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Dear Parents,

Greetings as we all look forward to another summer, it is the time to relax, rejuvenate and reflect before children leap ahead to the next academic year.

Past few months have been wonderful for us at KGERC, we were able to virtually meet colleagues and fellow practitioners in the field of gifted education across Asia. The excitement of exchanging ideas, practices and research was palpable. This made me wonder how it must be to the starved gifted brains and when they get a similar group of thinkers what a joy it must be. The Asian Summit of gifted educators was one such event.

Parents are constantly seeking assurances of their children who they feel need extra support of something different as they are unique and different. Our Parent support group has been such a cohesive group that is slowly taking shape and embracing different kinds of parents and parenting styles that their experiences are unique. What stands out to us is that the child is a child is a child. Just that gifted expressions may be different and viewed with a different lens but their needs and expectations from the world around them is very similar.

As gifted child may embark in a wonderful time of no structure and enough free space for themselves and their explorations, encourage,embrace and enjoy their discoveries along with them. Parents who have accepted their child's giftedness may look forward to sharing new experiences, ideas and learning along with the child.

Wishing each of you a happy summer holiday, continue to explore and expand.

Warm regards

**Devasena Desai PhD.**

**Associate Director**

**Kaveri Counseling, Empowerment and Gifted Center**

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# Interaction with Gifted Students- A psychology undergrad's experience

One of my first experiences with gifted children was conducting this activity about the ship of Theseus paradox with level one children. The situation is thus- if a ship is slowly repaired over time such that each part of it is replaced eventually, then does it remain to be the same ship? Moreover, if we take all the older parts of that ship and reassemble them, does this ship also remain the same?

I presented the question to the children. At first, I was kind of overwhelmed with the way in which the kids were responding, they were enthusiastic to get their point across but also wanted to make sure that they covered their point in depth. This led to a lot of talking over each other and raised voices and excited body

language.

Then, I asked them to either build on each other's point or refute it, so that the conversation became connected. I also started to add my own ideas to their statements. By increasing the challenge levels. Slowly, the entire demeanor of the group changed to that of a sophisticated debate. It was then that I was able to get a glimpse of the dichotomy of the gifted- to be handed thoughts beyond your years but also retain the excitement of your age. It was only when both were synched up properly that the kids were able to truly get the most out of the activity.

**Dhruv Sharma**

3<sup>rd</sup> year student, Flame University



# Parent Support Group

KGERC, for many years, has been the support in helping extra ability/gifted students in their journey. This includes working through emotional up downs and their relationship with talent, as well as mentoring them to reach their full potential. Behind these stupendous kids are their parents who may or may not have the strength and the awareness to face the challenges that come along while raising a Gifted Child. As each gifted child is different, the parenting team may face issues which may sometimes be unique as well. For such times we initiated the Parent Support Group...which is run by the parents and is designed exclusively for the parents along with the assistance of KGERC Management. Parent support group aims at understanding and how-to handle the never ending questions, doubts, fears, fights and the conversation which come from a gifted child. It's a meet wherein the parents across the various gifted program levels sit together to hear out and try to figure out what can be done to help a parent in need. The help may come in the form of friendly advice from parents who have already gone through similar experiences raising their child. This platform is also a good way of gathering information about numerous enhanced learning camps, extra-curricular activities,lectures,etc., as suited to one's child's needs.

There is a saying, "happy parents reflect into a happy child." The parent support group would ensure every parent to not feel unguided, misguided and alone through one's child's journey

My husband and I attended the very first Parent Support Group meet with no idea as to what to expect. As one by one the parents started sharing about their kids, an experienced higher level parent opened up about her gifted child's doubt-filled journey not only through school but college too. Although our kid is quite young, some of her fears resonated with us and at the same time assured us too. We realized that this group is a perfect place for a parent to vent out our own anxiety and uncontrollable emotions as to be an amazing strong support pillar for our kid's decision making years.

Join the Parent Support Group Facebook page using the link below and stay updated with upcoming meetings and useful information.

**-Aditi Kulkarni**

Parent of 10 year gifted child



Join the Parent Support Group Facebook page by scanning the QR code above and stay updated with upcoming meetings and useful information.

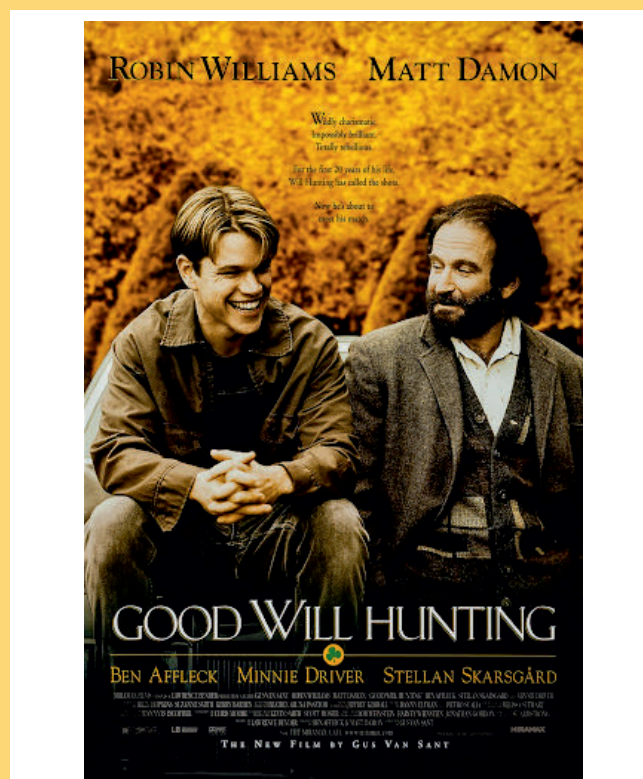
# Goodwill in Giftedness: A Review of **Good Will Hunting**

inema has always been a great way to bridge the gaps between various perspectives of people from different backgrounds and provide a neutral zone of exploration and understanding. Such has been the case with the film “Good Will Hunting”.

The film follows the story of Will- a twenty-year-old gifted boy who enjoys working on mathematical problems that baffle most Harvard PHDs and read law books that most lawyers suffer through. But rather than work in any of these exciting fields professionally, he chooses to be a construction worker, or a janitor- something that brings in barely enough money for him to afford beers with his friends and a cheap meal- a safer and stress-free life.

However, the main exploration into the challenges of the gifted comes from Robin Williams’ character, who plays Will’s therapist and helps him work through some of the more deep-rooted issues that prevent him from living up to his potential- both academically and emotionally.

The film does an exceptional job at showcasing the emotional complexity and the sensitivity that comes alongside the heightened cognitive and creative abilities of the gifted. It shows the extent to which traumatic events can bury themselves in gifted people, causing them to mask their giftedness for a feeling of security. A must watch as a family and to discuss it so that each student can reflect what this movie brings to their learning.

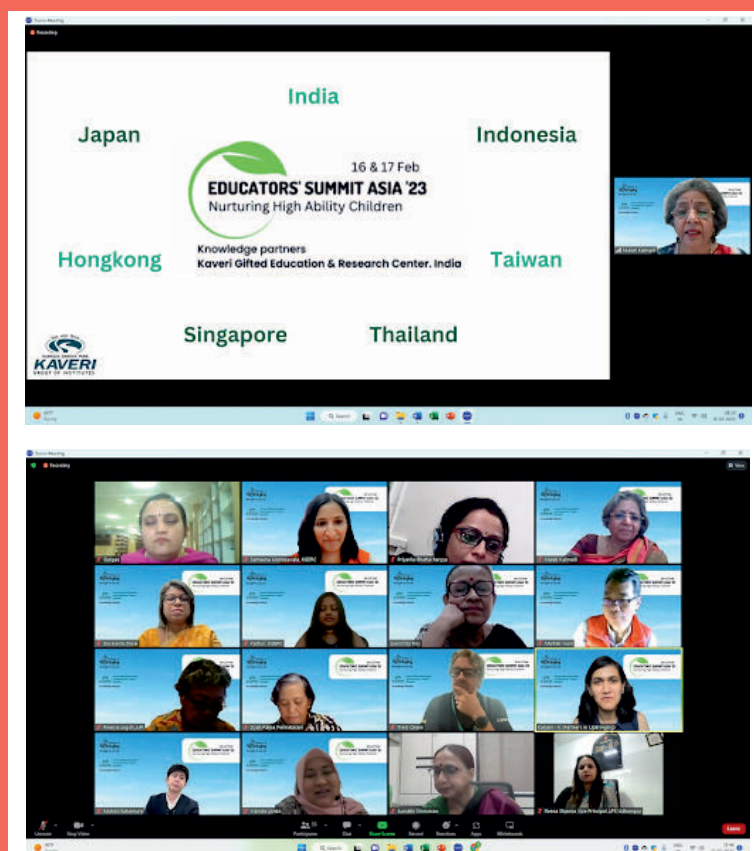


# EDUCATOR'S SUMMIT

Educator's Summit, Asia was a two days event organized by KGERC in collaboration with Partner's in Upbringing-Singapore. The Summit was organized on zoom an online platform on 16th and 17th February, 2023. The Summit was aimed at creating awareness about the needs of students with high ability and to equip educators with the best practices and tools for nurturing them. This consisted of 72 participants, all highly qualified educators, teachers, professors as well as researchers from more than 6 Asian countries. This was the first time ever an Summit was organised to initiate the Asian Academicians, Researchers and Practitioners to be in the same platform and share exchange and note the current practices being done in each of the countries. They shared their knowledge and

experiences during this 2 day virtual summit. A variety of topics like supporting the unique intellectual and emotional needs of high ability students, creating eco-systems within the regular school system as well as designing advanced curriculum was the highlight. It was an excellent opportunity for delegates to share their first-hand experience with the teachers, educators and create an atmosphere of learning from one another. Due to the overwhelming responses and excitement, the team intends to continue the practice of continuing the Summit each year for gifted educators and parents.

**Prateeksha Khatri,**  
Gifted Facilitator, KGERC



# Impact of nurturing on gifted students.

Gifted nurturing is one of those programmes that doesn't have a set outcome or conclusion that can be presented in a line graph at the end of 3 years. Most learnings that children pick up during the programme aren't realised or utilised until much later in their lives. Because no gifted programme encourages activities that provide a ready conclusion or a fixed set of steps to arrive at an outcome, it might be difficult for students to place exactly what they've learnt. They are able to discuss the new skills that they acquired from an activity, but are rarely sure if a particular learning objective is satisfied through the activity.

However, as they grow up, step into the real world, garner experiences and opportunities, they find specific context in which they can reflect upon their learnings from so many years ago and then develop those further into skills. As a student who finished her nurturing levels 2 years ago, much of what I learnt is starting to make sense today and I suspect it will continue to for at least a few years.

For instance, in the very first workshop of my nurturing journey, the facilitator pointed out a space in which I could improve to be better at a task. At the time, my 11 year old brain interpreted that as failure. The facilitator picked up on that too, and asked me why I was upset. As a child who had not been criticised much in my academic life, the realisation that I could attempt something and learn what not to do was daunting. That was also a point that I, now, nearly 5 years later, distinguish as the starting point of my journey to acclimate myself with

constructive criticism and shelving perfectionist habits while learning.

Another introspection triggering stimulus was the first session of an exercise of mentoring juniors, peer mentoring, which drove home the unpleasant realisation that what is known need not be broadcasted as known all the time.

Nurturing also helps to develop and build potential. This seems like a pretty vague and faraway thought, but an example would be my profile in level 2, which said that I had the potential to become a leader if nurtured. At that age, this seemed improbable and did not make a lot of sense. In a discussion with a facilitator nearly 4 years after that profile, and a month after I was elected as head girl, did that profile make sense.

The effect of nurturing on gifted kids is best analysed a few years after their active nurturing is complete, and the question comes up "What would've happened if I didn't have those experiences to teach me all that I practice today?". Nurturing equips children to explore a little bit further than their comfort zones and generate the lifelong possibility of always becoming more, by simply doing more.

**Diti Nandurkar**

KHSG Alumni

# ALUMNI MEET

The KGERC Alumni meet organized on 5th March at KHS Ganeshnagar was something I was looking forward to for a long time and it was an excellent experience. There were several activities planned to break the ice, and one of the most enjoyable ones were the creative board games.

It turned out to be a fantastic way to interact with my fellow alumni and get to know them better while having fun. The games, organized by "The board game company" were really interesting and got out everyone's creative and competitive sides, making the evening even more enjoyable.

I also loved catching up with my previous peers and hearing about their lives and

experiences. It was great to see how everyone had grown and developed since we last saw each other and we had some amazing discussions.

Overall, the alumni meet was a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make new connections and have a lot of fun. I hope KGERC will continue to plan such events in the future so that we can stay connected.

Something like the alumni intend to facilitate gifted peers or take up active role in bridging the association with KGERC and new gifted students..

**Sahil Pawar**



# A feather in our cap- Nurturing girl child prodigies

Born to shine, a CSR initiative of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited, is a nationwide endeavour to help groom 30 girl prodigies in various fields of cultural art forms. This includes providing the prodigies with a scholarship to help them avail the resources they need to pursue their talent and to provide them with mentoring and nurturing. Through 'Give Foundation', a not-for-profit company, Kaveri Gifted Education and Research Center (a 9 year old initiative of Kannada Sangha) has received funding to assess and nurture these prodigies, as well as act as a liaison between the artists based in the fields and the prodigies to provide them with insightful advice and guidance. The nurturing and development of the prodigies have been constructed into a multi-objective programme, which spans

between two years. This programme includes profiling the prodigies to understand their needs, working with the parents and the prodigies and conducting annual overnight camps for their holistic development. KGERC will continue to employ the Panchakosh model to serve these talented girls hoping they would become leaders, role models, inspiration to preserve and advance Indian artforms across India.

We have also been consulted for the knowledge Series created as a part of this project to create awareness about talent development.

**Dr. Sameena Manasawala,**  
Head- Nurturing Domain

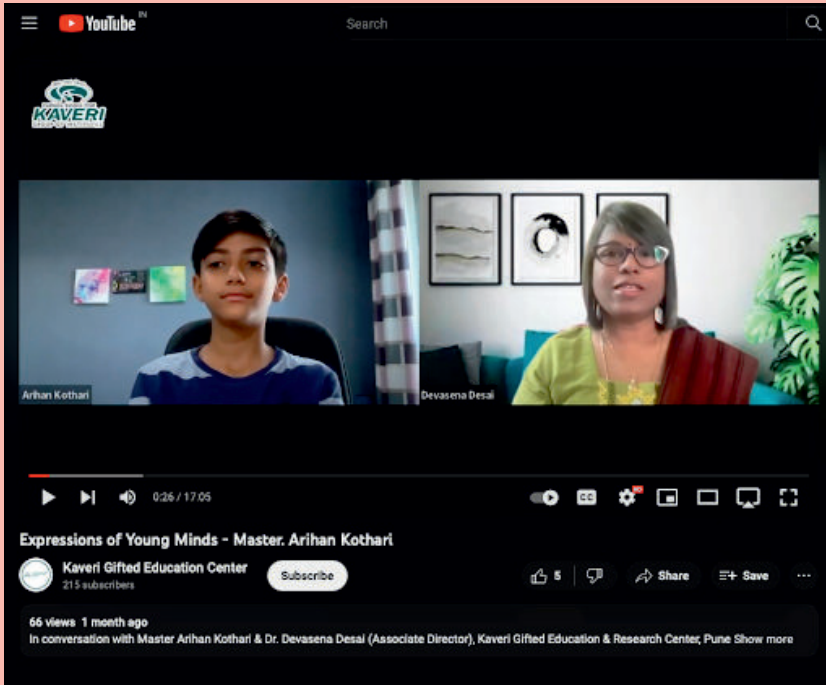


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# Expressions of Young Minds & Podcast-



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In conversation with Master Arihan Kothari & Dr. Devasena Desai (Associate Director), Kaveri Gifted Education & Research Center, Pune.



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