



Education Community



Community Update

No. 25: 30 July 2009

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From the Resource Team

Dear Members, When HRD Minister Mr. Kapil Sibal shared his proposal of restructuring the entire education system, it was met with a mixed response from people across educational spectrum. A number of them were of the opinion that the proposed moves are good to reduce the stress level of students while many others had reservations. The changes that he proposed were revolutionary in many senses which included making Class X board optional, marking system to be replaced by grading system and free education up to Class XII. Since then, a plethora of views have been expressed by people on both sides of the fences. Discussions on the positives and negatives of the proposed reforms are a welcome sign which show case the vibrancy of the people engaged in education.

Rising stress level among students has been a cause of concerns for many years especially with respect to 10th grade board exams. Every year after board exams, we hear about students committing suicides depressed over poor performances or even in anticipation of poor results. The proposed reform will help in educating the most downtrodden of the society. However, there are signs that making class X board examination optional or doing away with 10th class board examination is also going to meet with a lot of opposition and would need public debate before implementation. There are two contradicting views about it. Advocates of optional Class X board are of the view that this move will be instrumental in reducing the undue pressure on the young students. Many believe that making Class X board exam optional will rather create confusion among the students. There are a number of students who choose their stream of studies after Class X board which gets decided on the basis of their result. Making Class X board optional would confuse them. Also, it would make things complicated at +2 levels, when the difficulty level of studies changes dramatically. Moreover, Class X exam also is a kind of a preparation for the Board exam phobia that students will face further.

Replacing marks with Grades is another idea government is contemplating with for a long time which again according to many would have its own complications. The opponents of the proposal believe that the process of admission will become complicated as grades will place a lot of students in the 'same' category giving way to partiality. The eligibility for entrance exam would also be difficult to ascertain as it would be difficult to know by what percentage a student missed the opportunity. However, as in the above case, there are a lot of advantages expressed by others which relate to bringing down the stress level of the students if he/she is lagging behind fellow students by a few percent points.

We would discuss these very issues in detail on our community forum in next a few days and would be very willing to hear from our members on their views as practitioners.

Over a period of past one month we concluded discussion on the 'Notion of Teacher' as well as on the strategies to address the issues related to 'absenteeism and repetitions in Indian school system'. A number of our members participated enthusiastically. The present issue in discussion also deals with an important reason for drop out and non participation of children in the process of education and the suggestions offered by members to address the discriminatory practices are of immense value.

You would see a range of important issues related to education being discussed on the forum in coming months and your participation is always welcome to make the discussion more informative and insightful

With best wishes

[Shubhangi Sharma](#)

Resource Person, and,

[Sudakshina Mallick](#),

Research Associate,

Education Community, Solution Exchange

Member Postings

1. *Workshops & Conferences*

Upcoming

National Workshop on, 'Early Learning and Intuitive Teaching', September 3-5, 2009, New Delhi (from [Amita Tandon](#), Katha, New Delhi)

KATHA is organizing a National Workshop in collaboration with National University on Educational Planning and Administration to showcase best practices in early childhood development and innovative teaching across the world. The workshop will provide an excellent opportunity for those working in the area to come together and explore recent developments, researches and innovative work which has taken place in this field with creative Early Childhood Development experts and entrepreneurs. For more details, click [here](#).

National Conference on, 'ICTs for the differently-abled/under privileged communities in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship 2009' (NCIDEE 2009), December 1-3, 2009, Chennai (from [Sudakshina Mallick](#), Research Associate)

The management, staff and students of Loyola College will be hosting a national level conference on the use of Information and Communication Technology for the differently abled / under privileged community in education, employment and entrepreneurship. The others partners of the conference are Department of IT, Government of India and pioneers in educating differently abled and professional bodies like NASSCOM, ISOC-Chennai chapter, CSI-Chennai chapter. During the conference, discussions would be made on the ways to implement data

Community News

Open Queries and Comments

Education Community

[se-ed] Query: **Addressing discriminatory practices in schools-Experiences; Examples**
Reply by 04 August 2009. Click [here](#) to send in your reply.

From our partners

UNESCO

UNESCO has Published, 'International Guidelines on Sexuality Education.'

The publication is an evidence-based approach on effective education in relation to sex, relationships, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and sexually transmitted infection (STI). These guidelines have been developed primarily to assist education, health and other relevant authorities in the development and implementation of school-based sexuality education programmes and materials. For

mining in such a way that it includes multimedia facilities such as voice over, Globalization and ICT in the labor market, ICT applications and systems contributing to desirable goals, learning, knowledge growth and career patterns in ICT, leadership roles, human needs, skills and competencies needed for proper growth and its effects, etc. For submission of papers, write to ncideee2009@loyolacollege.edu or to rcda@loyolacollege.edu

Recently Held

National Conference on, 'Perspectives in School Education,' June 11-14, Mumbai (from [Sudakshina Mallick](#), Research Associate)

The Atomic Energy Education Society organized a National Conference on 'Perspectives in School Education' under National Initiative for School Education (NISE). Various topics such as application of technology, ethics and values, cognitive and pedagogic issues, curriculum and global educational issues were covered. More than 150 delegates including principals, vice-principals, headmasters, teachers and eminent academicians from various institutions across the country participated in the conference For details, click [here](#).

2. Miscellaneous

Admissions for Post-Graduate Studies in Ambedkar University, 2009-2010 (from [Akha Kaihrii Mao](#), Ambedkar University, New Delhi)

Ambedkar University, Delhi (AUD), set up by the Government of Delhi following an Act of the Delhi Legislature, is a unitary university with focus on research and teaching in the social sciences and the humanities. Admissions are underway for M.A. programmes in three applied areas in social sciences for the academic year, 2009-2010. For more information, click [here](#).

Social Entrepreneur of the Year Competition - India 2009 (from [Anand Kumar](#), UNDP, New Delhi)

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship provides platforms at the national, regional and global levels for leading social innovators that highlight social entrepreneurship as a key element to address social and ecological problems in an innovative, sustainable and effective way. The Foundation invites qualified candidates to apply for the Social Entrepreneur of the Year India 2009 award. For more information on selection process, criteria and benefits, click [here](#)

Post Graduate Diploma in Child Rights Law (PGDCRL) - Distance Mode, National Law School of India University, Bangalore (from [Neetu Sharma](#), Centre for Child and the Law, Bangalore)

National Law School of India University, Bangalore invites applications for one year Post Graduate Diploma in Child Rights Law (PGDCRL) - Distance Mode. The PGDCRL draws from the rich

more details, click [here](#).

World Conference on Higher Education Closes with an Appeal for Investment and Cooperation.

The UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education closed on 8 July with a call to governments to increase investment in higher education, encourage diversity and strengthen regional cooperation to serve societal needs. Over 1,000 participants from around 150 countries participated in the conference. It emphasized the need for strengthened regional cooperation in areas ranging from the recognition of qualifications, quality assurance, governance, research and innovation. For more details, click [here](#).

Unicef

New Education Institute Inaugurated in Southern Sudan

The first education institute in Southern Sudan would be located in Rumbek, capital of Lakes State. Acting as a focal centre for education excellence and specialization, the institute would deliver a number of important services, including, in-service training for professionals, technical support to the Ministry of Education, science and technology at all levels and in all educational fields. For more details, click [here](#).

insights gained by Centre for Child and the Law (CCL), a specialize Research Centre at the NLSIU, engaged in research, training, teaching, practice and policy advocacy on various issues related to children since 1996. For more information, click [here](#).

One Year Training Course in Science Journalism through Distance Mode, Indian Science Communication Society (ISCOS), Lucknow (from [M.A. Ansari](#), Indian Science Communication Society, Lucknow)

Indian Science Communication Society (ISCOS), Lucknow, in association with National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) - (Department of Science and Technology, Government of India) DST-GOI, is undertaking a training course which will produce specially trained science writers, communicators and journalists. This would enable to bridge the gap between the scientists/experts who work at the forefront of science, and the common man who enjoy the benefits of science. For more details, click [here](#).

3. Recommended Reading

Position Paper on the Right to Education Bill, 2008 by Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), Kolkata (by [Shaheen Ansari](#), Ark Foundation, Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh)

Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) believes in ensuring Right to Education through Common School System for all children between 0-18 years. Its members have explicitly stated their reservations on the Right to Education Bill in its present form. To read about their position on the Bill, click [here](#).

Quality School Education for All, (ed) Marmar Mukhopadhyay, Educational Technology and Management Academy, August 2009 (by [Marmar Mukhopadhyay](#))

The book carries papers from distinguished global academic leaders - Dr. Karan Singh (Indian Scholar-Statesman), Prof. Armaity Desai (Former Chairperson, UGC), Prof. HS Bhola (UNESCO Awardee from Indiana University), Douglas Greer (best known neo-Skinnerian psychologist from Columbia University), Craig Shealey (James Madison University), Gerald Burke and Phillip McKenzie (Monash University) and others. The entire sale proceed of the book would be dedicated to promotion of innovation and support education of the brilliant students in difficult circumstances. To obtain the book, write to, etma.india@gmail.com

4. Job Openings

Internship, Divya Deepa, Mysore (from [N.Ramkumar](#), WIPRO, Bangalore)

Divyadeepa is a Mysore based non profit organization working for the betterment of opportunity deprived children. It has been started with an aim to transform these children into self-reliant citizens of the country. The organization seeks interns to work in

the areas of fund raising, volunteer management, donor management and teaching. For more details, write to ashwin.arya@gmail.com or call 09886165220

Programme Director - India, Child Fund India (formerly CCF), Bangalore/Delhi (from [Poulomee Ghosh](#), *Third Sector Partners, Mumbai*)

ChildFund International (formerly CCF), is a dynamic global force for children, working in 31 countries. It seeks to recruit its Program Director for India who would provide strategic leadership, develop and strengthen quality grants portfolio and build partnerships and networks with a range of stakeholders. For more details, click [here](#)

Project Coordinator for Samajshala project in Marathwada region, Oxfam India, Maharashtra (from [Mayuree Pandit](#), *Oxfam India, Mumbai*)

Oxfam India seeks candidates for the position of Project Coordinator for Samajshala project in Marathwada region to ensure effective monitoring and coordination of Samajshala programme among the 6 partner organisations in Marathwada. The job involves coordination with project partners, community members, government officials, education experts and other key stakeholders for efficient and effective coordination of Samajshala programme. For more details, click [here](#).

Teacher Trainer, Destiny Education, Thane, Maharashtra (from [Joy Townsend](#), *Destiny Education, Thane*)

Destiny Education works to facilitate effective education through conducting training seminars and workshops for teachers, school principals, parents and other stake holders. It seeks to recruit a person for the position of teacher trainer to be involved in preparing and leading training sessions, develop quality, practical training sessions and contribute to the development of longer training courses. For more details, click [here](#).

Network Activity

Completed Queries between July 1 and July 30, 2009

[Role of Teachers in the HIV Response](#), from Shankar Chowdhury, United Nations Educational Scientific and Educational Organization, New Delhi. (Experiences).

Issued 14 July 2009 (Cross-posted with AIDS community)
Discusses the Role of Teachers in HIV Programmes while seeking advice on strengthening the HIV response through improved participation and supportive school environment

[Notion of a Teacher to Guide Teacher Education Programmes and School Improvement](#), from Rohit Dhankar, Digantar, Rajasthan. (Discussion).

Discusses aspects related to the status and role of the teacher, professional conditions at work, what the teachers need to know,

and the pathway to achieve teacher development.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue!

If you have items to feature in this News Update, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Education Community in India at se-ed@solutionexchange-un.net.in.

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