

OUR AIM IS TO TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH THE VIRTUES OF MODERN EDUCATION

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Nikhil Channa, President, Child Education Society talks about the Society's vision and how it has enabled cognitive, socio-emotional, physiological and spiritual growth of students.

What was the aim and vision with which the foundation stone of Child Education Society was laid?

Child Education Society (CES) was constituted in the year 1944 with the mission of providing quality education at affordable cost. Bal Bharati Public Schools, under the aegis of CES, were set up with the intention to cater the burgeoning needs of the nation and to preserve the illustrious legacy of Indian history, culture and civilization. Today, 27 Bal Bharati Public Schools are value driven institutions where core values of excellence, knowledge, wisdom, teamwork, sensitivity to environment, patience, respect, perseverance, and empathy are internalized and inculcated in day-to-day functioning.

What is the educational philosophy followed in the institutions of the CES?

Child Education Society is committed to nurture and groom human beings into responsible citizens and future leaders to spearhead the cause of progressive education

that inculcates modern values with cultural rootedness. We strive to augment physical, intellectual, social, moral and emotional development of children and foster a positive, empathetic and compassionate outlook.

Modern education demands consistent revamping and re-imagination of existing pedagogies. What innovative practices have been adopted by the schools to cater to the demands of the contemporary world?

We provide a congenial and supportive environment with ergonomically designed infrastructure in our schools, which is conducive to the promulgation of various innovative pedagogies. Upholding the ideals ‘Learning by Doing’, children are taught through the play-way method, aiding their fine motor, intellectual and social development skills. At the higher levels, innovative teaching methodologies such as experiential, interdisciplinary and project-based learning foster holistic education along with strengthening thinking skills.

School education encompasses an allround development of personalities. How do schools facilitate holistic education for children?

CES is committed towards facilitating the cognitive, socio-emotional, physiological and spiritual growth of students. Learners are encouraged to take up Arts, Craft, Theatre, Music, Dance, Writing, Oration and Sports. Through field visits, experimentation and individual research-based activities, students can delve deeply into a subject and find real life connections. Additionally, teaching aids such as realia, audio-visual media, music and art tools are utilized to promote multiple intelligences and art integrated learning.

The pandemic has transformed the dimensions of education with the introduction of virtually enabled teachinglearning practices. How do schools keep pace with changing technology?

We believe, “A teacher can never truly teach, unless she is learning herself”. At CES, we recognise the need for effective, result oriented teacher training programs for ongoing quality improvement and enhancement of professional competency. As the world is undergoing rapid transformational changes, teacher training programs are developed to equip teachers with technology driven 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, creative thinking and collaboration. Continuous training initiatives have been undertaken and teachers are at ease using tools such as Kahoot, Mentimeter, Flipgrid, Padlet, Sway, Google Collab, Jam Board combined with Interactive Panels, Internet enabled campus, Digital Libraries, Virtual Labs to make learning an interesting and engaging enterprise.

How does Sports, as a developmental and professional field, find a space in education? What opportunities do you envisage for budding sports persons?

Late Sh L.R. Channa, erstwhile President CES, was a great proponent of sports. Being a Ranji Trophy player himself, he believed that Sports & Games lay the foundation of physical fitness, engender emotional development of students, instill values and teach essential life skills such as nurturing responsibility, leadership, collaboration and

interpersonal relationships. Under his mentorship, an avantgarde infrastructure for sports has been provided to students for games such as basketball, judo, cricket, rope skipping, chess, table tennis, cricket, softball, volleyball, gymnastics, swimming, athletics, archery, tennis etc. Minimum Physical Fitness Programme is followed in all Bal Bharati Public Schools, which has also helped nurture scores of sports persons. Meticulously trained by experienced coaches, students have been winning laurels for the schools and have blossomed into international and national players of repute, bringing glory to the nation. We fully recognise that with sports as a profession gaining recognition and momentum all over the world, the possibilities for budding sports persons are endless and our schools are committed to this cause.

There is a focus on value-based education now. How do you inculcate the finer values of empathy, compassion and sense of responsibility for the community in children?

Our schools aim to mould children into responsible citizens who with compassion, empathy, courage and wisdom use the power vested in them judiciously, steering clear of the quick sand of greed and myopic vision. We are committed to give wings to our future generations while making sure that they remain rooted to their values, culture and traditions. We have embarked upon countrywide noble missions such as Walk of Hope from Kanyakumari to Kashmir with the spiritual Leader Sri M for National Integration; Yog Yatra with Mokshayatan Yog Santhsan; and interactions with spiritual leaders like Brahma Kumari Shivani; HE 8th Chokyong Palga Rinpoche for spiritual, mental and physical well-being. To foster the spirit of kindness, universal compassion and a strong value system, our schools collaborate with several philanthropic organisations.

With geographical borders receding in the digital world, what initiatives have been taken by the schools to foster a spirit of internationalism in students?

At CES, we espouse the adage ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, firmly locating ourselves as a part of the communal universe. To develop international awareness and to prepare global citizens, numerous and varied Exchange Programs, Video Conferences, and international activities have been integrated as a part of all BBPSs’ curriculum. Most of the 27 units of BBPS are the recipients of the prestigious International Dimension in School (IDS) by British Council; designated as PASCH Schools under the aegis of the Max Mueller Bhawan and have been engaged in varied virtual collaborations with partner schools and organisations including UKIERI, EUMIND, AEF, JENESYS, Fulbright, British Council Commonwealth Connections Project and Generation Global Foundation. Many teachers have also been recognised as British Council School Ambassadors. School leaders have paved the way forward by participating in leadership and student exchange programs with schools in Japan, Spain, Singapore, Mexico, China, Pakistan, New Zealand, Finland, Australia, Germany and UK.

What are the reasons behind the phenomenal success of Bal Bharati Public Schools?

A strong communication and feedback mechanism with positive collaboration amongst stakeholders is responsible for the success of this eminent organisation. The

contributions of Parent Teacher Association and the Alumni Associations have been phenomenal in creating a legacy, laboured with love. Our focus on developing 21st century skills and value based education together with a strong faculty and sound management systems, make BBPS institutions a leader in the realm of education.

How do you envision organization?

CES is a dynamic organisation that takes its role in nation building very responsibly. We have been evolving, keeping pace with shifting paradigms, trends and technologies to provide holistic education to the masses. With better infrastructure, new and experiential pedagogies, increasing digital literacy and soaring global linkages, we offer world class education in the remotest areas of the country. As the journey continues, what remains steadfast is our fundamental resolve of providing quality education which is as much rooted in our heritage and values, as it is tempered by contemporary professional demands and technology.

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