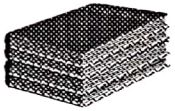


Understanding

Someone plans!





- *Some one* decides what to read, how much to read, and when to read!
- Days, weeks, months and years are casted into a monotonous routine.
- Those super powers never appear in human form befor the child!
- Encourages indulgance and not involvement
- Look for more of the same - jobs that provide routine work, with periodic promotions
- Never learn to know what one's needs are, where to get the information to satisfy it
- This mode of working is within our tradition. It is reinforced by education system, rather than being fought with!

Skill trasfer to new arenas.

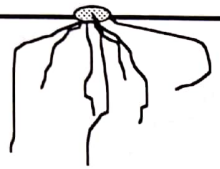
Growing is not only a process of gaining but also loosing

learning math = ~~[illegible]~~ notion of sequencing, ordering.

Education for all

- **Better than "Compulsory" or "Universal"**
- **Equal emphasis should be placed on both "Education" and "all"**
- **Every child is a student**
- **One in every three hundred adults is a teacher.**
- **Cannot be a recruitment type education. Has to be companion type.**

Culturally wich families gave away their children instead of spreading the culture across.



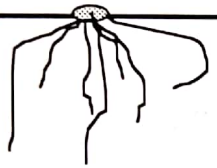
Understanding

Father gets food, Mother gives food.

- Father feeds the biological system; mother feeds the emotional system.
- Whether it is a *roti* or a costly sweet, mother can feed the emotional system through it.
- Our education is trying to do father's job, but not with a great success. It has to do the mother's job also.
- Best of the mother comes by encouragement, and trust. Not by standing by the side with a whip or by lashing it. Beating up a mother turns her wretched! (Respect works, Inspect doesn't!)
- Teachers should not be treated as father's agents, but as mothers, with all the prerogatives.

Man ⇔ Machine

- Fathers work is of general context.
- Mothers work is of situational context.
- Father's technique can be combined in large scale for optimization. Mothers job is at individual level.
- Father's skills are hard skills, Machines can replace him. Mothers skills are softskills, they can never be passed on to machines!
- Our education has so far trained to take up father's role, now we need change it to train for father's as well as mother's role.
- We need not only to take man to machine, but we should bring machine to man also.
- How to administer? Whom to administer?



Understanding

Poverty vs. Resources
Haves Vs. Havenots
Moral vs. Immoral
Science vs. Superstition

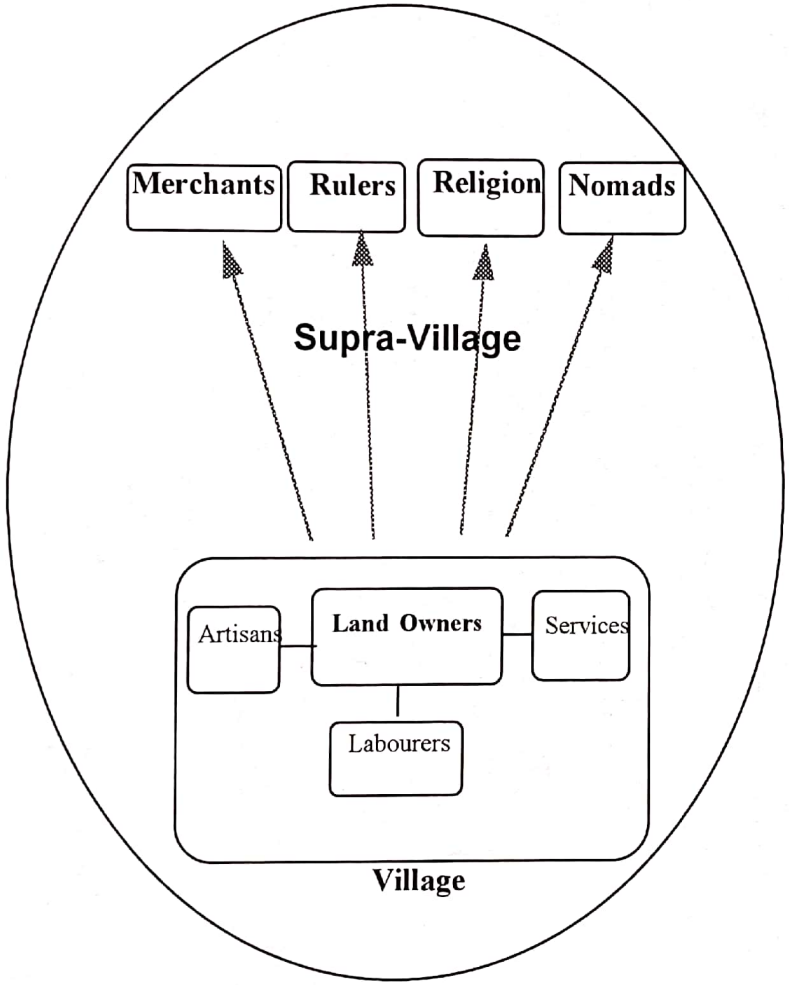
These are large social problems. Takes generations to solve them. And there are several mega factors that influence them.

Trying to give an illuminated version of the problem to a growing child does not work. What a growing child needs is help in understanding the world around him and in learning to deal with it.

No Educaiton? or Bad Education?

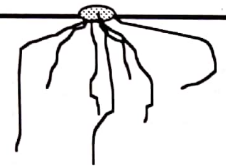
Telecom in India before 1980	**Education in India Today**
Bad Quality Connections	**Bad Quality Schools/Colleges/..**
Expansion is Slow & Costly	**Expansion is Slow & Costly**
Telephone Operators	**Teachers**
Wrong Billing	**Wrong Grading**
Telephone is Costly	**Education is Costly**
Telephone is a Status Symbol	**Education is a ...**
Govt. tried to solve by turning "Budgetory, Policy etc." knobs	**Govt. is trying to solve by turning "Policy, Curriculum etc." knobs**
Only better technology could alleviate the situatation	**Only better technology (?) can alleviate the situatation**
Broke political, bureacratic etc. barriers automatically	**Will break political, bureacratic etc. barriers automatically**

Understanding



Languages

- Language as a functional element is a predominant phenomena of modern age
- Village culture promoted language of deeds!
- The only other language developed is poetic! (to describe past, or very general things)
- Language learning is biased by the learning of Sanscrit or foreign language!



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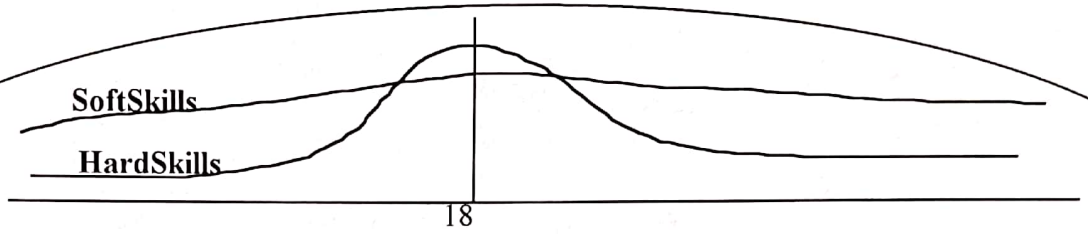
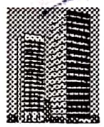


A doctor is much more than an MBBS; an engineer is much more than a B.~~Tech~~E; a scientist is much more than a Ph.D; A manager is more than an MBA; A farmer is more than a tiller of the soil; A barber is much more than a hair cutter.

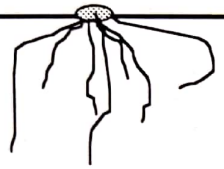
[illegible]

~~A child~~ A troubled child becomes a troubled adult

take off back ground

 **Vs.** 

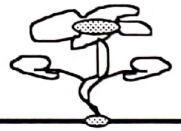
Depends on the strength of the ground	Strengthens the ground
Bad Quality Connections	
Freshness renews every season.	patch work every season
Turns into manure	Turns into rubble.



Understanding

Educational Consumerism

- My son should wear the costliest shirt, my son should go to the costliest school
- People are willing to pay! Money is flowing into education.
- Some are willing to pay, but genuinely looking for 'better' schools
- We should accept this duality as the participation of *Devas* and *Asuras* in *Ksheera Sagara Madhanam*!



Features

Designing Activities

- Just like for movies and for plays the ideas come from diverse sources
- CEA encourages, funds, facilitates the design of activities (To use cinama parlance, CEA acts as the Film Institute, Film Studio, FDCIand finally as the Censor board, all in one)
- An alteration of a old activity might generate a new activity.
- An activity can be customized to a new background (Like a movie made in one language redone in another language)



Features

Types of Activities

- Observation
  - Stock prices, Sky watching
- Immersion
  - First aid, Yoga
- Subject, new vistas
  - The world of numbers, The world of plants
- Exploration
  - Which countries make aeroplanes
- One/two week crash
  - Earth Quakes, monsoons, elections, calendar
- Cultural
  - Local cultures, people, Veda's ..
- Multi-school
  - Health Statistics
- Remote
  - Village - city
- Institutions , systems, movements and associated personalities
  - Independace movement, railways, atomic energy, Ganesh Ustav ..
- Social issues from the region or locality
- ....

- **Just like movies, or dishes the catogorization is not rigid**
- **Innovation never loses its place**

Features

Time line of Activities

- Some are continuous; Some are broken
- Some last only few days; some need years

Features

Learnings from Activities

- I found my self good at ...
- I found him/her good at ...
- I like doing ...
- I saw him/her liking ...
- I like him/her doing ..

- **Never teach formally how to write or share learnings**
- **Let them learn from the older ones**
- **Little bit of boot strapping is OK.**

Features



Profile Building

- Each activity will have one sheet that gets added to the profile. It contains:
  - The dates of the activity, list of others in the activity
  - Brief description of the activity
  - Outstanding/interesting facts of the activity
  - The desginer(s) of the activity
  - The activity id as set by CEA
  - Signatures of every one participated (on the back).
- All selection processes look at the profiles of the applicants + some sort of screening test.

Features

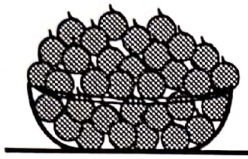
Life of a student in the school

- As he enters a school, he participates in some activities, along with seniors
- Then parents/guides/senior students help him choose some activities
- In a year or two child gets used to the workings of the system
- Gradually he picks up the knack of choosing activities according to his interest, aptitude *and* convenience
- He can be participating in activities at different schools simultaneously
- Student can be at the beginning of one activity, at the middle of another activity and at the end of yet another activity
- Student might repeat an activity after 4 years, possibly in a different role
- Student might participate in some "don't like" or "didn't like" activities
- He keeps his profile built

Features

A Day in a School

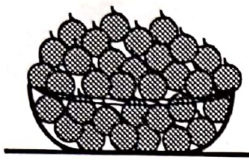
- Facilitators will be announcing new activities to be started well in advance
- Children start signing for it
- Facilitators work in advance to procure required resources
- Facilitataors make the contacts for the visitis of people, community members to take a role in the activity, etc.
- The Activity will kick-off when every thing gets ready, enough students, resources etc.
- Some schools might specialize in offering certain special capsules
- Some days are hectic, some days are easy going



Results

For Students

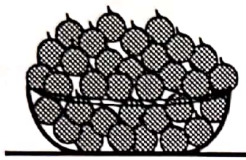
- Learn to translate goals and aptitudes into tangible day-to-day activities
- Learn about the complementory nature
- Learn about the inter dependancy
- Forward looking rather than backward looking
- Mixing personal and study life
- Work is a part of life; not for making a living
- Flexible time demands on participation
- Touch with real life
- Analyzing and problem solving skills
- Work with others
- Educated is guaranteed to turn out smarter than uneducated



Results

In Running the Education system

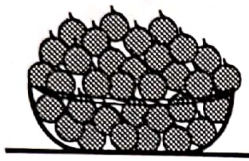
- Facilitators are lead learners
  - They do not have to have a mastery of the subject before they start
  - Facilitators pass the art of learning to the students
  - Intimate relationships between the Facilitators and Students
- Community Assistants
  - Just like volunteering for temple activities
- Material/books
  - Can be shared by the schools in turn
  - Library facilities can be shared among schools
  - Books flow from attics into education
- Natural peak & slack periods as opposed to holidays, exams, etc
- Activity based sponsoring - money from other agencies flow
- The resources that go into text book production should go into library buildup
- Better utilization of resources
- Facilitators never get obsolete



Results

For the Society

- Brings children into the lives of more people
- Integrates children into their neighborhood
- Parents can set appropriate goals for their children
- Reinforces the relationships between the parents and children
- Breaks the Bureaucratic tendencies
- Minimum returns guaranteed



Results

Conceptual

- Build on natural strengths
- Helps the natural growth - Walking Grass/Palm/Banyan
- Learning techniques flow from life into school
- Sources of learning are increased