



Musings From a Teacher's Ink November 2019

TEACHER TRAVELOGUE II - LIGER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Teacher Ink visited the Liger Leadership Academy in Phnom Pehn Cambodia with a group of educators as a part of the 2nd trip of Teacher Travelogue on 21st and 22nd Nov'19. In our continued effort to expose teachers to alternative learning spaces, this visit to "Liger" provided the right kind of exposure to the visiting educators when they were able to meet and interact with the learners and teachers of the academy. The "Sharation" (a public exhibition of the projects designed and curated by the students of Liger) provided the visiting members a glimpse of the teaching learning that happens at Liger.

Liger Leadership Academy at Phnom Penh, Cambodia, is much more than a school. It is an experiential platform where students follow an innovative educational model – a thoughtful blend of essential curriculum and unique hands-on projects focused on real-life problems.

The school has produced authors, app and digital currency developers, regionally recognized robotics engineers, and national award-winning filmmakers – all by the age of 18.

The dedication and efforts of teachers, learners, administrators and the school management calls for a second visit to this unique school.



COLLABORATION WITH UNNATI LIBRARY, YAMARE, SARJAPUR ROAD

Teacher Ink has collaborated with "Unnati Library", to start Jolly Phonics program for children aged 4 – 7 years.

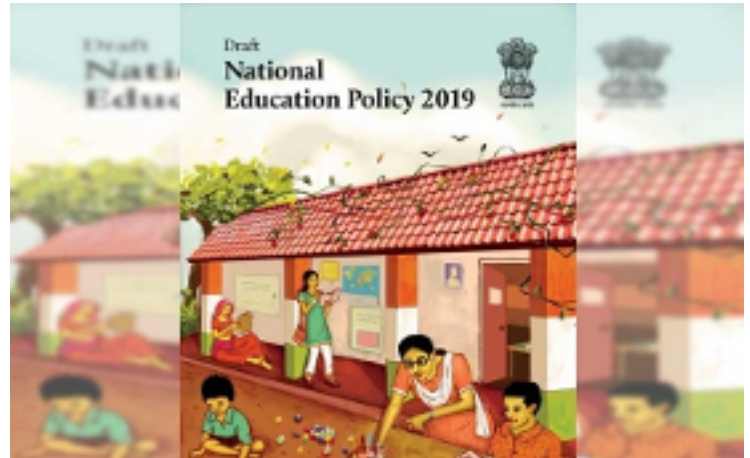
It has been a very fruitful association where young minds have come together to learn the letter sounds, blending and segmenting of letters. The enthusiasm and energy of the young learners is infectious to the point of encouraging their parents to join in too!

This program is also customizable for Parents and Teachers.



The final draft of the National Education Policy 2019, proposed recently by the National Education Commission, promises to bring about sweeping reforms in the education sector in India within a span of a decade. Putting to rest the political controversy sparked off in May over alleged greater emphasis on the Hindi language, the final draft reaffirms its commitment to multi-linguism with greater flexibility "within the three-language policy".

The 50-page draft revised by the Kasturirangan Committee also proposes Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog to be headed by the HRD minister along with eminent academics and experts from India and abroad, comprising 2/3 rd of its members. It also advocates better engagement with the private sector and integration of professional education with the existing education system.



An approval by the Cabinet would also mean that by 2022 board exams would be semesterised to take pressure off students. The goal is to get the education sector to focus on analytical and critical thinking and conceptual clarity rather than a mere test of memory.

In a few years, almost 70% of questions in the board exams would heavily depend on innovation and creativity of the student, only 30% would be drawn directly from the textbooks.

The policy also sets a target to provide foundational literacy/numeracy to all by 2025 and a 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio for all schools by 2030. However, there is not much clarity on the feasibility of increase in public spending on education.

Key points of NEP 2019

- New curricular and pedagogical structure
- Focus on teacher training
- Equitable and inclusive education for all
- Focus on under-represented groups
- Consolidation and greater autonomy to higher educational institutions

Passionate about bridging the gap between mental health and school education, our teacher of the month Aishwarya has been with Pramiti School since 2018 and loves to work with children with special needs. Early in her career, a few internships made her realise that most mainstream schools have a long way to go in recognising the need of mental health guidance in today's increasingly stressful learning environments. She felt that as a counseling psychology postgraduate she could be instrumental not only in touching the lives of budding learners but also in making an impact in a field seldom accorded its rightful place in the education sector .

Here are excerpts from a one-on-one with Aishwarya about her foray into education and her aspirations:

How did you become an elementary school teacher ?

I remember I wanted to become an educator since I was just 12 years old. I completed my Masters in Counseling and Psychology and turned towards school counseling as the next step towards realising the dream of working with children.

What are the challenges you faced initially as a teacher?

In August, last year, I was given independent charge of a class of 18 second-graders in Pramiti. The first few days, I was nervous and there were a few hiccups. Some of the children didn't seem to be taking well to the English lessons (which I particularly enjoy a lot). But soon enough I got into the rhythm and my consistent efforts are paying off now.

What is your typical day like?

The first half of a school day just flies by - mostly circle time and classes. Post-lunch, the routine is more relaxed and creative with work on projects , presentations and journal-writing. I try and finish my school tasks during work hours itself.

What was your defining moment in your career as a teacher?

Not one, I have two! The first was when the same set of children who were hesitant with their language skills went on to curate an amazing travel book. The second was when a student with whom I feel a strong connect, trusted to confide in me about some emotional issues he needed help in coping with. I was touched when he came back to say it had a calming effect on him.

How do you keep yourself updated professionally?

I have regular interactions with my peers and my circle of close friends who are also in the field of mental health and education. I also read education-related news, research articles and follow online feeds and posts of educators and teaching groups.



TEACHER Feature

Ms. Aishwarya

**Elementary teacher, Pramiti
School**

Titbits from a teacher...

Favorite food... It has to be Dosa!

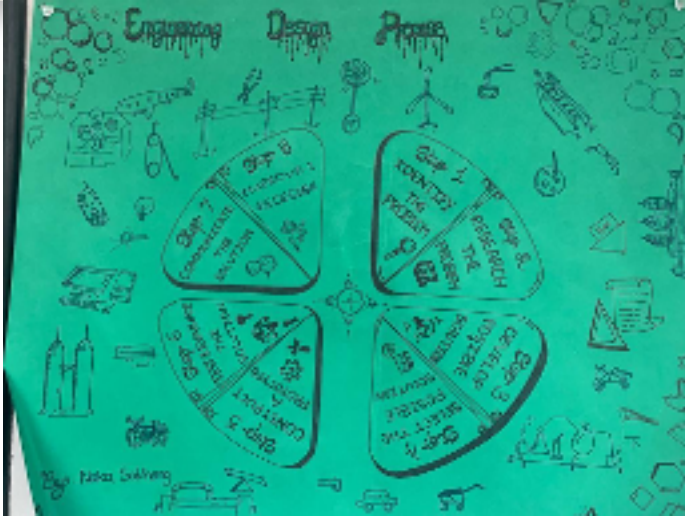
Favorite pastime...Drawing...

Favorite quote... "Don't be sad that it is over but be happy that it happened"

Favorite role models....My mum and my grandfather

My stress buster... Mostly it is drawing and listening to music as my cat doesn't give me as much attention as I want it to (laughs)....

My Life Mantra... I always remind myself that lows are temporary....just a passing phase. And they have taught me a lot in the past and I have only emerged stronger after tough times... The second mantra is never to have regrets because regrets only pulls one down and reminds one of the negative side of things.



UPCOMING EVENTS @ TEACHER INK

Teacher Dialogue Series: Once a month event

A gathering of educators to voice their views and share best practices and just to hang out with like-minded people. We are here to have dialogue for change!

Teacher Travelogue III : Coming Soon in Summer 2020!

An absolutely unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit most progressive and alternative learning spaces in India and abroad. Keep watching this space for more!

The Personal Mentor: Throughout the year

Teachers who wish to master specific skills in classroom practice now have an opportunity to choose what they wish to learn through the Personal Mentor Program.

For details on each of the programs contact:

teacherink2015@gmail.com

9538570114 (Ms. Susmita Shroff)

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Share best practices through your reflective articles:

Many of you do extraordinary things in the classroom. We would like the teaching community to hear your success stories in a reflective first person narrative. Write to us today.

Teacher Feature:

Teachers are unsung heroes. And there is a lot you have contributed in your own small or big ways to your own school community. We would love to feature you as the star teacher in this section. Call or write to us to be seen and

heard.

Advertise your school or product or service:

'Musings from a Teacher's Ink' is an endeavour to bring more and more teachers to the limelight – to be seen and heard. A lot of time and effort goes into bringing this newsletter to life.

You can advertise your school or an educational product or service for a reasonable cost. Your contribution will give you visibility and help us access quality resources for the teachers.

LAST WORD...



Inviting feedback

Dear Teachers..

Let us know what you would like featured in this newsletter.

We also seek and welcome your feedback on this endeavor. We will try and select a few compelling feedback in this section in our next feature.

You may send your feedback, insights, ideas, reflections through our Facebook page – Terrific Teachers' Turf or WhatsApp us on 9916038106

You may even send the same via email – teacherink2015@gmail.com