

# A New Approach to Education

Besides the work with children and young students, a growing part of the Centre's work is with school teachers and teacher-students. It is our endeavour to introduce the concepts of Integral Education into the mainstream, and explore a variety of formats for their actualisation in diverse learning situations – in order to equip the teachers with tools to tap into their own inner strength, to gain a deeper insight into the child's being, and to prepare him/her for a life of self-mastery and excellence.

The steps we have taken in this direction are the following:

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS WITH TEACHER-STUDENTS:** Since last year, the Centre began a series of experiential sessions on 'Fear, Trust, Competition and Cooperation', 'Awareness of Self', 'How to Bring Up a Child', 'Creativity', with the BEIEd (Bachelors of Elementary Education) students of Jesus & Mary college, Swami Vivekananda college and Gargi college. The work continues this year with fresh batches of students, as well as a few other colleges. Each session invites the teacher-students to discover the key to the application of child-centred approaches in the teacher-centred paradigm which will confront them when they join schools as teachers.



*Playing a trust game: 'Golem'  
(Teacher-students from Vivekananda college)*

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION WORKSHOP WITH SCHOOL TEACHERS:** Recently begun, and on the threshold of expansion. The Centre held a one-day workshop for the teachers of Sardar Patel vidyalaya, who (along with the school principal) opted for a day long focus on Self-development, rather than teaching methodology or theories. Such is the shift that has come about in certain educational circles – an openness to explore other options, in an endeavour to enhance the quality of one's life and work.

## RESPONSES AT THE END OF A WORKSHOP WITH TEACHERS

*How could I integrate my learning here in my day-to-day life and my work with children, as a teacher.....*

- 'To look within more often. To help children look within too.'
- 'I am not interested in the portion I am teaching.. I would like to develop it so that my disinterest in the subject doesn't permeate to them [the students].'
- 'I would burn the defects and try to use the qualities I have in improving the quality of education.'
- 'Allow more peace and quietude within myself, and thereby develop the capacity to listen to them.'
- 'When I enter the class-room next, I am going to be looking at each one of them as thinking individuals and not as a nameless, faceless crowd.'
- 'Be more receptive to their requirements. Be more patient and wait for the spark we light to become a flame.'

Source: Feedback forms of the Sardar Patel vidyalaya teachers

**TALKS ON THE THEME OF A NEW APPROACH TO EDUCATION:** The most recent talk was on: 'Five Elements of Education' (speaker: Sraddhalu Ranade), at Central Institute of Education. At Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Ameeta Mehra spoke to Central School principals on 'The Future of Education'.

*"The school must be an occasion of progress for the teacher as well as for the student. Each must have the freedom to develop himself freely. One never applies a method well unless one has discovered it oneself.*

*Otherwise it is as boring for the teacher as for the student."*

The Mother