# EDUCATIONPIUS

**Ankur Madan** 

akshmi became a teacher to fulfil a childhood dream. She loved being in a classroom filled with energetic, curious young minds. Since she was fulfilling her passion, she thought being a teacher would be easy. In a few months, she realised how inadequately prepared she was despite her teacher training and love for the job. Teaching a class of 40 or more children from diverse social, cultural and linguistic backgrounds with varied interests and abilities, at different levels of readiness to learn, is no mean task.

This situation is not unique to Lakshmi's classroom. Across the world, not just in India, classrooms are becoming increasingly diverse and heterogeneous. That heterogeneity is a norm and not an exception is a reality that we must embrace and prepare our teachers for, if we want to provide quality education for all our children and create a truly inclusive society.

### **Under-prepared**

There is, however, growing evidence that teachers in mainstream school systems feel under-prepared with the knowledge, skills and dispositions required to work in inclusive classrooms, particularly those with children with different abilities, such as children with disabilities and gifted children. It is also well-established that teachers in mainstream classrooms are the key players in ensuring effective inclusion and that their feelings, atti-

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**Strategies** 

effectively.

While these systemic changes and recommendations are underway, it is worthwhile to understand the direction that we need to take to prepare teachers for inclusion at the pre-service and in-service levels.

competencies required to

practise inclusive education

Inclusion is a collaborative effort: While teachers are key to creating inclusive classrooms, school leaders, parents, non-teaching staff, peers and the community play an important role and they need to be sensitised and adequately prepared to play their part. Special educators can play an important role in extending support to teachers in mainstream classrooms by providing resources for teaching and assessment when needed, as opposed to taking on the primary responsibility of teaching children who face learning difficulties in segregated settings. There are no 'specialised' pedagogies that teachers need to learn to work with diverse learners. Instead, we need to focus on breaking attitudinal barriers and offering non-traditional, innovative teaching skills that can benefit all children.

Focus on differences, not deficits: It is important to recognise that differences in children's learning abilities as part of a human condition and teachers and other stakeholders need to shift their focus from a bio-medical approach that underlines a child's deficits to the sociological and psychological aspects of disability, forms of marginalisation and disadvantages. Teacher educators need to embrace inclusive teaching practices in their classrooms to teach aspiring teachers, and teachers in every classroom must be prepared to embrace the principles of inclusive pedagogy that focus on differences.

**Equipping teachers is key:** Importantly, the role of inservice teacher professional development programmes in inclusive education must be recognised. Teachers should be encouraged to attend such programmes and be nominated by their school boards and management. TE programmes must also have teaching practise components with significant opportunities to observe, interact with and teach children from diverse backgrounds. Such programmes should become opportunities for career advancement. Institutions such as universities, private entities and non-governmental organisations offering such programmes in innovative formats, such as blended or online, with flexible structures should receive due recognition and support from state governments.

Teachers like Lakshmi, who enter the teaching profession with enthusiasm and passion, must be supported with adequate skills and knowledge to meet the challenges of contemporary classrooms in India.

Views expressed are personal The writer is a faculty member at

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

post to CCRT, 15-A,

Block D, Sector 7

www.b4s.in/edge/

**Bharti Airtel** 

**Scholarship** 

**Programme** 

Bharti Airtel

Foundation.

An initiative of the

Eligibility: Open to a

citizen and resident of India enrolled in the

2024 cohort a UG or

five-year Integrated

courses in Electronics

and Communication,

Telecom, Information

Technology, Computer

Technologies at the top

Sciences, Aerospace

50 NIRF institutions

across India. Annual

sources should not

exceed ₹8.5 lakhs.

family income from all

**Reward:** Support for

tuition fee, hostel and

mess fee and a laptop.

**Application:** Online

Deadline: August 31

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

www.b4s.in/edge/

BHRSP1

Sciences, Data

and Emerging

CTSSS2

Dwarka, Delhi 110075

**Deadline:** August 31

**Prodigy Finance -GyanDhan Engineering Scholarship** An initiative from GyanDhan along with Prodigy Finance.

Eligibility: Open to Indian nationals who have completed their UG at an Indian university and have secured admission for a Master's in Engineering at an American, Canadian or British institution by September.

**Application:** Online Deadline: August 31 www.b4s.in/edge/ PFGE4

**Cultural Talent** Search Scholarship **Scheme** An initiative by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Eligibility: Open to students between 10 and 14 years who are attending a recognised

of performing arts. Monthly family income should be below ₹8,000. **Reward:** ₹3,600 per annum and a one-time

reimbursement of

**Application:** Through

school or come from a

family with a tradition

socially



help them appreciate di-

versity and cultivate em-

a broader perspective and

help people become more

pathy. Art and culture offer

aware

# Education for all

Teachers must be supported with adequate skills and knowledge to cope with the heterogeneity of modern classrooms if we are to create a truly inclusive society

tudes and apprehensions

must be addressed. There are both curricular and systemic reasons why teacher education (TE) programmes in the country have failed to prepare teachers adequately for inclusive classrooms until now. There is an urgent need for course correction in this regard.

India's commitment to inclusion received a major impetus in the form of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), while still working

on a new curriculum framework for TE, has launched the much-awaited four-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP). It remains to be seen if this programme, through its theory and teaching practice component, will be able to equip teachers with the

### Rakesh Gupta

rench impressionist Edgar Degas famously said, "Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." Art reveals new perspectives, offers insights into different worlds and cultures, and has the power to perceptions. change inroughout history, ari and culture have played crucial roles in easing tensions between nations and

fostering dialogue. Every country has a Ministry or Department of Culture, reflecting the universal recognition of culture's importance. It is widely acknowledged that no society can thrive without culture, which is the foundation of human connection and expression.

Self expression Art can be a powerful tool for students to express themselves and for parents and teachers to gain insights into their thoughts and feelings. As a tool for self-expression, art helps reduce stress and promote well-being. A student who may not be able to communicate through words

# A unifying factor Making art an integral part of the

education is essential not just for the student's well-being but that of the society at large



can use art forms to talk about their deepest feelings.

However, today, art often takes a back seat in our education system. It is treated as a luxury rather than a necessity. Many institutions lack dedicated art departments and this neglects art's vital role in nurturing creativity and fostering emotional health. The National Education

Policy (NEP) 2020 has transitioned from STEM to STEAM and incorporated A (Arts) into the curriculum to ensure that students receive a balanced and enriching educational

experience. When students participate in performing arts and cultural exchanges, they are exposed to various world views without bias. These experiences

inclusive. For art and culture to truly make a difference, they must be seamlessly in-

tegrated into the curriculum, without being perceived as an extra. This requires collaboration between schools, policymakers, cultural organisations and local artists so that art can become mainstream and students get real-world experiences.

Today, news about conflicts between nations, people and communities is an everyday affair. The only way to create a harmonious world is to appreciate our differences. Early exposure to art and culture can help us realise this vision. By making these elements a central part of their lives, students will grow into adults who can transcend boundaries, promote social change and build a more just and empathetic society.

The writer is Founder,

## Do your research

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence?

Nandini Raman

I am doing BCA but am not interested in coding. I am considering an MBA rather than MCA. Is this a good choice? Neha

Dear Neha. Switching from BCA to an MBA can be a viable and rewarding choice, especially if you are not interested in coding and prefer to focus on management and business aspects. An MBA opens up opportunities in various sectors and industries like finance, marketing, human resources, operations, consulting, and entrepreneurship and equips you with the essential management, leadership, and business skills. It offers excellent networking opportunities through seminars, workshops, internships, and corporate interactions. Finally, it can help you develop entrepreneurial skills, business acumen, and a strategic mindset to start and manage your own business or venture. You can do a general MBA or one with specialisations in Finance, Marketing, HR, Operations, Information Technology, International Business and more. These are all full-time programmes over two years. There are Executive MBA (EMBA) (one or two years) and online courses designed for working professionals that offer part-time, weekend, evening, or online classes. Research and explore various programmes, specialisations, and courses and identify the most suitable one based on your interests, career goals,

This column may help

Dear Geerthivash,

cybersecurity field to

Research and explore the

process, and deadlines to plan and prepare accordingly.

I am in the fourth year of **B.Sc. Environmental** Sciences. I want to do M.Tech. Bioengineering or any other bio-related courses. Some colleges are okay with a four-year Bachelor's programme while others are asking for an M.Sc degree. Also, I didn't do Maths in Class 12. How can I fulfil the Maths criterion? Will credits from IGNOU or SWAYAM be accepted? Soumya

Dear Soumya, You may encounter varying admission criteria across different colleges. Check the specific eligibility criteria of the institutions you want to apply to. Regarding the Maths issue, some colleges may offer remedial or bridge courses. Consider enrolling in one to fulfill that criterion. Check the specifics of the curriculum and credits that IGNOU and SWAYAM offer, ensure they are recognised by the universities you want to apply to. Gain research experience, participate in research projects, internships, workshops, and training programmes in Bioengineering, Biotechnology, and related fields to enhance your academic profile, practical skills, and research capabilities required for the M.Tech. programmes

I am a first-year ECE student, enthusiastic about cybersecurity. I aim to pursue a Master's degree in Cybersecurity in the U.K. How can I initiate my cybersecurity education and balance it effectively with my ECE

coursework? Geerthivash

understand its various domains, such as network security, information security, ethical hacking, cryptography, digital your areas of interest to tailor your education and courses, certifications, and training programmes in cybersecurity to gain foundational knowledge, fundamentals. Consider certifications like CompTIA Security+, Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), and Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP). Join communities, forums, groups, and organisations, such as Cybersecurity and Information Security (CIS), and Information Systems Security Association (ISSA), to connect with professionals, enthusiasts, and experts, participate in discussions, share knowledge, and stay updated. Identify and integrate cybersecurity concepts with ECE coursework. Create a study schedule, and allocate dedicated time slots for

forensics, and cybersecurity management. Then, identify career path. Enroll in online technical skills, and practical experience in cybersecurity cybersecurity learning and coursework. Consult and seek guidance from your professors, advisors, and cybersecurity experts to discuss your interests and aspirations and explore interdisciplinary opportunities. Research and identify reputed universities, colleges, and institutions offering a Master's

programmes in

Cybersecurity in the U.K.

courses, faculty, research

Explore the curriculum,

areas, facilities, and

universities to identify the most suitable programme based on your interests, aspirations, and preferences. Check the eligibility criteria, deadlines, procedures, course fees, scholarships. grants, assistantships, and financial aid offered by universities, government agencies, and private organisations to fund your studies in the U.K.

opportunities offered by the

I am in an IB school. Is IBDP is accepted in Indian colleges and will IBDP commerce stream get me into top management colleges? Vedha

Dear Vedha,

The IBDP is recognised and accepted by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) for admission to undergraduate programmes in Indian universities and colleges. However, the recognition and equivalency may vary across institutions. programmes, and states. You will need to specifically check the policies of the institutions you are interested in. Top management colleges such as the IIMs, Indian School of Business (ISB), Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), and others may consider IBDP scores along with other admission criteria like entrance exams, interviews, group discussions, and academic records. Shortlist reputed institutions, explore their requirements, eligibility criteria, curriculum, courses, entrance exams, faculty, and facilities to identify the most suitable one based on your interests, aspirations, and preferences.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to with the subject line Off the Edge **SAVE THE DATE** 

Admissions and

**ICRI** invites applications for its Ph.D. in Clinical Research Pharmacovigilance and Clinical Data Management programme, offered in collaboration with Sushant University.

Eligibility: Postgraduates in Life Sciences, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Biotechnology, or Microbiology. Entrance exam: January 15

https://tinyurl.com/3w29xfck

Badruka School of **Management** invites applications for its two-year, full-time residential Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) programme for 2024-26. Eligibility: A recognised

Bachelor's degree in any field; Class 10 and 12 marks from a recognised board, Valid score in CAT, GMAT, XAT, CMAT, MAT https://tinyurl.com/2s35437k

**Birmingham Dubai** invites applications for its B.Sc. Psychology programme. Scholarships are available. Eligibility: 75-80% in Class 12 board (CBSE) https://tinyurl.com/5frxyu2y

The University of

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, the U.K., invites applications for its M.Sc. Advanced Computer Science with Data Science starting in January 2025. Eligibility: Minimum second-class (2:2) Honour's degree or international equivalent in Computer Science, Maths, Physics,

Engineering or a numerate

discipline. Some programming or database experience is required. Minimum IELTS score of 6.0 (no component below 5.5). https://tinyurl.com/bddp6u9c

K12 Techno Services, in association with the Commonwealth Youth Council, Commonwealth Student Association and Global Understanding for Sustainable Development, is hosting Mekathlon 2024, an international STEM competition for students between 8 and 18 years. www.mekathlon.com

JoinDevOps has launched and online DevOps with AWS (Hindi, Tamil and Telugu) course, which integrates software development and IT system management using Amazon Web Services (AWS).

Eligibility: Freshers, CS graduates, BCA and MCA graduates looking to enter the DevOps field, https://www.joindevops.com /contant

**IIT-Kanpur** has launched SATHEE IBPS with the support of the Ministry of Education. This programme helps candidates prepare for banking exams conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS). More details at https://ibps.iitk.ac.in/

Cambridge University Press and Assessment, in collaboration with Get Set Learn, launched Young **Pioneers**, a three-stage entrepreneurship programme for students of classes 7 to 10. Visit https://www.young pioneers.in/

MAT, XAT, CMAT, GMAT, and so on. Understand the

eligibility criteria, admission

and preferences. Prepare for entrance exams like CAT,



Richa Dwivedi Saklani

s a career and college counsellor before my children entered senior school, I would wonder why parents of students were so stressed. Mothers would take leave or even quit and parents would discuss the same issues constantly: "what if we don't get any good college in India?", "are there jobs in the U.K.?", "my kid doesn't study". Our answers were always a version of "It's okay, trust the kid, be there for him/her, there are no winners or losers, many choices are great, slow and steady..."

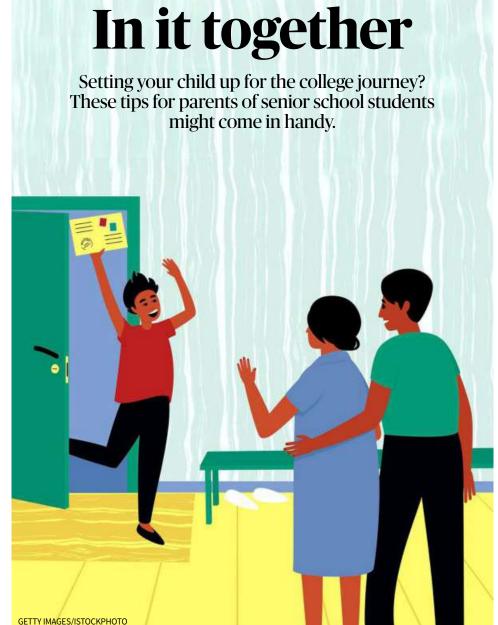
When my twins transitioned to senior school, I transformed into stressed-out mess and my appreciation and empathy for my clients exploded. Of course, this is tough. Of course, you worry. You want the best for your kid, and you are willing to do anything! So here are some tips born of experience for parents of senior-school students:

**Start the conversation in Class 9:** Prepare your

child to understand that studies will get increasingly more demanding, and that college admission requires more than school studies: test prep, extra courses, internships, selfled projects, community engagement, creative expression; or at least a few of these. This needs energy and discipline and it is good to prepare them mentally. Also, in Class 9, the child is probably still listening to you. So use the time before the inevitable "challenge-everything-parents-say" phase.

Beware of a transactional relationship: One of the biggest pitfalls of ambitious parenting is constantly talking about their goals and achievements. Nature has equipped us with the tools to tune out the repetitive drone of their parents trying to inspire, drive or control them. And your teenager will use these tools! So, spend time sharing fun activities; discuss movies, games, news, friends, shows, gossip, recipes ... anything to build a friendly bond that transcends studies, college and career chats.

Listen more: Your listening starts with asking questions like what happened at that party? Are you still friends with...?



What did you think of this film? What do you think of cancel culture? Resist sharing your own opinion or advice. As you listen and talk about things that make sense to their adolescent mind, you build trust and open a conversation where the occasional input from you makes more sense to their trusting minds.

Build success experiences: Help your children choose their goals and plan how they will get there and achieve success. However small the goal, build the success muscle through positive experiences, be it losing weight, making a team, making the student council, completing a fundraising event, or completing an internship. Apart from building profile, this encourages the child to stretch beyond his/her capacity and known dream bigger. So take on the role of being their cheerleader. Celebrate their hard work and achievements, even the small ones. But be genuine. Praise has the most impact when they believe you mean it!

Help them get organised: Senior school demands a variety of different activities; many of

stance, when do I want to take the SAT? How about the IELTS? Do I want to take on the research paper this summer or next or during term? How about that online course? Internship this year or the next? When should I travel abroad for a summer programme? They may say they can "handle everything" but they may find themselves feeling overwhelmed and either descend into panic or use the "ostrich" strategy to just ignore things. So discuss and make lists, timelines, schedules, be flexible and empower your child to shift things around to make them work.

and end dates. For in-

Reach out: Others navigating the journey with you and those who went ahead will have a wealth of ideas and information. Reach out to friends, other parents, career counsellors in school and outside to get ideas and Additionally, options. reach out for help to manage emotions and oneself too – therapists, teachers or anyone who can help bring things into perspective. Teach your child that reaching out for help is useful and not a sign of weakness so that they can do the same when you are not around.

**Encourage self-care and** 

didates must meet rigorous

balance: College applications can be overwhelming, so teach your teen some stress-busting techniques. Whether it's yoga, meditation, or just a walk in the park, encourage them to take breaks and relax. Set examples yourself, do it together with them. Most importantly, remind your teen to take care of themselves. Encourage regular meals, a good night's sleep, and some downtime.

Prepare your teen for life, not for Ivy Leagues: Not that top global colleges are not a great goal to strive for, but they are not the definition of success any more than working at Google is. A quick look at India's 40 under 40 will show students from a range of colleges across the world, not necessarily top colleges in India or abroad.

It is great to be ambitious for your child, but the critical focus needs to be on the longer term. And it is okay; trust the kid, be there for him or her, there are no winners or losers, many choices are great, slow and stea-

With inputs from Anjana Anand

The writer is Founder and CEO, Inomi Learning, a Gurugram-based career and college guidance firm.

# Breaking stigmas, protecting lives

From a school project to working to protect the lives of teenagers, Project Hifazat has come a long way

**Tanish Arora** 

s a teenager living in the world's most populous country, I was appalled when I learnt about the state of reproductive health in India. According to a UNFPA report, of the 121 million unintended pregnancies from across the world, one in seven cases are reported from India. The problem proved more complex and multidimensional when I read about the state of teenage pregnancies in the country.

### The beginning

Though my friends and I had discussed the issue, we couldn't begin to imagine how drastically the lives of these teenage mothers must have changed. So, we took up the issue of unintended pregnancies for our IGCSE Global Perspectives team assignment.

Project Hifazat has grown from being a school project to protecting the lives of teenagers and improving the state of reproductive health in the country. We work with a multitude of demographics, addressing various aspects of reproductive health, including period poverty, unintended pregnancies, cervical cancer screening, and the stigma attached to reproductive health.

We have worked extensively on both preventive and curative measures for improving reproductive health in the Mangar district of Faridabad through awareness workshops, free health camps that provide medications and professional advice, cervical cancer vaccination drives, faplanning consultations, along with screening more than 1500 individuals for cervical cancer and STDs. We have collaborated with a sanitary pads manufacturer to provide free pads and menstrual health and hy-

giene sessions in govern-

ment schools

Delhi-NCR. We recognised the need for a comprehensive education and developed a detailed sex education syllabus at the request of local educators in Mangar Village, which allows teachers and volunteers to host reproductive health awareness workshops in their communities. It features detailed lesson plans, ageappropriate content, and a variety of teaching resources. Acknowledging the rapid digital transformation in rural India, we also developed a bilingual reproductive health chatbot to provides round-theclock access to reliable reproductive health informa-

Initially we organised fundraisers in the school for this project but, of late, we have received awards that have helped us sustain the project, with the most recent being a grant of

tion and addresses queries

\$3000 from IB Global Youth Action in May 2024. In 2023, I was declared the Impact Initiative winner at the Harvard Model United Nations Conference and was given a grant of 1,50,000 for fieldwork. Pramerica Life Insurance declared us among the top 26 student-led social impact projects in India for its Emerging Visionary programme. Earlier this year, we were judged runners up at the CASTrips Global CAS Project Challenge and second runners-up at the Diamond Challenge India organised by the University of Delaware.

Going forward, we aim to conduct menstrual health workshops and sanitary pad distribution drives in over 150 government and private schools across Delhi NCR. We are planning 15 new health camps in five new rural areas, replicating our successful model in Mangar Village. Our goal is to screen and treat over 5,000 villagers for cervical cancer, STDs, and STIs, ensuring that comprehensive reproductive health services reach those who need them the most.

Growing up in the world's most populated country, I find it imperative to improve the overall quality of reproductive and sexual health across states, starting with the worst-affected strata: rural teenagers.

The writer is a student of Shiv Nadar School, Noida.

## Making money grow

Indian students aspiring to build a career in the financial sector can consider the CFP certification to increase chances of employability

Krishan Mishra

n India, the demand for qualified financial planners is on the With increasing awareness about financial literacy and the need for systematic financial planning both for individuals and corporates, the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification is highly relevant. According to the Value of Financial Planning Report 2023, CFP professionals not only help people in navigating the comof financial plexities planning but also help them work out a plan to best suit their financial aspirations and goals. For students in India aspiring to build a rewarding career



in the financial sector, obtaining the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certificaincreases their employability quotient in the global financial planning market.

### What is CFP?

The Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification represents a high standard

of competence and ethical practice and is recognised in over 27 countries, including India, Canada, the U.S., the U.K., and Australia. These professionals offer specialised services including investment planning, insurance, retirement planning, tax, and estate planning. To

earn this certification, can-

Teaching for

tomorrow

By integrating sustainability in

hospitality education, we can foster

a new generation of professionals

who are equipped to drive

meaningful practices

requirements covering specialised education, examination, relevant work experience, and adhere to a strict code of ethics.

Anyone who has passed the Class 12 exam from a recognised board and has scored minimum 50% can apply for this certification. They will have to pass three exams: Investment Planning, Retirement and Tax Planning and Risk and Estate Planning. This will be followed by the Integrated Financial Planning certification. After this, they can sit for the final CFP ex-

### Career options

From financial advisors and wealth managers, insurance consultants and investment planners, estate planners, etc., CFP professionals can pursue numerous career paths, both in service and as entrepreneurs. Potential employers include banks, fiinstitutions, nancial

consultancy firms, and cor-

porate finance departments. In recent times, CFPs have followed their passions and explored unconventional career options such as financial journalism, personal finance influencers and so on.

The comprehensive curriculum and subsequent work experience ensures that CFP professionals are adept at financial planning, mapping client expectations and adhering to regulatory compliances. The certification opens opens doors to extensive \_\_\_ networking opportunities. CFP professionals can connect with peers, mentors, and industry leaders through professional bodies and events, which facilitate continuous learning and professional growth. Moreover, ongoing education and support en sure that CFP holders remain updated with industry trends and best practices.

The writer is the CEO of Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB)

## <u>Joceline Favre-Bulle</u>

n an era marked by rapid environmental changes and growing awareness of our ecological footprint, integrating sustainability into hospitality education is a necessity. As we navigate the complexities of a world grappling with climate change, resource depletion, and social inequities, the industry must evolve to meet these challenges head-on. This evolution begins with education.

The hospitality industry is inherently interconnected with the environment. Hotels, resorts, and restaurants rely heavily on natural resources and are significant contributors to environmental impact. Thus, the sector bears a responsibility to lead in sustainability. Incorporating sustainability trends into hospitality education ensures that future industry leaders are not only aware of these responsibilities but are also equipped with the knowledge and skills to drive sustainable practices.

Sustainability in hospitality goes beyond environmental concerns; it encompasses social and economic dimensions as well. By embedding it into the curriculum, we prepare students to think holistically about their impact on the planet and society. This is crucial to develop innovative solutions that address the multi-faceted challenges facing the industry today.

### In the curriculum

To effectively integrate sustainability into hospitality education, we must include practical, hands-on experiences alongside theoretical knowledge. Here are some sustainable practices and initiatives that can be woven into the curriculum:

Energy and water conservation: Teaching students about the latest technologies and methods to reduce energy and water consumption in operations. This includes the use of energy-efficient appliances, smart thermostats, water-saving fixtures, and renewable energy sources.

Waste management: Educating students on comprehensive management practices, such as recycling, composting, and waste reduction strategies. Practical projects can include audits of waste generation and implementation of zero-

**Sustainable sourcing:** Education can cover the importance of sourcing food, beverages, and other supplies from sustainable, local, and ethical producers to reduce carbon footprint and supports local economies.

waste initiatives.

Green building and design: Integrating principles of green architecture and sustainable design into the curriculum can help students understand how to create environmentfriendly and energy-efficient spaces.

**Corporate Social Res**ponsibility (CSR): Embedding CSR principles in the curriculum teaches students about the broader social responsibilities of businesses such as fair labour practices, community engagement, and initiatives that promote social equity.

## Beyond the classroom To ensure that students

grasp the importance of sustainability, educational must go institutions beyond classroom teaching:

**Experiential learning:** Engage students in realworld projects that address sustainability challenges such as internships, field trips to sustainable businesses, and participation in sustainability-focused competitions.

Interdisciplinary ap-

proach: Integrating subjects like Environmental Science, Economics, and Social Studies into hospitality education helps students understand the broader context sustainability.

**Guest lectures:** Inviting industry experts to speak on sustainability can provide students with insights from professionals who are leading the way.

Research and innovation: Encourage students to research sustainability issues within the hospitality industry and provide a platform to present their findings too foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning.

Community engagement: Involving students in community service projects can help them see the tangible impacts of their efforts and reinforce the importance of sustainability in their professional and personal lives.

Integrating sustainability into hospitality education is imperative to develop responsible and forward-thinking leaders in the industry. As educators and leaders, it is our responsibility to instill these values and skills in our students to ensure a more sustainable future for the industry.

The writer is Director of Integrated Services, Innovation and Institutional Relations, Les Roches