



Empowering Teachers to Transform Education

Envisioning a New Level of Transformative Education for Modern India

The present world is going through some epoch-making changes of unprecedented proportions, fueled by widespread social-political and economic upheavals. While on one hand, the world is shrinking into one big global village—thanks to the cyber technologies—on the other hand, it is being torn apart by equally forceful counter-forces of social and political unrest. This paradoxical situation is of grave concern to all who are interested in the well-being of the whole planet and its people.

Many believe that this situation cannot be “fixed” from the outside by mere socio-political reforms. Something fundamental, deep from within, has to change. We have to *begin at the beginning*. We have to raise our children differently. We have to educate our youth effectively. We have to devise a different type of education system, an education system which not only prepares students for *making a living* but also guides them how to *live a meaningful life*. Our schools have to become *incubators of character and spirit*.

We need to give our students clarity about their life goals, confidence about transforming their own destiny, and conviction (निष्ठा) to become change agents for the good of others. Each and every youth has to become a “difference-maker.”

We cannot *win* the competition by *borrowing* their ideas. India needs to leverage its own sages and strategists. The ideal of a teacher in our Vedas is presented as follows: *svayam ācarati, parān ācārayati, iti ācāryah*: S/he who himself “lives” the teachings and inspires others to live the teachings. Teachers have to become inspiring role-models—by “living” the Teachings -- and we have to “pay” them honorably. Goddess *Sarasvati* needs the help of Goddess *Laxmi*, always!

India is now officially the world’s fastest growing economy. Economic growth is incomplete and unsustainable if it is not rooted in a strong, world-class educational infrastructure. Teachers stand at the nourishing roots of an education system. To become a world-leader (*Vishva-guru*), *India needs to empower its teachers*.

I am proud to state that the International Chamber for Service Industry (ICSI) is diligently working toward the goal of empowering teachers in tandem with Human Resource Development through education and training to enhance learning outcomes, which will in turn make our schools a destination for education to several countries. We believe that *education is the only “real” competitive advantage*.

ICSI has adopted North East Region of India to begin the initiative for *empowering teachers* with integrated skill-sets to improve learning outcomes. The program on teacher training will contain key elements associated with teaching with greater impact and inculcating Technology in the classroom. Subsequent focus will be towards ASEAN, South Asia and East Asia owing to the fact that demographics of these regions are quite similar to NER.

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