

- Professional Development Course first session on August 2nd
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Vividha

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Vividha is a bi-monthly newsletter initiated by the Kaveri Gifted Education Center. Vividha, meaning 'different' stands as the voice of all parents, counselors, psychologists, educators and teachers who wish to advocate the needs of gifted children. This newsletter has been created to share on-going work in the area of gifted education and act as a channel of communication between individuals and organizations who work in this field.

New Beginnings

Kaveri Group of Institutes is a Learning organization, where existing methods, materials and environments are replaced by new teaching and learning strategies; keeping success of every student as the goal.

This goal was translated firstly in establishing a Counselling centre for children with academic, emotional and social problems. "One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers but with gratitude to those who touch our human feelings, the curriculum is a necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child", says Carl Jung.

Like Carl Jung, The Kaveri Group believes in nurturing a conducive school climate for facilitating the development of every student's potential, as each child is different and unique. Delivery of Education at The Kaveri Group is based on

two guiding principles:

Learner Centric And Safe Environment.

The Kaveri Gifted Education Center also follows the same principles. The focus of the Center is the



Mrs. Malati Kalmadi,
Secretary Kannada Sangha who is a
passionate educator and advocate of
meaningful education for all.

gifted child and his/her needs. The emphasis on addressing the gifted child's needs would enable the him/her to freely express their concerns, joy, and creativity which could otherwise be distorted by thoughtless adults in schools and in homes.

The objective of this centre is primarily:

1. To identify and nurture the gifted students to use their skills and talents in nation building.
2. To train teachers, counsellors and parents to understand the needs of the gifted.
3. To spread an awareness about Giftedness in society.
4. To initiate a National policy towards the rights of the Gifted in Education.

I end with a beautiful quote by Alfred A Montapert that has left its mark on the Kaveri Group, "to accomplish great things we must first dream, then visualize, then plan....believe....act!"

We have a great team to take this dream into action! They are Sameena Manasawala, Shweta Kulkarni-Lobo and Pallavi Dalvi. All the Best KGEC team on your first newsletter!

Finding new gems— Identification



The Inspirer,
the tinkerer...
(Dr. Narayan Desai,
Secretary, Mensa India)

Look closely at the
present you are
constructing.
It should look like
the future you are
dreaming.
—Alice Walker

curmano.com

Just as the musk deer eventually finds that the scent that it has always been searching for actually lies within it, we hope to facilitate such a process of positive self-discovery through the Identification and Assessment Domain (IAD) at the Kaveri Gifted Education Center.

In addition to identifying candidates for our nurturing program, the IAD plays an important role in and of itself. Knowledge that one is gifted is transformative.

With Identification, we provide children with information that enables them to see themselves from a new perspective. Through Assessments, we help these children know themselves better.

It has been an exciting and action-packed 4 months being in-charge of this domain. Since April 2014 we have conducted testing for over 1000 students from our Secondary sections and Junior college. Identification is

currently conducted in collaboration with Mensa India Pune.

This year we will also be offering psychological profiling services for gifted children soon. A comprehensive profile of each child will be prepared using 360 degrees observations by parents, teachers and self-report as well as inputs from standardized tests.

Contributed by Shweta Kulkarni-Lobo
Domain In-charge for Identification & Assessment.

Mensa India Exhibition

Kaveri Gifted Education Center is proud to be associated with Mensa India Pune. They have supported the Kaveri Gifted Education Center since its conception. On, Sunday 27th July 2014, Mensa India had organized an exhibition of the work done by Mensa India Pune Chapter and Tribal Mensa. The posters were very creatively depicted activities conducted by Mensa

India Pune since 1998. In a span of 15 years, one could see the varied activities organized for nurturing giftedness and identifying children from both urban and tribal backgrounds.

Mensa India Pune also distributed a set of 4 books written especially for children. One of them was 'Let me know myself' a book written by Dr. Devasena Desai in

the voice of a gifted child. As KGEC is supported by Mensa India Pune, we were given the opportunity to display some of our work at the exhibition. It was inspiring to see the commitment and focused efforts of the Mensa team to achieve what they have in this span of time.

Contributed by KGEC team

First Year Nurturing Program

For the First year Nurturing Program 35 children have enrolled from Dr. Kalmadi Shamarao High School, Ganesnagar and Aundh sections. In addition 10 children from Millennium National School and 5 children from our Kannada Medium Section are also participating. All these children have qualified in the Mensa test conducted in their respective schools in the last two years.

It will indeed be an interesting group for Dr. Narayan Desai and his team of Mentors for the workshops.

The program is based on the Panchakosha Model of Human Development derived from Taittiriya Samhita of Yajurveda.

The five koshas are:

1. Annamaya Kosha
2. Pranamaya Kosha
3. Manomaya Kosha,
4. Vigyanamaya Kosha
5. Anandmaya Kosha.

The model focuses on developing the physical, sensory, social-emotional, cognitive and spiritual aspects in an individual. The model has been corroborated with several western models of

human development and models for nurturing gifted children.

The uniqueness of this program is its basis in Indian Philosophy and therefore, most suited for our cultural context. The program also evolves through participation of children who have already been nurtured as mentors for the new batch.

The children will be attending 12 sessions including 2 overnight camps. The first workshop has been organized for 9th August 2014.

Contributed by Sameena Manasawala,
Nurturing & Mentoring Domain In-charge

Business Intelligence Module for Nurturing

In a view to offer certain special courses to our children we are offering a module on Business Intelligence. What does Business Intelligence (BI) mean? It is the ability to take better decisions, with a strong base in data gathered and analyzed.

Amongst the various qualities of giftedness, analytical thinking, problem solving, applying logic & quick decision making help your child achieve excellence in even the most complex situations. We can enhance these qualities by multifold.

Mr. Anand Kolharkar, founder of Opine Group will be the main resource person for this program.

The objective of the program is to ignite the process of identifying a problem, collecting and analyzing data and drawing a conclusion. This will be done through the medium of live projects. According to Mr. Kolharkar, gifted children seem to have an inherent ability to understand patterns within collected information and coming up with solutions to solve problems. This is

the reason he welcomes Mensans who have this analytical power to join his team of interns.

We look forward to a igniting session with Mr. Kolharkar and Mrs. Shilpa Kulkarni from Opine Group. We envision to start clubs and welcome all children for this program; where small projects can be taken up by groups with similar interests.

Contributed by Nurturing & Mentoring Domain

“What makes a child gifted and talented may not always be good grades, but a different way of looking at the world and learning”.

Chuck Grassley

Knowledge Resource Center

KGEC is developing a Knowledge Resource Center with a collection of latest scientific articles, books and other material in the area of gifted education.

These books and scientific articles will act as reference material for those interested to support needs of gifted children. Through this, the center also intends to encourage

researchers to take-up projects and publish scientific papers in this field.

At the outset, we would like to thank Dr. Laurie Croft, Administrator, Professional Development at the Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, Iowa, USA for generously contributing books to the center. Additionally, we also thank

Dr. Devasena Desai and Dr. Narayan Desai who have also been generous in sharing scientific papers and books with the center.

We invite parents, and teachers to come and fulfill their curiosity and deepen their understanding of the gifted child through the Knowledge Resource Center.

Contributed by KGEC team

Professional Development Courses

Characteristics of gifted children like rapid learning ability, excellent memory, having a wide range of interests, high sensitivity and ability to think creatively makes them stand out from their peers.

The existing curriculum and regular teaching practices in our schools do not match the characteristics or needs of gifted children. As a result some of them get bored, or become disruptive in classrooms or turn into underachievers. This is a serious loss of potential for the individual child, school, society and

nation at large. Therefore it is essential to have special programs and services to ensure that the potential of gifted children is nurtured in regular schools. For schools, to offer such programs and services trained professionals are required.

One of the primary focus areas of this Center is creating awareness and training in gifted education among educators, an area that is nascent to India. In collaboration with Mensa India Pune, the center is launching basic and advanced

level courses for teachers, counselors and parents in gifted education in August 2014. The courses will introduce the participants to the characteristics of gifted children, the problems they may face in the regular classrooms and their specific learning needs. The center hopes to join hands with teachers from other schools to design special curriculum for gifted children.

Contributed by Pallavi Dalvi, Teacher & Curriculum Development Domain In-charge



The Expert, the motivator (Dr. Devasena Desai)



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The Kaveri Gifted Education Center is an initiative of the Kaveri Group of Institutes, a premier educational institute in Pune that started weekend, pull-out programs for gifted children in 2009. The center which was inaugurated on 8th February 2014 is supported by Mensa India Pune. The aim of the Center is to meet the unique and distinctive needs of gifted students in the current educational system

For more information regarding our programs and services please contact,

Ms. Sameena Manasawala
Center In-charge



From the Kaveri Gifted Education Center Team

In the coming months we hope to hand the reins of the newsletter to children from the Gifted Program. We look forward to hearing what they experience, what they have to say using this platform.

We are thankful to Dr. Nara-

yan Desai who suggested the idea of a newsletter. This is an important channel to share and spread our work with other educators, schools and the society and take our initiatives forward.

Lastly we thank the manage-

ment and staff of Kannada Sangha, Pune who have given flight to our ideas, and have been the wind beneath our wings. Their enthusiasm and support has been truly encouraging.