



A VISION FOR EDUCATION
A Practical Basis for Change

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“ *There is a latent push in any man which is only a search for perfection. Rightly pursued, one finds this in one’s awakening experience to one’s real nature through the atmosphere between the real teacher and the taught. Education is only an attempt towards this.* ”

SRI ADWAYANANDA (Sri K. Padmanabha Menon)
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OUR OBJECTIVE

Education can be uniquely effective in creating positive and lasting change in the world.

Our objective is to establish effective education based on the following principles:

- Creating a relationship of trust
- Connecting learning with the child’s experience
- Acknowledging the ways in which children learn and develop

These principles can be observed wherever good education is at work. They can give us a common basis beyond methodologies and pedagogies to work together for educational change. We recognize and welcome the fact that specific applications will differ in different settings, cultures or countries, but by uniting around these principles and making them the core of our work for educational change, we can achieve the outcomes that we are all looking for. The KPM Network for Education includes five organizations in India, France and the United States. Our work is grounded in a school in Kerala, India, in which these principles have been modeled for more than twenty years. The Network provides and exchanges educational solutions based on these principles by working collaboratively with individuals, schools and policy makers.

FROM PRINCIPLES TO OUTCOMES

Inherent in these principles are the outcomes we seek in education. For example, when a relationship of trust is created between teacher and child, children can develop skills in conflict resolution and teamwork by emulating the teacher's model. When learning connects with the child's experience, the seed is sown for deep understanding and systems thinking. And by acknowledging the ways in which children learn and develop—for example, that each child learns and develops in his or her own, individual way—a foundation for creativity, initiative and lifelong learning can be achieved.

We propose an education that facilitates this by nourishing the connection so obvious between the principles and the outcomes:

| Principles | Outcomes |
|---|--|
| Creating a relationship of trust | Conflict resolution, relationship building, teamwork, communicating, the ability to care |
| Connecting learning with the child's experience | Systems thinking, problem solving, deep learning |
| Acknowledging the ways in which children learn and develop | Creativity, initiative, lifelong learning, independent thinking |

At every point, such an education makes sense, whether one's attention is on building character or simply on a results-driven education, on economic opportunity and the security of a nation, or on conflict resolution and the security of the world.

IS THIS EASY TO DO?

- It is rarely easy to change our ways of thinking, especially when most of us did not receive an education in which these principles were made explicit. The KPM Network for Education offers a proven model, training packages, and resource materials toward this change.

- It is rarely easy to confront the immediate costs of change, despite the clear reductions in remedial costs that follow when one adopts an educational approach that engages and motivates students. These costs in most of our current education include high dropout rates, drug use, early pregnancy, violence, and lower productivity. We offer research to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of a truly effective education, as well as simple first steps and phased transitions.
- It is rarely easy to make changes without taking public perceptions into account. We ourselves are engaged in a public awareness initiative and are prepared to work with you in developing an awareness initiative for your own constituency.

WHY MENTION ALL OF THESE CHALLENGES?

We are committed to realistic and practical solutions that are cost-effective, tailored to individual needs. As an international network, we have twenty years of experience to share with others in finding solutions. We are grounded in action, and committed to working collaboratively, providing resources and creating scalable initiatives in partnership with those who want education to be effective.

OUR BACKGROUND

- Practicing effective education since 1987 in the model school: Sri Atmananda Memorial School, Kerala, India.
- Engaging with others, from children on the playground to leaders of NGOs to public officials
- Introducing principles and practices to clients (e.g. a school for street children in Mumbai, a school system in the Maldives, a demonstration school in Austin, Texas (USA) operated by a licensed Network organization); collaborating on analysis, ideas, and solutions.

The KPM Network for Education includes the following organizations: Atma Vidya Educational Foundation (India), KPM Institute (USA), KPM Education (France), Sri Atmananda Memorial School (India), and Sri Atmananda Memorial School (USA).

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