe.

Turning your attention to your breath, becoming more and more relaxed with each breath.

Repeat these phrases silently in your own mind. I am safe, and protected. I am healthy and strong. I experience love and joy. I live my life with ease, and I am at peace.

Breathing again, just naturally. Relaxed, putting your attention on your heart. Our centre of love, and compassion, and joy, and equanimity, knowing we can always return to that place of knowing, I am enough. I am loved. Whenever you feel ready, open your eyes.

CONCLUSION

A combination of mindful meditation, gentle movement and discussions conducted daily for teachers can introduce them to the methods of meditation. This leads them to cultivate positive thoughts and ultimately transferring the benefits of these methods and thoughts into their everyday lives. The practice of learning to settle the mind, connecting to breathing, using the incantation – “breathing in I listen, breathing out I hear;” followed by stretching exercises and closing with an awareness that one should be happy, healthy and live with ease, safe from inner and outer harm. A mindful teacher not only reaps personal benefits such as reduced stress and burnout, and increased awareness but also fosters the ground for having more emotionally supportive and fulfilling classrooms and better classroom organization.

“A good teacher can I spire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.”
– Brad Henry



MS. DEVYANI KAPOOR
FOUNDER, MENTOR - EDUDEVS

USE SIMPLE MEDITATION TECHNIQUES

Meditation techniques can go very long way. Meditation helps teachers to build resilience to stress and creates a very positive learning atmosphere. Regular meditation sessions enable teachers to savor each moment of their life, to be creative, connect with themselves and their surroundings and make their lives free of stress and free of judgement. There are great benefits from meditation and it is seen that teachers benefit immensely from such sessions which are enriched by practical lessons drawn from a teacher’s own life. With simple techniques of mindful breathing, teachers are able to bring focus to the present, be happy from within and radiate warmth to the lives of her students positively. Practising core breathing along with students helps them manage their emotions better. This can introduce the students to practice meditation. Teachers can cultivate a sense of self-worth, and inner fulfilment by following these simple breathing exercises along with the students.

WATCH OUR LATEST EPISODE HERE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qe-riSmJQ-U>

VOICE OF THE EDUCATOR

HOW TO PARENT WITH PURPOSE

Parents and teachers both play a very significant role in a child's life. In the current pandemic situation, parents can help their children develop an authentic sense of self, make them competent with strong values, and give them the confidence to be creative. Here are a few suggestions, that will be helpful during this period of COVID-19 crisis.

To start with, the primary objective is to ensure that the child is emotionally healthy and the parents are patient with their kids. It is important to have a dialogue with them and understand the child's perspective and respect it. Put across your perspective as well, this will enable them to think of a broader scenario. Encourage them to find opportunities to do something positive whenever possible. Appreciate and recognise their accomplishments and when they go wrong, motivate them to never give up. The children always understand if they are given genuine feedback to improve. A parent's role is imperative, they must have clear set of expectations and understand their hesitations.

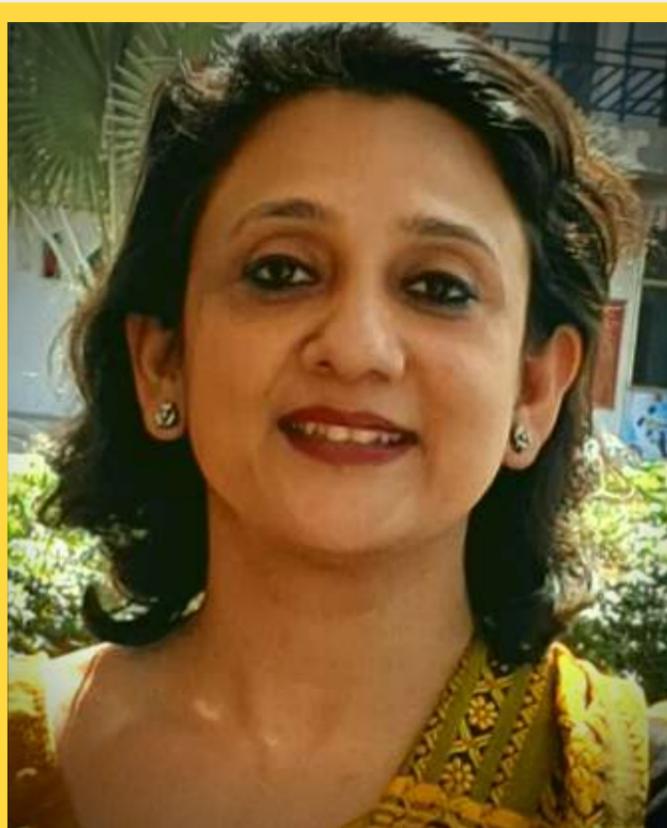
In the current situation, where the children have less interaction with their age-group, parents must have time for them, indulge in activities such as read, sing, play, dance, cooking, gardening etc. Multisensory activities are suggested. Assist them when required. Kids need ample time to rest, play, unwind, exercise, and just be kids. Help the child reflect their behaviour. Empower them to be their best. Be happy yourself and do not over think.

Whether kids will be back-to-school this year or will be involved in online/remote learning, parents must be able to identify and understand what is most important for children and how to best support their development.



POONAM TEWARI

DIRECTOR, DAISY'S PETALS, HYDERABAD



SHWETANGANA SANTRAM

PRINCIPAL, WILSONIA SCHOLARS HOME
MORADABAD, UTTAR PRADESH

RENDEZVOUS

CAN THE DIGITAL COMPONENT BE THE GAME-CHANGER WHEN IT COMES TO THE QUALITY OF LEARNING?
Keeping the present scenario of COVID-19 pandemic in focus and how we all suddenly had to transform to online teaching and learning, I feel digitalization will surely impact the quality of learning. Blended learning allows the students to not only be flexible with their time but also increases accountability and responsibility. But for a nation like ours, a big question is the reach. How many students can we really reach out to with this digital component? How many educators are equipped with the know how to use it effectively? This process will take time, but once we have met all these targets, I am sure that digitalization can be a game-changer.

PANDEMIC HAS ENSURED THAT WE FOLLOW A BLENDED CLASSROOM MODEL. HOW DO YOU THINK EDUCATORS ARE ADAPTING IN INDIA, ESPECIALLY IN SMALL TOWNS?
Various platforms claiming to provide the best usability for teachers and students are doing the rounds with educational institutions. Almost all schools have adopted some or the other platform. Teachers too have had to put on their tech antennas overnight and each one irrespective of their subject expertise had to learn ICT. But the great challenge is still among the smaller towns where problems are multifold --- access to gadgets, access to good connectivity, knowhow of ICT. The teaching fraternity in these towns is still tinkering with idea of change and there is still a lot of resistance. This will be a challenge for quite some time.

THE NEP 2020 GIVES TEACHER'S AUTONOMY IN SELECTING APPROPRIATE PEDAGOGY AND ENCOURAGES THEM TO ALSO ENSURE SOCIO-EMOTIONAL LEARNING OF THEIR STUDENTS. HOW CAN WE EMPOWER OUR TEACHERS FOR THIS KIND OF AUTONOMY IN A BLENDED CLASSROOM SET UP?
The implementation of the NEP 2020 is going to be its greatest adversary! The policy is great, however can we really hope to see it effectively implemented in totality is the question. Teacher autonomy is going to be a challenge especially at the grass root level in schools. Aggressive and comprehensive teacher training and handholding will be required. The suggestions of excellence hubs and partnerships within school fraternity are the only way to empower our teachers and this is needed before we can tread towards teacher autonomy.

HOW CAN EDUCATORS PLAN THE ASSESSMENTS THAT WILL BE A BLEND OF PEN TO PAPER AND DIGITALIZED CONTENT WHILE ENSURING CREDIBILITY?
Adopting group projects, presentations, open book tests are one way to plan assessments in such a scenario. Credibility can be ensured by giving application-based tasks which require the implementation of knowledge (higher order thinking skills) and critical thinking, rather than the old traditional tests that rely only on rote memory. If clear and defined rubrics for the tasks are provided to the students, credibility will automatically be achieved. But once again this needs comprehensive training and learning readiness on behalf of teachers.

DO YOU THINK BLENDED LEARNING PROMOTES STUDENT OWNERSHIP? HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE THIS?
Ownership or accountability is a life skill. Blended learning will surely promote this not only among students but also the teachers. If students are given responsibilities, given charge and more autonomy to decide their learning process and methodology they will acquire this skill right from an early stage. At the level of higher education these formats of blended learning have been used for a long time now, so if we shift this to the school level, the effectiveness of the same will be felt more. Not just at learning stages but all through their adult life students will follow and appreciate ownership.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



RICHA KHANNA
PRINCIPAL, VARDAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
& MEMBER MAGISTRATE, CHILD WELFARE
COMMITTEE, LUCKNOW

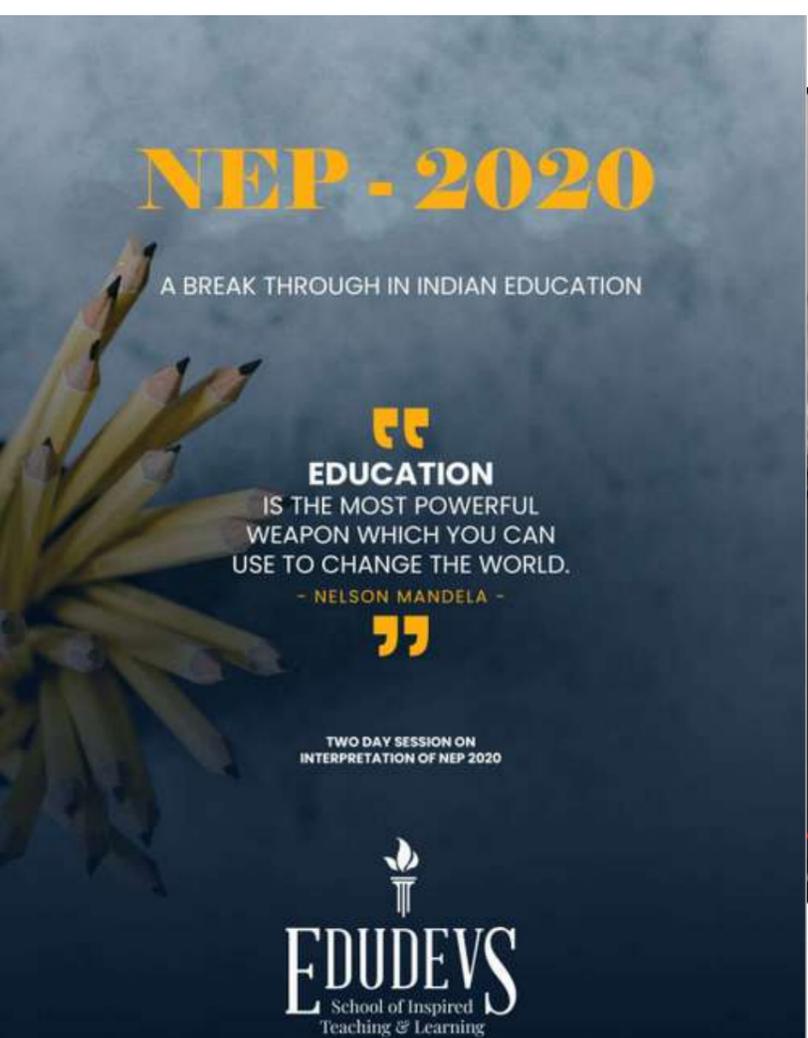
"I am a Learner!" has always been my thought and guru mantra. For me, teaching has never been static, but always been a learning process. As teachers, we must work toward our goals and incorporate new knowledge, behaviours, and skills that add to our range of learning experiences. We must always strive for progress, not perfection. This has also been my advice to all the learners who aim to achieve success and glory in their lives.

Being an educationist for over two decades now, I have faced various snags as far as educating young minds is concerned and have also resolved them. In the recent past, the work output generated at an educational institution was tremendous and things ran smoothly. The teachers were motivated, the pupils were serious about their studies and the parents were content with their children's performance. However, after being hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, things went haywire in all aspects. The pandemic came with overall dire consequences that compelled us to learn and adapt to the 'new normal' that majorly included being acquainted with latest means of communication and technology to keep the education process smooth and coherent. As things evened out we switched back to offline teaching but had to rush back to online methodology due to the sudden hike in the number of cases. **Transitioning back and forth to online teaching has been challenging,** but co-ordination with educationalists and fellow principals, motivating and brainstorming teachers regularly has brought clarity in effective working of schools.

As we had already adapted to the new technology during the first wave of coronavirus, we successfully developed a 'hybrid' teaching methodology which involved conducting both offline and online teaching simultaneously. I believe that the latter should be continued even when things become normal as it has proven to become a systemized and structured system of educating the students.

The pandemic has been a great learning process for all. It has taught each one of us that with effort and determination, one can transform and change things around for the betterment of the society. Collectively, we must build a society for our coming generations so that they live in a world where knowledge is free and the head is held high. Let our boys and girls grow as world-class citizens – a generation of eminent thinkers and wise planners contributing to better world order.

WATCH OUR LATEST EPISODE HERE



NEP - 2020
A BREAK THROUGH IN INDIAN EDUCATION

“
EDUCATION
IS THE MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN
USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.
- NELSON MANDELA -
”

TWO DAY SESSION ON
INTERPRETATION OF NEP 2020



EDUDEVS
School of Inspired
Teaching & Learning



FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CLICK ON THE LINK
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jCyqE5qZGQ>



QUIZ



TEACHER COMPETENCY SKETCHPAD



- As a teacher, who firmly believes in social constructivist theory of Lev Vygotsky, which of the following methods would you prefer for assessing your students?
 - Collaborative projects
 - Fact-based recall questions
 - Standardized tests
 - Objective multiple-choice type questions
- In the context of Kohlberg's stages of moral reasoning, under which stage would the given typical response of a child fall? "Your parents will be proud of you if you are honest. So, you should be honest."
 - Social contract orientation
 - Punishment-obedience orientation
 - Good girl-good boy orientation
 - Law and order orientation
- According to Jean Piaget, which of the following is necessary for learning?
 - Active exploration of the environment by the learner
 - Observing the behaviour of adults
 - Belief in immanent justice
 - Reinforcement by teachers and parents
- Kohlberg has given
 - The stages of physical development.
 - The stages of cognitive development.
 - The stages of emotional development.
 - The stages of moral development.
- According to Piaget, a child between 2 to 7 years is in the _____ stage of cognitive development.
 - Formal operational
 - Concrete operational
 - Sensorimotor
 - Preoperational
- In Vygotsky's theory, which aspect of development gets neglected
 - Social
 - Cultural
 - Biological
 - Linguistic
- Which of the following implications cannot be derived from Piaget's theory of cognitive development?
 - Acceptance of individual differences
 - Sensitivity of children's readiness to learn
 - Discovery learning
 - Need of verbal teaching
- Which one of the following statements about children would Vygotsky agree with?
 - Children learn when they are offered lucrative rewards.
 - Children's thinking can be understood by conducting laboratory experiments on animals.
 - Children are born 'evil' and need to be controlled through punishment.
 - Children learn through social interaction with peers and adults.
- A teacher makes use of a variety of tasks to cater to the different learning styles of her learners. She is influenced by
 - Gardner's multiple intelligence theory
 - Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory
 - Piaget's cognitive development theory
 - Kohlberg's moral development theory
- The 'insight theory of learning' is promoted by
 - 'Gestalt' theorists
 - Jean Piaget
 - Pavlov
 - Vygotsky

MARCH EDITION - QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Sensitisation | 6. M.L. Bigge |
| 2. Information Processing | 7. Operational planning of career |
| 3. cognitive operation | 8. Learning is directly observed |
| 4. planning | 9. Heuristics |
| 5. From deduction to induction | 10. Exploration |

Send your replies with your name and contact details at info@edudevsn.com
The first correct respondent's interview/article will be featured in the upcoming issue.

VOICE OF STUDENT



MS. SNEHA S S
STUDENT OF AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM

Sneha S S is the fourth year B.Tech Computer Science and Engineering student, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore. A competitive programmer, Sneha secured ranks at Pune and Kanpur regionals in the Inter-Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC). Apart from that, Sneha has **internship experiences from American Express, Microsoft and Amazon (ongoing). Sneha will be joining Google as a Software Engineer in July 2021.**

TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM'S CAMPUS?

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's campus is one of the most beautiful campuses. The climate and the fresh air are rejuvenating. There are many activities taking place on the campus at all times. There are a lot of opportunities and **recognition for performance.**

HOW DID YOU THINK OF BECOMING A SOFTWARE ENGINEER?

Computer Science was my favourite subject at school. Consecutively, I started coding when I decided to pursue CS for my degree. I soon **realised that I enjoyed doing it the most.**

TELL US ABOUT THE BEST PART OF YOUR CODING LESSONS ON CAMPUS?

The best part certainly was my motivated peer group and the helpful seniors. All the sessions taught by my seniors at **Code@Amrita** and the practice sessions with my teammates were the reason I could learn with such ease. I thoroughly enjoyed learning algorithms and solving problems with them.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND CODING COURSES AT AVV TO YOUR ASPIRANTS? WHY?

Definitely. Core coding courses start in the second year with Data Structures and Algorithms. The CSE department and the faculties encourage coding. The **Code@Amrita club actively promotes CP** among the students. There is a vibrant coding culture on the campus which is a great benefit.

TELL US ABOUT THE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS?

Some notable extracurricular activities are Raag Sudha (**music**), Natya Sudha (**dance**), Shristi (**literary**), N. S. S., etc. Participation in intramural competitions, Amritotsavam (cultural fest), Gokulashtami celebrations and Anokha (**annual tech fest**) is encouraged.

HOW DID THE COLLEGE PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

There are project-based courses in all semesters where we work on industry tools and gain development experience. One notable course we had was the Software Engineering Project, where we **built the project in the AGILE framework**, the same way it happens in the industry.

HOW DOES AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF GIRLS IN PROBLEM-SOLVING AND COMPETITIVE PROGRAMMING?

Very much. The department and the faculties provide immense support to the students (**both boys and girls**) who want to participate in external contests like ICPC, **Techgig Geekgoddess**, etc. Students get ODs for participation. The department recognises performance and achievements. The student clubs that promote coding actively conducts sessions and contests for the students.



FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CLICK ON THE LINK

https://youtu.be/pKUns1DDn_4?t=137
<https://www.amrita.edu/event/algoqueen-girl-s-programming-cup-2021-promoting-girls-coding>

Educator of the month

YOUR FIRST DAY AS A PRINCIPAL:

A sudden change of role – I immediately realized that now it's not just students and their parents, but henceforth it's a large family with members of different expertise, mindset and background who had to be taken together under one umbrella, one mission- through motivation, understanding and encouragement.

ONE MOMENT OF SURPRISE WITH YOUR STUDENTS:

Students are a bundle of joy and surprises but to think of one such moment – was when I walked into a well-known doctor's clinic only to find that he was my student who jumped up to receive me the minute he saw me. It was a moment of surprise and pride.

THE LIFETIME LESSON THAT YOU WOULD WANT YOUR STUDENTS TO LEARN:

Our Motto at Gurukul says, 'Empowerment through Education' so we train our children to have a strong deep-rooted value system, to be humble, compassionate and tough to face the challenges of a life well.

ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR NEW EDUCATORS:

Choose this profession by choice, not by chance. This is the most important profession which requires 100% passion and dedication. Be a guide, a mentor a counsellor not just an information provider.

THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING AN EDUCATOR:

The realisation that it is we, who get the opportunity to nurture and shape the future of our country.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH?

Firm determination with a strong belief that 'nothing is impossible' and approachability.

HOW DIFFERENT IS IT BEING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TEACHING-LEARNING CURVE?

A good Educator is always willing to learn so that is one thing in common but of course, as an educator, the role is very different. You have to be capable of multi-tasking, be receptive to changes and you have to be ready with the state-of-the-art technology, information and knowledge. At the same time be a motivator, a guide, a counsellor and, above all a 'Role Model' for everyone around.



MS. KALPANA SINGH

PRINCIPAL, GURUKUL ACADEMY, LUCKNOW

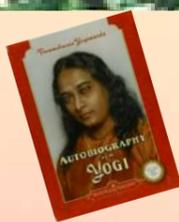
BIRTH DATE
20 January

PLACE OF BIRTH
Lucknow

ZODIAC SIGN
Capricorn

SCHOOL/COLLEGE
La, Martiniere Girls, Lucknow

FAVOURITE BOOK/CURRENTLY READING
Few books- Autobiography of a Yogi by Swami Paramhansa Yogananda. Currently reading- How Girls Achieve by Sally Nuamah.



FIRST EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE
Very satisfying and exciting as my childhood dream and passion was fulfilled

THE QUOTE I LIVE BY

"Keep your face towards Sunshine, And the Shadows will fall behind you."
Walt Whitman