

Alternative education for social and political change

Sambhaavnaa Institute and Adharshilla Learning Centre

8th to 10th November, 2014

Kandwari, Himachal Pradesh

There are a lot of expectations from the education system, teacher and children ranging from teaching / learning to read and write to nation and character building. Many times, most of us involved in the daily grind of schools don't get the time to think about the larger issues of education due to the need to focus on the immediate day to day needs of the school. This workshop will give the participants an opportunity to think about education in the larger context. It will also give an opportunity to understand and learn from each other's experiences. The objective of the workshop is to engage young practitioners in the field of education in discussions on the various related themes to develop a holistic picture of the education scenario in India. (it can be optional)

What would be the main themes?

- Aims of education, questions of pedagogy, in the social and geographical context of children, and inculcating new values.
- Consequences of privatization of education on various sections of society.
- Tyranny of the school: Structure, curriculum, Pedagogy, hidden agenda of schooling, promote hierarchy; religious and cultural homogenisation; mainstream ideas
- Examples and possibilities of interventions – Challenges and experiences in Alternative Education

Why this workshop?

We have attempted to put down some thoughts which are in no way exhaustive but will give a broad idea of what we are thinking. In the present economic scenario it is increasingly becoming clear that most children from marginalised communities or those belonging to landless/small or marginal farmers will form the bulk of the labour market. They are finding themselves alienated from farming land, forests, rivers and or any other natural resource that traditionally provided livelihoods to their communities. The whole focus on competition and mastering a given syllabus and the culture of individual success alienates the urban child also from society at large and dulls her/his thinking capabilities. So what is the role of education in this scenario? Just skilling to fit the lower level service sector of the economy and non thinking middle level workers or something more like thinking about alternatives to strengthen local economies too? Or to really try and develop the talent and possibilities hidden in different children? Many people, organisations, communities, all over the country are struggling to challenge the current development paradigm by stressing on the local and asserting control over resources as well as knowledge. We have also seen people challenging existing social relations based on caste and patriarchy. So we have to figure out what role education can play in developing progressive attitudes and aiding people's aspirations for change.

Do we see any role of education in preparing the children and their parents for these changing and often clashing cultural values? Another challenge of educators is to create citizens by ingraining the values and habits of thinking and behaviour aspired to by the constitution – democracy, secularism, equality and so on. So what could be the ways in which the school curriculum could contribute to develop the understanding and commitment to these constitutional ideals?

Who can participate?

Young practitioners in the field of education wanting to build their perspective and evolve a framework for alternative education for social and political change.

When is the workshop?

8th to 10th November, 2014

Resource Persons:

- Adharshila Learning Centre, Dist. Barwani, MP,
- Anand Niketan, Bhopal, MP
- Nai Taleem Sangh, Sewagram.

How to register?

You can register online by filling this application form below.

The last date for receiving applications is 1st October, 2014

Where?

Sambhaavna Institute, Kandwari, Himachal Pradesh

What about the costs?

Sambhaavnaa Institute hopes that those who are able to would pay for the lodging and boarding costs at Sambhaavnaa. The total cost to Sambhaavnaa for the three day workshop per participant comes to 2600/- .

Need-based financial assistance is available. Do not let your inability to pay, be the reason for not applying!(You can select options for full or partial fee waiver in the online application form.)

For more information contact:

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Application Form