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## **INTRODUCTION TO NEEV VIDYALAYA (SCHOOL) PHILOSOPHY**

'Once upon a time', as the old adage goes, the ultimate aim of education was to help students find Truth or God or Ultimate Reality. The teachers of the resplendent ages of antiquity lived beyond all laws of society for they were the law givers. They were seers who heard the divine word and passed it on to society so that it could function in an integral harmony. The Indians called this Rta/Dharma, the Greeks called it Kosmos. The teachers were lights, fonts of wisdom, who lived a life of voluntary simplicity and exemplified the laws they propounded through their illustrious, yet spartan, lives. They were the torch bearers of civilization. Kings bowed to them, students venerated them and the householder sought him out for solutions to their mundane life problems.

But as centuries rolled on, the lights died out. Society lost its poets, philosophers, wise men and law givers who functioned by hearing the divine word. The 'onward' march of science dethroned the soul and spirit and enthroned the intellect as the legislator of human affairs. Gone was the impeccable and mysterious order of Rta/Dharma/Kosmos. The world was flattened; reduced to a swirl of chaotically dancing molecules. The sacred, which gave meaning to life, a sense of belongingness, order and direction to the world was reduced to scientific materialism - a dance of atoms. From a divine, upholding order, man created a Godless universe of disorder; a random, blind, meaningless, directionless whirl of events starting from nowhere and leading to nowhere. Thus began the story of estrangement of man and God, man and nature and man and man. This is because the intellect is not an integral consciousness. It works only in duality, by breaking things into opposites. Unlike the Spirit which works with the whole, from the whole and for the whole, the intellect works only after it has

broken the whole into kaleidoscope of conflicting parts, vainly attempting to discover the whole by piecing together the broken parts.

The present society and education governed by the intellect is fragmented, divisive and ridden with conflict. Absolute truth is replaced by relativism, denying all absolutes, dissolving all norms and standards, leading to the total undermining of the idea of truth. Man is estranged and bewildered because his life seems to him empty and meaningless, he cannot get what he is seeking by studying any of the natural sciences, i.e by acquiring 'know-how'. The study has its own value and tells him a great deal about how things work in nature or engineering; but it tells him nothing about the meaning of life and can in no way cure his estrangement and despair. Driven by the intellect, man remains a mass of manifold urges, impulses and desires that swirl in him as chaotically as the atoms of his science.

The school and the teacher is a cog in this giant and Godless universe, appendages which function according to syllabus and curriculum mandated by powerful nation states. Far from being the law givers, the fonts of wisdom and lights of society; schools and teachers today serve a vast industrial machine meant to turn out uncritical, unthinking human beings who never learn to question society. On the contrary compliance is rewarded and questioning is met with unabashed disdain. The schools and teachers, through their fee structures foster class distinctions, competition, ambition and blindness to all forms of social injustice, environmental degradation and abject poverty. What matters is success, grades, degrees and social mobility.

At NEEV Vidyalaya, we are trying to foster Davids who shall battle these Goliath norms of society. Education at NEEV is not merely about training children for a livelihood. It is a preparation for life, an attempt to inspire humans who shall go beyond the intellect and bring the sacred back to the world. As the saying in the picture above says, NEEV Vidyalaya is not about churning out more mirrors in society but to create windows who shall bring the light to bear on the dark corners of society.

So, I am not appealing to you 'to help poor children get an education'. No, we are talking about something entirely different here. This is not charity. It is too petty. This is a call for all people who see what I see, who want to change what they see, and who take this transformation as the most serious business of their lives. If you do, join the revolution, and help NEEV Vidyalaya in it's mission by sponsoring a child at NEEV or by just simply making a donation to our NEEV Vidyalaya Infrastructure Development Fund.

### **ABOUT NEEV VIDYALAYA (SCHOOL)**

NEEV School was founded in the year 2006 with the aim of providing [Integral Education](#). It is an NIOS ([National Institute of Open Schooling](#)) based English medium School providing education to underprivileged sections of society at an affordable cost. The school, with the aid of sponsorship through the NEEV Rural Kids Sponsorship Scheme, has been helping kids from rural areas by providing them with a holistic, integral education that not only equips them with academic credentials but more importantly fosters a harmonious development of body, mind and heart resulting in the flowering of compassionate intelligence.

The School is situated in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand - India

### **WHY THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM?**

In Jharkhand the situation with respect to education is grim, particularly with respect to females. In

East Singhbhum district where NEEV operates, the average literacy rate for girls is mere 47%.

The sponsorship program aims in equipping children of the deprived sections of society, who are inherently talented and yet fail to realize their true potentials in the long run. The sponsorship program is once in a lifetime opportunity for these children to come out of the degrading circle of poverty and illiteracy, which shall affect generations.

But the biggest reason for supporting NEEV School would be to create a space for [Integral Education](#). The true purpose of education is to bring about freedom, love, “the flowering of goodness” and the complete transformation of society. The intentions of most schools, on the other hand emphasise preparing young people to succeed materially in the society that exists (or a slightly altered one).

### **NEEV’S INTERVENTIONS IN EDUCATION**

NEEV started a school in Govindpur in the year 2006 with the aim of “Providing quality and value based English medium education to children belonging to the deprived sections of society”

NEEV, a registered Non-Profit organization took over the management of an old and dying school in the semi-urban locality of Govindpur, Jamshedpur and started imparting English medium education to about 50 children. Today there are about 140 children studying in NEEV school.

NEEV is perhaps one of the few organizations – the only one in Jamshedpur at least – to provide an English Medium Education to marginalized children.

NEEV provides a holistic education experience to children that is not just aimed at literacy and academic progress but also the development of mind, body and heart, with very limited resources.

**OTHER DETAILS OF OUR SCHOOL CAN BE FOUND AT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.neevschool.weebly.com](http://www.neevschool.weebly.com)**