



Shifting Paradigms in Education

*Knowledge is not power, knowing a concept is only potential value.
The execution of knowledge is where the power lies. ~ Tony Robbins*

India's education sector has witnessed a **tectonic shift** with the two years of the pandemic having paved the way towards **newer possibilities and innovative dimensions in learning**. The reforms in the education sector are essentially concomitant of the changing nature of the Indian state and its conceptualization of development. The conventional notion that development is only a consequence of growth is now negated. Rather, it establishes the fact that **development is an essential pace keeper for growth**.



We live in an era in the history of nations when there is greater need than ever for co-ordinated action and responsibility for the future citizens. Post a marked retreat from social concerns, the pressing priority in education is to arm individuals with the **'execution of knowledge'**. It is informed citizenry which forms the base for the development of any society.

As the torchbearers of the education sector, we need to encourage students to **collectively explore as well as exploit** their cognitive and creative aptitudes. It is astute to take forward the exciting vision of **'Sustainable Development Goals' in education (SDG 4)** designed by the United Nations General Assembly. It provides an interdisciplinary and learner-centred way to empower students to advance with a pro-social and environmental agenda in schools, communities and personal lives.

My message to the educators has always been to spark the children's imaginations by following the **dictum of guiding students** to work out a problem rather than giving the answers. This will prompt them to think -- and as independent learners, they will explore their interests as we empower them to take charge of their learning and their life.

As quoted by John Dewey, 'If we **teach today** as we taught **yesterday**, we rob our children of **tomorrow**'. Therefore, the understanding of holistic, dynamic mechanisms is the need of the hour. By integrating these approaches, educators can generate an educational atmosphere that is **engaging, challenging and responsive** to the needs and abilities of each student and help students to develop the skills and knowledge they need in the 21st century.

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