EDUCATION RE-EXAMINED

FIRING GANDHI NEURONS

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UNESCO CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTER 8TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

REDISCOVERING EMPATHY: VALUES, RELATIONSHIPS AND PRACTISE IN A CHANGING WORLD

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

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The Present Mindset of our Future generations: Do we have a Problem?

- Object to allowing beef consumption: 46%
- Agree that wife should always listen to husbands: 51%
- Do not approve of live-in relationships: 67%
- Feel people have become less tolerant of other's views: 53%
- Opposed to inter-religious marriages: 45%

The CSDS-KAS Youth Survey 2016 was conducted in 19 States of the country among 6,122 respondents in the age group of 15-34 years.
Inside the mind of the young

15 Cities | 5,000+ respondents | 15-24 years

50%

ONLY SUPERMAN CAN NOW SAVE INDIA

64%

LOW ON OPTIMISM AND ON HOPE THAT SOMETHING GOOD WILL HAPPEN TO THE COUNTRY SOON

The HT-MaRS Youth Survey was conducted in 2016 in India covering 5,200 respondents from 15 states, equally divided among men and women, half of them in the age group of 18-21 and the other half in 22 – 25.
Results of UNESCO MGIEP’s YOUth Speak survey

1,526 respondents | 126 countries

No correlation between peace education and empathy

No exposure to peace education

Moderate exposure to peace education

High exposure to peace education
Results of UNESCO MGIEP’s YOUth Speak survey

1,526 respondents | 126 countries

Some survey statements

“Some people in this world should have more opportunities than others”

“In times of insecurity (situations of conflict), it is sometimes necessary to use force against others to maintain law and order”

“Fixed gender roles of men and women bring stability to society”
PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM:

WE VALUE WHAT WE MEASURE – AND GDP IS WHAT WE MEASURE AND VALUE!

Driven by a very utilitarian system. Building Human capital is key objective and contributes to GDP – We value what we can measure!

Popularized by Gary Becker, an economist from the University of Chicago, Nobel Prize in 1992 refers to the stock of knowledge, habits, social and personality attributes, including creativity, embodied in the ability to perform labor so as to produce economic value.
KEY FEATURES OF PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM

▪ BANKING STYLE EDUCATION

▪ THE FACTORY STYLE PRODUCTION OF STUDENTS

▪ THE SELF

▪ COMPETIVENESS

▪ DOMINATION
Are Our Present education systems *predator training* Camps

- Literacy
- Numeracy
GOOD NEWS

• THE HUMAN BRAIN IS A SOCIAL BRAIN

• HUMANS ARE WIRED FOR EMPATHY

• IRRESPECTIVE OF EXPOSURE TO EDUCATION FOR PEACE ETC, INDIVIDUALS DEMONSTRATED SOME LEVEL OF EMPATHY FOR OTHERS.
Some Definitions

Mindfulness: Paying attention to the now, understanding one’s own thoughts and feelings without judging them. UNDERSTANDING ONESELF

Empathy: is the capacity to understand or feel what another person is experiencing from within the other person's frame of reference, i.e., the capacity to place oneself in another's position. UNDERSTANDING THE OTHER

Compassion: Motivates people to go out of their way to help the physical, spiritual, or emotional hurts and pains of another: ACTION – DOING

Critical Inquiry: Process of gathering and evaluating information, ideas, and assumptions from multiple perspectives to produce well-reasoned analysis and understanding, and leading to new ideas, applications and questions. CURIOUS – PROBING -LEARNING
Mindfulness/Attention Network

- Right Inferior Parietal
- Right Superior Temporal Gyrus
- Precentral gyrus
- Supplementary motor cortex
Mindfulness/Attention Network

- Supplementary motor cortex
- Right Superior Temporal Gyrus
- Left Superior Temporal Gyrus
- Precentral gyrus
- Right Inferior Parietal
- Left Inferior Parietal
- Right Superior Temporal Gyrus
- Right Inferior Parietal
Empathy Network

- Left Operculum
- Left Insula
- Dorsolateral Pre Frontal Cortex
- Right Operculum
- Right Insula
Empathy Network

- Left Operculum
- Right Operculum
- Left and Right Insula
- Basal Ganglia
- Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex
Compassion Network

- Left Insula
- Left and Right Cingulate
- Medial Orbito Frontal Cortex
- Right Insula
Compassion Network

- Left and Right Cingulate
- Left and Right Insula
- Medial Orbito Frontal Cortex
Critical Enquiry Network

- Left ventral temporal cortex
- Left Insula
- Right ventral temporal cortex
- Right Insula
- DorsoLateral Prefrontal Cortex
The LIBRE Brain Network

- **Yellow** – Combined network
- **Green** – Compassion only
- **Violet** – Empathy Only
- **Blue** – Mindfulness/Attention Only
- **Red** – Critical Enquiry Only
Key Findings from latest neuroscience research (Singer 2015)

1. Mindfulness does not have any impact on E-C rating and Perspective scale

2. Perspective training increases behavioral performance in Perspective taking but little impact on E-C rating.

3. Compassion training increases behavioral performances in compassion rating and slight increase in behavioral performance in perspective taking
The LIBRE programme
firing our Gandhi Neurons!
The Future School
Take home messages

➢ The human capital approach to education has outlived its usefulness

➢ The inclusion of life skills such as mindfulness, empathy, compassion and critical inquiry is key to improving wellbeing

➢ A whole brain approach is needed whereby rational intelligence and emotional intelligence are built simultaneously
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