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ICSSR SPONSORED TWO - DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

DESIGNING THE 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM

Book 12

PCERP Seminar Proceedings

9th & 10th April, 2017

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शालेय जीवनात नागरिकशास्त्राचा अभ्यास करताना वदयार्थ्यांकडून स्वतःतील व सभोवतालातील बदलांची नोंद घेणे व त्यानुसार जबाबदार नागरिक घड वण्याचा प्रयत्न करणे – एक उपक्रम.....204

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PREFACE

As Nelson Mandela rightly said *"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world"*

Are we using this weapon for changing the world? At this juncture, we have the 19th century curriculum with the 20th century teaching strategies and teaching methods and the21st century learners facing an undefined future. But now we need to ask ourselves, do we mere consider education as a tool of survival, assurance of well settled life. Its high time to think about education as a way of living which should make all mankind happy, successful, qualitative and meaningful.

We need to prepare students for THEIR future not OUR past.

To face the 21st century challenges, education must equip young people with the capacity to think, solve problems and respond to, and thrive within a changing society. So a curriculum that prepares students for life and work in the 21st century should have an emphasis on deep understandings of subject matter, and the ability to apply what is learnt, the ability to communicate and solve problems in teams, the ability to think critically, and to create novel solutions and flexibility, openness to change and a willingness to learn continually.

As Jean Piaget rightly said *"The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create men who are capable of doing new things".*

In order to make it possible, the 21st century classrooms must begin with the design of the learning environment, including the physical environment, the social/emotional environment and the academic environment, powered by various curriculum approaches, instructional strategies, evaluation techniques and instructional support.

In this era where digital natives utilize the power of modern technology to learn anything, anytime, anywhere, the classrooms should no longer be necessarily defined by rigid walls. Rather, classrooms should blend the virtual with the physical into a truly engaging and collaborative educational experience, by creating the virtual learning environment through collaborative learning and social learning.

Educating the mind without educating the heart, is no education at all – Aristotle
Should young people become educated to get prepared to enter the workforce, or should the purpose of education be focused more on social, academic, cultural and intellectual development so that students can grow up to be engaged citizens.

As the world continues to become more interconnected, learners should recognize their role as local, national and global citizens and be open to participate in a democratic process. It demands a broader vision to make learners to be informed and responsible participants in a society.

Having said that, we must also realize that in order to embrace the change, many beautiful philosophies and practices are being left behind. Is that really the only way forward? Can we really not afford to take a pause and review the past, and take what is valuable and relevant. And find a way to integrate it with the present to blossom a beautiful future.

Real education should educate us out of self into something far finer into a selflessness which links us with all humanity.- Nancy Aster

So the ultimate goal of the 21st century learning should be '*Sarve sukhin bhavantu*'

April 2017

Dr. Geeta R Thakur