

Mensa India (Pune) Report 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

The Year 2009-2010, for Mensa India is marked by collaborations, implementation of innovative ideas and persistent efforts towards identification and nurturing of intelligence.

Mensa India (Pune): The Tree

Mensa India (Pune) Head Office coordinated the various projects running in the organization. It also conducted Mensa tests. Over 500 people gave the test out of which over 115 qualified as Mensans. Over 10 people became Life Members of Mensa Pune in the year 2009-2010.

Mensa Pune Office secured collaboration with the following organizations for its endeavors: Jnana Prabodhini Samshodhan Sanstha (Pune), Kher Foundation (Mumbai), Kaivalayadham (Lonavala), Manas Tatva (Pune), Sevadham Trust (Pune), Belin Blank Center (University of Iowa, USA).

Mensa India (Pune) hosted the visit of Prof. Dr. Liam Heneghan and Prof. Dr. Randall Honold from the DePaul University (Illinois, USA) in December 2009. They visited the Nishta Centre for Tribal Gifted. A collaborative summer school for students from DePaul University and Tribal Mensa is being conceptualized for the oncoming year.

Miss. Amruta Limaye and Miss Charvin Tolia submitted Master Thesis on the evaluation of Tribal Mensa and Panchakosha Human Development model to Mensa India.

Branching Out:

Nasik and Talegaon Sub-Centre Establishment

Mensa Pune conducted giftedness identification test in the city of Nasik on the 10th July 2009, in the Wisdom High International School. It marked the inception of the Nasik sub-centre for giftedness identification of Mensa Pune. 42 students appeared for the test. 25 students were

qualified as Gifted. Wisdom High International School has a total of 68 Mensans, out of which 43 were identified in 2008.

Wisdom High International School was recognized as official Mensa testing Centre for Nasik region on the 11th July 2009. It was inaugurated by Mr. Subhash Deshpande, Executive Council Member, Mensa India. A press conference was organized on this occasion and information about Mensa and its philosophy was given during this program.

The center is a result of sincere efforts from Mr. and Mrs. Agarwal (Trustee, Wisdom High International School) and Mrs. Sucheta Kulkarni (Psychologist). Mrs. Sucheta Kulkarni has attended Mensa test administrator workshop, conducted by Dr. Sujal Watve, Joint Supervisory Psychologist, Mensa India (Appointed by Mensa International, Head Quarter at London, UK). She can now conduct Mensa tests regularly in the Nasik sub-centre.

Wisdom High International School and Mensa India (Pune) share a common vision i.e. identifying and nurturing giftedness for societal benefit. The said collaboration is unique in its own way as Wisdom High International School nurtures academic giftedness and Mensa nurtures non-academic giftedness. Thus, the consortium will provide unique and holistic solution of giftedness nurturing for community.

Future Activities: The Centre will spread its wings and extend giftedness identification facility all academic and educational institutes in and around Nasik. The centre will establish its self in urban area and then percolate its work in rural and tribal area of Nasik district.

About Centre: The centre has been named as Wisdom Mensa Giftedness Identification and Nurturing Centre and it is a part of Mensa India Pune Chapter.

Centre Structure & Function: The Centre's office is at Wisdom High International School and its geographical area is Nasik district. Mrs. Ritu Agarwal (Trustee, Wisdom High International School), Dr. Narayan R. Desai (Executive Council Member, Gifted Child Program, Mensa India) and Dr. Sujal Watve (Joint National Supervisory Psychologist, Mensa India) are part of the

centre advisory committee and Mrs. Sucheta Kulkarni (Psychologist, Wisdom High International School) is the centre In –charge.

The Centre will conduct regular Mensa Giftedness Identification tests and along with Giftedness Nurturing Program for selected Mensans. Jnana Prabodhini Institute of Psychology, Pune will provide technical and academic support to the centre. In collaboration with different organizations such as Jnana Prabodhini Institute of Psychology (Pune), Manas Tatva (Pune), and Society for Ecological Restoration – India Chapter (Pune) the said centre will design research projects on Human giftedness. In future, the Centre will seek support and guidance from International organizations such as Landlife Trust (Liverpool, UK), The Belin Blank Centre of Giftedness (University of Iowa, USA) to achieve its goal.

Aim of the Centre: The centre will design its activities to achieve following aims;

1. To identify giftedness from the community.
2. To nurture the giftedness based on Panchakoshatmak Model of Human Development.
3. Provide nurture gifted human resource for societal benefit programs.

The Centre has conducted over 10 giftedness workshops for over 40 Mensans with support from Mensa India (Pune).Dr. Narayan Desai has been conducting monthly workshops based for giftedness nurturing based on the Panchakoshatmak Model. Counseling for giftedness and gifted parenting is conducted monthly by Dr. Devasena Desai for Mensans in Wisdom High International School.

A Wisdom School and Tribal Mensa collaborative workshop was proposed. However, it was cancelled due to the Swine-flu epidemic in the month of September.

Jnana Vardhini Day School Giftedness Identification, Nasik

Jnana Vardhini, nongovernmental organization runs a day care school at Nasik for Industrial community. Mensa India Pune organized the Giftedness identification test at Day Care school on 13 and 14 July 2009. The students were from economically backward from the Industrial belt

of Nasik and hence more than 50% students were tested free of cost. 59 students scored more than 98 percentile & 20 students scored between 95 - 97 percentile score. Mrs. Sapatnekar and Mrs. Patil took initiative in giftedness identification program.

Planning for nurturing workshops for gifted students from this school is underway.

Mensa India Pune - Talegaon

The first Talegaon Giftedness Identification Test was conducted on the 5th July. It was attended by Dr. Sujal Watve (Joint National Supervisory Psychologist, Mensa India). More than 12 students were selected in Mensa test. The results were distributed in small ceremony organized by Kalapini (organization dedicated for Art and Performance). Kalapini is taking great interest in organizing giftedness identification and nurturing for youngsters from Talegaon region. Mensa India Pune is collaborating with Kalapini and decided to conduct nurturing program for selected gifted.

Talegaon Giftedness Identification & Nurturing Program:

On 19 July 2009, 50 students of age group 10 to 15 and 25 people from age group of above 15 years appeared for Mensa test at Talegaon. Nearly 12 people were selected as gifted making total gifted students to 40 from Talegaon. Dr. Desai conducted nurturing program for students who were selected in earlier test. The giftedness identification and nurturing program at Talegaon is supported by Kalapini, nongovernmental organization.

Mensa Jammu

Mensa identification is being proposed to be conducted in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Col. Razdan from the Sarhad School has given positive feedback about the idea. The logistics and network will be established before undertaking the testing.

Spreading Roots: Tribal Mensa Identification and Nurturing Program

Tribal Giftedness Identification

Late Gopalrao Deshpande Residential School, Vadgaon

40 students from economically backward, tribal community were tested for giftedness free of cost in February 2010. Similar type of giftedness identification program will be run in other residential schools run by Vanawasi Kalyan Ashram (Non Governmental Organization). Testing will also be organized in the tribal residential school in Kamshet run by the Maharshi Karve Shikshan Sanstha (Non Governmental Organization)

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program: Karthik Kridalaya

Mr. Karthik Sarma, Mensa life member donated sum of Rs. 3, 50,000 (\$ 7000) to the Tribal Mensa nurturing program. The concept of Karthik Kridalaya was designed recognizing his commitment to the project and generous help.

Karthik Kridalaya is an army trunk/box containing many sets of indoor games which will help nurture the giftedness qualities, e.g. Chess, Brain vita, Rubik cube. These boxes were delivered to the 8 tribal residential schools in the month of September. The gifted students of the particular schools are in-charge of these boxes. After the school hours the gifted students organize games for other school students. The Karthik Kridalaya is a start to nurturing leadership qualities in the Tribal Gifted students. Students identified with 95+ percentile score joined in the Karthik Kridalaya activity.

School Name	Mensa Members	95+ Members	Leader
Aasane	3	-	Ganesh Pardhi
Phulawade	6	4	Kiran Shinde
Gohe	4	6	Sachin Talpe
Kohinde	2	4	Sharad Bharati
Tokawade	1	2	Sagar Supe
Malegaon	6	4	Deepak Kawate
Vadeshwar	7	14	Santosh Waghmare
Terungan	1	-	Prawin Asawali

The students are exploring the Karthik Kridalaya with their own creativity and management skills. Students from all eight schools came up with different management plans for sharing the Karthik Kridalaya games with their schoolmates. In the last four months, the students experienced many obstacles – holidays, exams, school co-curricular activities, etc. However, they overcame these problems by efficient work distribution.

The Karthik Kridalaya activity was strengthened by school-based nurturing activities in months of October, November and December. The activities focused on leadership, creativity and communication skills. The activities were designed to incorporate the Karthik Kridalaya and develop ideas for better functioning of the Karthik Kridalaya activity in schools.

The school-based workshops were conducted by Anuja Date who was joined by Monica Picot-Manuel (Ph. D Researcher-Volunteer, Spain) and Aditya Pokshe.

A special one-hour workshop was conducted in the tribal schools of Asane, Phulawade, Gohe and Malegaon for tenth standard students. '21 most likely' and 'Practice Question Papers' sets were distributed to 8 schools for students appearing for 10th standard board examination.

Scholarship for Tribal Gifted Girl:

Miss Sarala Shinde, tribal gifted girl applied for financial help to complete her schooling. She is currently studying in class 9th. She left the school due to financial constrain as her father suffered from psychological illness. Under Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program we provided financial support to purchase books and other required stationary and setup Postal bank account. She will receive Rs. 500 per month as sustenance amount to complete her schooling.

Nourishing Network

Repair of Nishta Tribal Mensa Nurturing Centre, Kamshet

Kher Foundation is supporting Nishta Tribal Mensa Nurturing Centre by providing sustenance funding for the Centre. During this monsoon, roof work, guest room repair and nursery ground work was carried out at the Nishta Centre. Repair work of Nishta Center was undertaken in the month of July under the guidance of Mr. Jayant Joshi (Talegaon). Mr. Jayant Joshi provided free consultation for all the repair work. The roof was repaired and 40 Cement Sheets were installed. The cement sheets were donated by Neel Sancheti and Renuka Kotak. Fans (which were received in donation from Gen. Patankar) were installed in the rooms of Nishta Centre. New storage space was created. Shower area for boys was made. New space was created by fusing the annexure room to the main building of Nishta Centre. The garden was prepared for upcoming Nursery project.

Donation of Mahindra Voyager by Mr. Amar Paranjype, Sangli

Jnana Prabodhini received Mahindra Voyager vehicle (10 seater vehicle) donation from Mr. Amar Paranjype from Sangli. Jnana Prabodhini gave this vehicle for Tribal Mensa Nurturing Project. The vehicle can prove to be a 'driving force' for the upcoming identification and nurturing programs.

Verbal Commitment from Kher Foundation for Tribal Giftedness Identification Mobile Van Project

Dr. Desai came up with idea of Mobile Giftedness Identification Van. The van will run 10 days every month to rural and tribal parts of Pune district and conduct giftedness identification tests. Every year nearly 9000 students will be tested under this program. Kher foundation showed interest in supporting this program for one year. They have given a verbal commitment of nearly Rs.5.50lakh for the running of this project. The list of schools in tribal belt in Pune district was obtained and is being screened for conducting this project. Announcement for inviting volunteers for testing and identification was also done.

Blossoming Ideas: Project Proposals

Deshpande Foundation Project Proposal

During month of July 2009, Mensa India Pune contacted Deshpande Foundation (Nongovernmental organization based at Hubli, Karnataka State) and proposed Rural Giftedness Identification and Nurturing Program. Mr. Amit kumar project officer visited Mensa India Pune office on 18 July 2009 and discuss the possibility of executing pilot project for sandbox area i.e. Belgaum district. The Deshpande Foundation requested a project proposal from Mensa India Pune. Dr. Desai submitted project proposal entitled 'Rural giftedness identification and nurturing program' budgeting nine lakh rupees for the period of one year. Deshpande foundation sanctioned seven lakh rupees. Mensa India Pune is raising nearly 2 lakh rupees for the same. This will be a pilot project and the success will assure the expansion of the project to the other districts of Karnataka State. Dr. Desai and Kedar Deshpande made visit to the project area and collected necessary information to execute the project. Dr. Deshpande from village Kudchi showed keen interest in supporting the pilot project. Dr. Desai visited Deshpande Foundation office on 23 Sept 09 and attended workshop.

A project called '**Ecological Priest**' was proposed for nurturing Tribal Gifted to take Leadership in conservation and restoration of natural resources. The proposal was sent to Deshpande

Foundation by Miss. Anuja Date. The project is under discussion for incorporating nature-based livelihood development in the Ecological Priest concept.

Sacred Grove Conservation Project: Proposal for Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

Sacred Groves or forests are an integral part of the tribal landscape. Restoration of degraded Sacred Groves is therefore important for the well-being for the tribal community as well as the landscape. Miss Monica Picot-Manuel, an ecologist from Spain, is Dr. Desai's Ph.D student, who arrived in India in September 2009. She will be working on the Sacred Grove restoration project with Tribal Mensa students. Project proposals for cost-effective Sacred Grove restoration by using frugivorous bats and birds as agents of seed dispersal have been sent to CEPF.

She is establishing a plant nursery in Nishta Centre for Tribal Gifted. Monica has also collected and identified specimen of over 300 indigenous plant species from Western Ghats. Tribal Mensa students joined her in this endeavor during some of her visits to tribal residential schools.

Seeds for the future:

For the year 2010 Mensa India Pune Chapter is announcing program for Mensans (Scoring 99+, 98, 97, 96 and 95 Percentile Score) and for their parents. The main aims of the program are as follows:

1. To provide diverse nurturing programs.
2. To provide mentors and counselors from different discipline
3. To launch new Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Programs for Pune, Nasik and Talegaon Mensans:

Giftedness Nurturing Program: In this program Dr. Desai and Anuja Date will conduct nurturing activities based on Panchakoshatmak Human Development model described in Taittiriya Upanishad. It will also include pre and post psychological testing of individual student. Dr.

Devasena Desai and Mrs. Anjali Joshi will provide individual counseling to the Mensans and help to define their problems and solutions.

Emotional Maturity Counseling Center: Mrs. Anjali Joshi, psychologist by profession is an expert in emotional maturity. Mrs. Joshi will be providing individual counseling sessions to Mensans and help them to handle and understand their emotional behavior.

Residential Nurturing Workshops: Residential nurturing workshop will be organized at Nishta Tribal Mensa Nurturing Centre, Kamshet. This will provide opportunity to Mensans to understand team work, organization skills, management skills, sense of responsibility. The said workshop will be once in year.

Developing Study Skills: Individual counseling and group workshops will be conducted to develop study skills. Dr. Devasena Desai will help Mensans to understand the techniques, methods, time management required to develop effective study skills.

Programs for Pune, Nasik and Talegaon Mensans Parents:

Gifted Child's Parent Forum: This is a forum exclusively for parents whose offspring's are Mensans. This is a forum where parents will meet each other to share their experience along with the problems. The main aim of this activity is to find practical solutions related to gifted. This activity will be facilitated by Dr. Devasena N. Desai (Parent Counselor).

Gifted Child Parenting Counseling Center: It has been recognized by parents that some assistance, techniques are required which will be provided by counseling center. Special parenting workshops and lectures will be organized to create awareness and execute scientific research. Dr. Devasena N. Desai will provide assistance and help with prior appointments.

Projects under Tribal Mensa

Tribal Mensa Residential Hostel

A special hostel facility for Tribal Mensa students during their school and college years is being proposed to have a long term, focused program for the students.

Tribal Mensa Nourishing Program

There is a need for scholarships and organizational set-up for higher education (upto Graduation) of Tribal Gifted students. Mensa India (Pune) is proposing a 'Nourishment Program'. Mr. Anand Desai of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce and Kher Foundation is supporting Mensa India (Pune) for acquiring the same.

Tribal Mensa Research Wing

Tribal Intelligence and leadership, Naturalistic Intelligence, Panchakosha Human Development Model are some of the domains of research opened up by the Tribal Mensa Project. Tribal Mensa research wing will be set up for exploring these concepts in scientific detail.

Failed Sprouts: Rejection of Project Proposals

In the month of July 2009, Mensa India Pune submitted project proposals to Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai and Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai. This was setback to the Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program. Mr. Vepari, retired charter accountant from Mumbai and Mr. Anand Desai, Director DSK Legal gave moral support and showed keen interest in helping the programs by spreading a word and assisting in raising funds.

The Templeton Foundation Project Proposal entitled 'Tribal Eureka Project: To Nurture Tribal Giftedness for Humanity' worth of Rs. 95 Lakh for the period of 3 years, was rejected in November 2009. However, the Foundation expressed their appreciation for the Project concept and has maintained a positive relationship Mensa India.