

TAVIDHA

VOLUME- 6

ISSUE NO. - 4

MONTH- DECEMBER 2024

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

Hello Parents,

Yet another year has passed, filled with valuable learning experiences from the Kaveri Gifted Education and Research Center. We are extremely delighted that 2024 has been a tremendous success for us. This year, we had the privilege of bringing several significant National and International experts in the field of Giftedness to Pune, while also uniting professionals from across India for our conference.

Secondly, we are extremely happy and proud that our colleagues working in KGERC have also been associated with renowned organisations both within and outside the country and the city to raise awareness about Gifted Education among teachers, educators, and professionals.

This brings to note that this year we would like to focus significantly on parenting and we will see that we will bring in discussion forums, where parents can share their experiences, not only virtually but also in person.

Lastly, we strive to continue to work in building Giftedness in the country; In line with this, we are excited to announce a one-of-a-kind summer camp in April 2025, one program will be dedicated to students of Performing Arts and another for STEM. Looking forward to a lot association and interactions with you, continuing to be joining hands as we work together towards our common goal.

Devasena Desai Ph.D
Associate Director,
Kaveri Counseling, Empowerment
and Gifted Center

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GIFTED EDUCATION

Our recent two-day conference (18th-19th October 2024), Illuminate India: Creating Connections among Gifted Education Stakeholders, brought together leading voices in gifted education. Researchers, parents, policymakers, and educators from 26 educational institutions across India exchanged ideas to explore how we can better support gifted learners. The conference featured 33 paper presentations and 13 poster displays exploring best educational practices, parenting approaches, talent development, and mentoring.

One of the event's significant milestones was the launch of the book "Nurturing the Buddhimaan Child: A Practitioner's Guide," authored by Dr. Devasena Desai, Dr. Sameena Manasawala, and Dr. Paromita Roy. The book provides practical strategies for supporting gifted learners.



Book Launch

A key highlight of the conference was the diverse range of perspectives on gifted education, from both International and Indian experts. Dr. Heidrun Stoeger's insights from her two-decade journey in innovative approaches to global mentoring found perfect harmony with Dr. Mukulika Tatthe's presentation on mentoring in the Indian context derived from the guru-shishya tradition, showing how ancient wisdom can meet contemporary needs.

Dr. Paromita Roy further deepened the conversation by discussing the crucial role of environmental enablers (family, school, and society) in supporting gifted individuals.

The Asian perspective was also highlighted through Dr. Mantak Yeun's talk on hope, meaning, and social connectedness in nurturing giftedness, aligning closely with the spiritual dimension of the Panchakosha model championed by KGERC. Dr. Manabu Sumida shared Japan's progressive approach to early STEM education, demonstrating how even primary school children can excel in STEM activities.



Facilitation of Late. Prof. Dr. Usha Khire



Throughout the event, panel discussions focused on creating inclusive learning environments where gifted students can truly flourish. With National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 lighting the way, experts explored strategies to bring quality support to gifted learners across India's urban and rural landscape. The conversations highlighted how parents, mentors, and schools each play vital roles in nurturing talent - not just in academics, but also in creative pursuits like performing arts. The discussions also highlighted a crucial message: bright minds need more than just academic challenges. Supporting gifted students' emotional and social development emerged as a priority, ensuring they develop into well-rounded individuals ready to tackle life's challenges both in and out of the classroom.

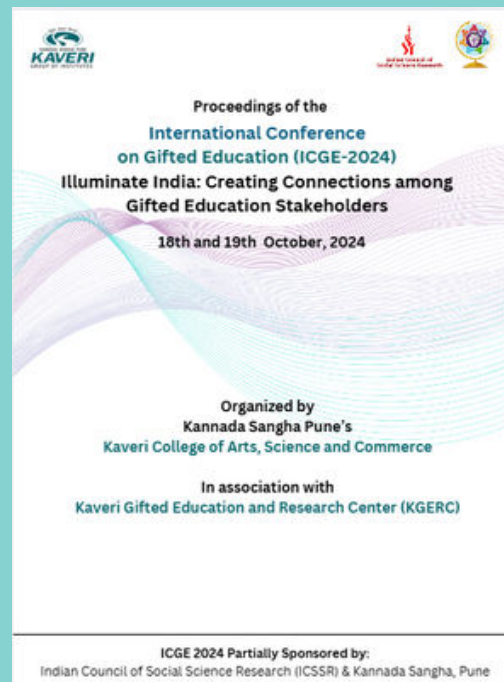
The conference generated remarkable enthusiasm and received a highly positive response from both attendees and participants, with strong backing for improved educational policies and practices. With growing momentum and a collaborative spirit, we are ready to transform these powerful insights into real-world impact for gifted education across India!



Panel Discussion:
Relevance of NEP in Gifted Education



Research Paper Presentation



Conference Proceedings



EMBRACING THE ART OF BEGINNING

I chose Bharatnatyam for two reasons—fate and my mother. [Both equally formidable]. My sister used to attend a dance class, which she had to quit when we moved to Warje. So when our mom found a Bharatnatyam class close to our house, my sister was all in. I, however, was a different story.

I had school in the afternoon, and I used to get home at about six p.m. So the idea of spending another hour and a half appealed very little to me. But after a week of my mother pestering me about it and hearing my sister gush about how good it was, I decided to go. They had worn me out, not convinced me. I was sure about the class being awful, and sure enough, my fears were true. I was bored at best, and the rest of the time, I was in total agony. I was also terrible at it. I was the worst dancer there by a landslide [I'm very irrational in that sense; if I am not immediately good at something, I stop doing it.] It got so bad one day that my mother pulled me aside and told me that I did not have to attend the class if I did not want to because I was complaining so much about it. Ultimately, I decided to keep going, and that was one of the best decisions I had ever made.

Bharatnatyam taught me one of the most valuable skills I have ever learned. It taught me how to be a beginner. It taught me how to be okay with being the worst in the room and to still keep showing up because if you can be a beginner, you can be anything you want, and just like that, day after day, I began to enjoy Bharatnatyam and

found joy in the mundane and purpose in the pain. Bharatnatyam also gave me some of my most beautiful experiences and landmarks. The most memorable of these are definitely stage performances. From practising to finally getting ready to perform on stage, it is truly an enticing journey of its own. Mistakes are bound to happen on stage, and I am so glad to be blessed with a teacher who accepts nothing less than the best from you but also never puts you down for your own mistakes. I know that the dance I'm performing was performed by someone thousands of years ago. The steps that I find difficult hindered people centuries ago, but this makes me in awe of how beautifully these stories have been preserved, not only those depicted in the dance but also those of the dancers.

-By Vibha Bhat, Std 9th Dr. Kalmadi
Shamarao High School, Ganeshanagar

PROGRESS
- NOT -
Perfection

BEGIN, LEARN & ENJOY THE JOURNEY

PATH TO NURTURING GIFTED MINDS: A JOURNEY OF WISDOM AND DISCOVERY

As a secondary science teacher at Kaveri International School, Lohegaon, I recently had the opportunity to explore the field of gifted education through the Kaveri Gifted Education & Research Center (KGERC). I had no idea there was a difference between gifted and talented students until I enrolled in this certified course.

In our first session, we were introduced to real-life examples of gifted students and their unique characteristics. As we learned more, I discovered effective strategies to identify and support gifted students, helping them feel accepted in the classroom.

One of the most valuable experiences was our virtual interaction with the facilitator and her gifted students. It became clear how gifted students think and engage differently from others.

Their ability to grasp complex concepts quickly, their deep curiosity about the world, and their tendency to think critically and independently set them apart. They have a unique way of processing information that often leads them to ask thought-provoking questions that challenge the norms.

We also visited Inana Prabodhini to observe gifted students in person. This experience deepened my understanding of the gifted students' needs and perspectives, helping me apply what I had learned to support these students in my own school.

Lastly, attending the International Conference on Gifted Education (ICGE) was inspiring, and I am grateful to KGERC for their contributions to this field.

– Pragyana Sandilya, Secondary Science Teacher, Kaveri International School



One of our teachers who is certainly a multipotentialite (a Bharatnatyam dancer, teacher, poetess and currently pursuing a PhD in Marketing) was recognized for her creative expression. The Indian Film House presented her with the First Prize at the National Level in the category of 'Best Writer (English Poem)' 2023-24. We are happy she is a part of the Kaveri Kalakshetra which is the Talent Hub in Performing Arts and she has designed and leads Natyaprabha- a foundation level nurturing program for talented children in classical dance.

BOOK REVIEW: HOW TO BE EVERYTHING - BY EMILIE WAPNICK

One of the characteristics of a gifted individual tends to be “being good at many things” or “having multiple interests” or “wanting to pursue many (seemingly disparate) streams”. If you are such a gifted individual or a parent to a gifted child showing multiple potentialities, do check out the book “How to be everything” by Emilie Wapnick.

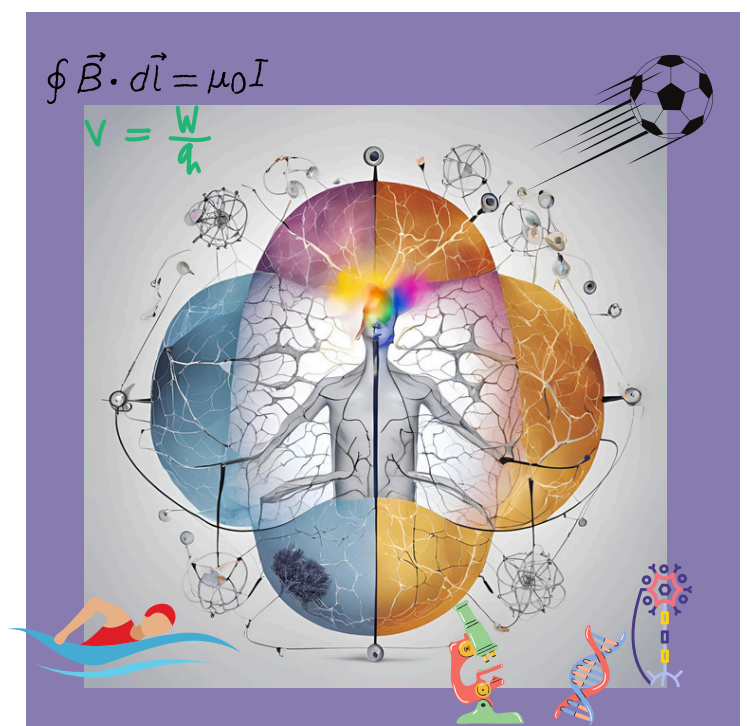
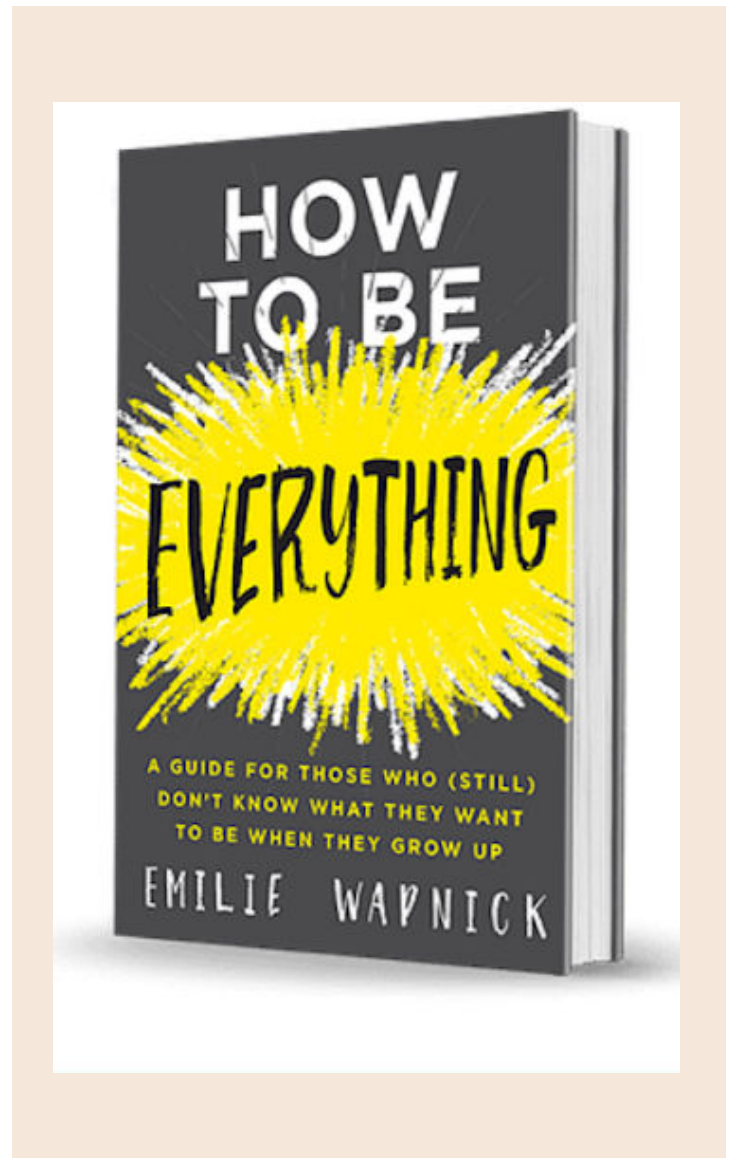
Emilie (who is a multipotentialite) takes the reader on a journey of identifying the components of a multi-faceted life, defining models of work to address this nature and tips to overcome the stumbling blocks. The Group Hug, Slash, Einstein and Phoenix approaches towards work models resonated wonderfully during my reading experience. The book gives many real life practical examples of folks living their life on their terms while embracing the fact that they cannot stay silo-ed into doing just one thing.

I am confident that readers will benefit from a new perspective and the practical tools towards a fulfilling self.

Here is a TED talk that might elucidate more on the concept of multipotentiality -
https://www.ted.com/talks/emilie_wapnick_why_some_of_us_don_t_have_one_true_calling?subtitle=en

Happy Reading!

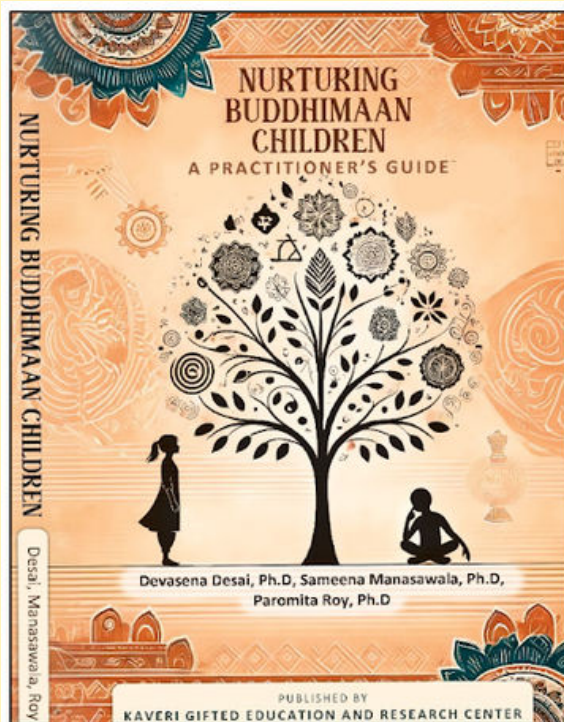
- BY AASWAD KULKARNI
(GIFTED ADULT, PARENT TO A GIFTED
TENAGER)



PUBLISHED BOOKS

Nurturing Children: A Guide **Buddhimaan Practitioner's Guide**

This book addresses Giftedness in the Indian context. Replete with case studies this book addresses parents, teachers, school administrators and counselors about Buddhimaan children, their triumphs and challenges and provides important guidelines for them.



Jigyasa - Part 1 & 2 **An Impetus to a Curious Mind**

Jigyasa Books 1 and 2 offer advanced Math and Science activities for children aged 10+ years, tailored for high-ability students. These books equip teachers and parents with strategies to meet the advanced cognitive needs of Buddhimaan students.



Giftedness is not a guarantee of success, it is the potential for it. When we recognize giftedness in our children, it is our responsibility to nurture and cultivate it.

-Linda Silverman

ALUMNI UPDATES

Zinnia Sengupta

Zinnia Sengupta graduated from Fergusson College with a degree in psychology and earned a Master's degree in liberal studies with a focus on creative writing from Ashoka University. She has been working as a book editor at Niyogi Books for the past year. When asked about what is it like being gifted, she said, " Sometimes it leads to a very fulfilling life because I can look at things with different perspectives, I think very deeply, I get affected emotionally by a lot of things, the way my brain works is not the same as others so that can be great, but it can also be difficult at times."



Zeenia fondly remembers being part of the founding batch of the gifted nurturing program, which included Sunday workshops and talent exhibits. She values the mentorship she received, particularly from Sameena Manasawala, whom she found skilled at working with children. When asked about the challenges she faced from being labelled as gifted, she said, " It sounds a bit elitist at times. As an adult, I have been able to find more people like me, relate to them, and figure out how to navigate life. But being labelled as gifted didn't really change anything when I was young; in fact I used to feel a little awkward while talking to my friends about this back then." Looking ahead, Zinnia aspires to pursue a Ph.D. and get into teaching while continuing to write as a hobby.



Featuring Aarin Junagade (Gifted, student of 10th grade, Dr. Kalmadi Shamarao High School, Baner Section) One of the our students was invited for a TED Talk recently. He shared he enjoyed sharing an idea with others.

<https://youtu.be/881UsA0bY2U>

UPCOMING PROGRAM UPDATES



KAVERI TALENT CAMP

*Nurturing Your Potential: Innovate,
Create, Perform!*

ABOUT THE CAMP

Welcome to the *Kaveri Talent Camp*, an exclusive residential program designed for talented young minds. We are offering two tracks that children can choose from:

STEM: Explore the world of science, maths and technology through hands-on activities and expert-led sessions.

Classical Performing Arts: Immerse yourself into Indian classical dance and Hindustani classical vocal music with guidance from gurus.

Our integrated approach combines advanced domain knowledge with essential socio-emotional learning, creating a holistic development experience.

Age Group: 11 to 13 years (those who will be promoted to grade 7 and 8 in next academic year)

ABOUT KGERC

Kaveri Gifted Education and Research Center (KGERC) has been working in the field of gifted education for 11 years. We have been designing overnight camps for kids for skill-building and holistic growth. We follow Kaveri Nurturing model which is based on Indian philosophy to nurture the potential of buddhimaan and pratibhasahali children.

Dates: 23rd April - 27th April 2025
(4 nights, 5 days)

Type: Fully residential program

Venue: Kaveri International School

Address: Lohegaon, Pune

Charges/Registration Fees: Rs. 10,000/-

Camp Coordinator: Ms. Sanjita Prasad

Email: gifted.inquiry@kaveri.edu.in

Number: +91.9130077122

Scan the QR Code to Apply Now!



www.kaverigiftedandtalentedcenter.com

WHAT MAKES THIS CAMP UNIQUE?

- Expert-led masterclasses and new and advanced concepts
- Collaborative projects with children with similar interests
- Socio-emotional nurturing to ensure holistic development
- A nurturing space to enhance creativity and critical thinking

A Day in the Camp

Time	Session
6:00 am - 6:30 am	Waking up, Prayer and Chanting
6:30 am - 7:30 am	Yoga
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Advanced session STEM / Performing arts
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Advanced session STEM / Performing arts
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Advanced session STEM / Performing arts
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Snacks
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Socio-emotional nurturing
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Physical games
7:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Prayer & Chanting
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Dinner
10:00 pm	Lights out!



STEM

Talented children will get introduced to advanced concepts in 3 areas through 2 hours of hands-on and interactive sessions each day-

1. Genetics
2. Geometry
3. Geospatial technology

Talented children will be identified through a selection test. Scan the code for more info



Prominent Experts

- Smt. Manjushri Dhume (engineer & educator)
- Dr. Prithwjit De (Associate Prof. Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education)
- Dr. Pankaj Jain (Co-founder Seed2Sapling, PhD Molecular Biophysics, IISc)
- Dr. Shamita Kumar (Principal, Institute of Environmental Education and Research)



HINDUSTANI VOCAL

This module includes talim of alaap-tan associated with bandish in different taals, and understanding and reflection on bhava in gayaki. Talented children will be trained to do the 'effective riyaz' with dedication and learn to leverage technology for advancing their own creative ideas in music.

Talented children will be identified through a video audition. Scan the code for more info



Prominent Gurus

- Dr. Revati Kamat (Guru, founder of Awiratnaad school of music)
- Mr. Sandeep Ranade (vocalist, engineer, app developer)

BHARATANATYAM

Talented children will learn advanced skills in abhinaya, master intricate sapta suladi talas, explore theater integration, and gain insights into the beauty of dance inspired sculptures.

Talented children will be identified through a video audition. Scan the code for more info



Prominent Gurus

- Smt. Rasika Gumaste (Guru Bharatanatyam and Oddisi)
- Dr. Pramadwara Kittur (Guru, Carnatic vocalist)
- Prof. Nikhil Narkar (theatre artist, director-actor)

