

MENSA INDIA PUNE CHAPTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



A “Thank You” Note

Mensa India Pune Chapter (MIP) and its flagship ‘**Underprivileged Gifted Nurturing Program**’ (formerly known as Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program) are thankful to our donors namely,

Kher Foundation, Mumbai

IPCA Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai

Narain Foundation, New Delhi

for the trust that they have bestowed upon us to identify and nurture the little gems of intelligence tucked away in the nooks and crannies of our country. We have great hope and faith that through our collaborative effort they will undoubtedly become leaders of tomorrow.

MIP is also thankful to JNANA PRABODHINI, Pune for providing us not only an office -a habitat- to blossom and nurture our numerous ideas but also to give us a guiding light to take MIP to newer heights.

Mensa India Pune Chapter in a Glimpse

- Operating from Jnana Prabodhini, Pune since the inception of Mensa India in 1995
- Currently has over 587 Life Members and over 1800 Annual Members
- Conducts regular testing and identification of Mensans, provides assistance to testing and identification of Mensans across the country
- Initiated and sustained Special Interest Group – “**Mensa Mega**” for urban Mensans between 10-15 yrs. age
- Initiated and sustained Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program for last ten years (2002 – 2012) creating a niche for Tribal Mensans

- Maintains a strong active network of over 100 Mensans across the globe, which contributes in activities, promotion and provides timely intellectual as well as financial support.
- Created a resource pool of psychologists, researchers, opinion makers, and mentors for furthering the activities of Mensa India Pune Chapter
- Created strong donor relationships to carry forward activities of Tribal Mensa

Year 2012-13 in a Glimpse

(Period between 1st April 2012 – 31st August 2013)

- Conducted 105 testing (group, individual, and tatkal tests)
- Membership database work completed in prescribed International format
- Visit of Dr. Laurie Croft, representative of Belin Blank Center, Iowa, USA – collaborating Institute for Tribal Mensa
- Tribal Mensa testing in North East India
- Advisory Board Formation
- New research projects in various aspects of Intelligence and Giftedness
- Mensa Mega activities in Wisdom High International School, Nasik
- New collaborations with schools in Pune
- Website Development

Identifying Intelligence

Identification of Mensans through regular testing has been one of the most important features of Mensa India Pune Chapter (MIP). Under the guidance of the National Supervisory Psychologist, Dr. Sujala Watve, MIP has led the identification work. MIP not only conducts regular tests in Pune, but also has worked as a coordinating body for testing work conducted across the country. During the year 2012-13, tests were conducted for interested individuals, schools, as well as for students in tribal and rural areas.

Features of Testing through MIP

- Regular tests in Pune for groups, individuals and schools

- Well-trained testing personnel well maintained testing material, well documented test protocol and test results.
- In order to assist testing for individuals a 'Tatkal' test was introduced, where tests were conducted at the convenience of the candidates.
- Testing in various geographical areas like Pune, Bangalore, Udupi, Arunachal Pradesh
- Testing for diverse communities – urban, rural, culturally diverse and socially marginalized

Testing in Pune (Urban):

150 individuals

75 people: Group testing

15 people: Tatkal testing

15 people: Individual testing

Testing in Bangalore

2 persons were administered Mensa Test in Bangalore

Testing in Schools (Urban)

200 candidates were administered Mensa Test in Wisdom High International School (Nasik), in order to continue the four year relationship developed between the two institutions.

600 candidates from Dr. Shamrao Kalamadi School of the Kaveri Foundation were given Mensa Test to initiate a new collaboration between MIP and the Kalamadi School

Testing in Schools (Tribal Mensa): Udupi and Bangalore

Testing was conducted in the 900-year-old Vedic Gurukul at Udupi for over 80 candidates, of which 16 qualified. Conducting Mensa test in this school was a unique experience in itself as the candidates represent a community, which does not normally participate in such activities.

A similar test was conducted in Bangalore for Jayateertha Vidyapeeth, where 35 students were tested of which 3 qualified.

Testing in Schools (Tribal Mensa): North East India (Arunachal Pradesh)

In order to increase our geographical and social boundaries, testing was conducted in North East India at Arunachal Pradesh through the collaboration with Ramakrishna Mission. 400 students were administered the test and over 132 students qualified as Mensans.

Testing in Schools (Tribal Mensa): Pune Tribal Area

Testing was conducted for more than eight tribal schools during the years 2006-2010. New schools have been identified for continuing testing in tribal areas of Pune and a special testing cell has been created for the purpose.

All Testing activities conducted under Tribal Mensa Program have been done through the donation received from the IPCA Foundation and Narain Foundation.

Testing Consent Form

We recognise that prior written consent for testing is an ethical requirement and a constitutional standard practice prior to conducting any tests. We have now made written consent mandatory before candidates appear for MENSA testing. A consent form based on international standards was developed for the purpose.

Future plans for Identification of Intelligence

- Promoting Mensa testing in urban areas through targeted testing in schools, colleges, companies, etc. Use of social media will be done for advertising Mensa test.
- Long term collaboration with schools like Wisdom High International School, Sr. Shamroa Kalamadi School, Ramakrishna Mission, etc. New Institutions have also been identified for the same including Lakshya Academy, Millennium School, etc. for conducting Mensa tests
- Through long term partnership with Ramakrishna Mission, MIP has targeted testing of over 2000 candidates. Nurturing programme through trained teachers can also be initiated in these centers in the near future
- Similarly, testing of over 1000 candidates in Pune Tribal region will be done during the coming year
- Spreading testing knowledge and training to all regional centers will be coordinated by MIP during the coming year
- Online Request Forms for Mensa test has been introduced on the MIP/TMNP website

Mensa Membership

A major task post-identification is creating membership for the Mensa India community and following it up with regular activities for Mensans. Encouraging Mensans to avail membership, maintaining and updating membership data is a tough but essential task which has been undertaken by MIP. During the year, MIP was able to do the following activities in the post-identification phase;

- 9 new life members, 1 new annual member
- Database creation and maintenance in internationally prescribed format for over 1800 Annual members and 587 Life Members
- Preparation new Mensa Info booklet
- All the information related to Mensa concerning last 5 years has been put in print in a revised 24 page, color book format. More than 3000 copies have been distributed. MIP has provided this booklet to all the other chapters.
- A dedicated Facebook page has been created and is updated regularly in order to inform Mensans all around the world about the activities of MIP. Members and interested people stay connected with our activities and give constructive feedbacks and ideas irrespective of geographical location.

Future plans for Mensa Membership

MIP has targeted an increase in number of Life Members from 587 existing members to reach 750 during the year 2013-14. However it is borne in mind that achieving this target is an uphill task. Therefore, the following actions have been proposed for increasing membership;

- Jnana Prabodhini Prashala Past Students Mensa Membership Scheme: Jnana Prabodhini Prashala conducts recognized tests for admission procedures. Since 1975 more than 2000 students have been qualified for MENSA membership. MIP is requesting the Annual Members and ex-students to upgrade to Life Membership in order to increase Corpus.
- Wisdom High School Mensa Membership: In order to take further part in the nurturing activities related to MENSA, we are requesting all eligible Mensans from Nasik to avail of membership.

- Regular activities for existing members including restarting Special Interest Groups, Movie Clubs, etc. in order to attract membership from urban Mensans
- Membership information is easily accessible now, and has been made available through the Facebook page.
- Membership cards distribution will bring recognition to existing members and efforts will be taken to push timely delivery of these cards.

Nurturing Intelligence

Nurturing activities for Mensans between 10 to 15 years of age has been a forte of MIP for past several years. The Mensa nurturing model for children, although informal, has been utilized to train over 400 Mensans. The model is now being used for regular nurturing activities for Mensans at the Wisdom High International School (WHIS) in Nasik through trained teachers. The activity is in continuation with the four-year association of MIP with the School. An eco-tour was arranged for 35 Mensans from WHIS at Kaivalyadhama Yoga Center during January 2013. The eco-tour also introduced Yoga for the Mensans, among other regular activities. It is envisaged that the nurturing program will be extended to other Schools such as Dr. Shamrao Kalamadi School, Millennium School, etc.

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program / Underprivileged Giftedness Nurturing Program

The Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program has been at the crux of all activities being conducted through MIP. It is a flagship program which has triggered other activities such as nurturing model development, research projects, garnering member and donor interest, etc. The program has led to the nurturing over 50 tribal gifted students during 2007-2010, and still continues to monitor and guide the progress of these students. A scholarship programme funded by the Kher Foundation has been started for the last two years and is being availed by 15 tribal students.

In order to extend TMNP to not only tribal students but all marginalised students, MIP changed the name of the program to 'Underprivileged Giftedness Nurturing Programme'. The name change has taken place after several discussions and deliberation among its Committee Members. We believe that the name change will enable us to refocus not only our activities for underprivileged students but also support in identifying appropriate donor agencies.

Nurturing Modules

Over the years, MIP has developed a set of activities and methodologies for nurturing intelligence, which are now being documented and formalized. We are slowly moving towards creating nurturing modules, which are holistic and touch the multi-dimensional aspects of intelligence.

The modules under development and documentation include;

- The Panchakosha Nurturing Model – based on Vedic principles for nurturing intelligence
- Bal Yogesh Model – Yoga based nurturing of intelligence
- Ecological Priest Model – using nature for nurturing intelligence

These modules will be developed, tested and evaluated by the psychologists at Jnana Prabodhini and the National Supervisory Authority. Preparation of modules will enable enhanced teacher training and extension of the nurturing program to schools at remote locations.

Future Plans for Nurturing Intelligence

- Nurturing Module development
- Scholarship program (self-funded) for Mensans (urban, rural, tribal)
- Development of online and offline forum for all Mensa members for creating mentorship and peer-to-peer nurturing through use of social media, blogs, and printed magazine
- Teacher training in 'giftedness nurturing'

Understanding Intelligence

Ever since the inception of Mensa India, we have adopted the Western models of intelligence and nurturing. While there is no attempt to reject these models, there is an urgent need to increase our understanding of intelligence through the Indian perception. Further, most models of intelligence assume a homogenous society where individuals have equal opportunity for growth and development. However, real societies are far from this ideal and have members who are extremely varied in their socio-economic and cultural situations. This is especially true in India. Therefore, Mensa India Pune Chapter wishes to take special efforts in researching various aspects of intelligence. Several research projects have been proposed and efforts are

being taken to identify funding agencies to implement these projects. Background data has been developed for these projects.

- A library was set up at the Jnana Prabodhini Institute of Psychology specially dedicated to Giftedness. Over 1000 articles 4000 abstracts 150 books on giftedness are included in the library. The library was inaugurated by Dr. Laurie Croft from the Belin Blank Center, USA.
- The following projects have been proposed for understanding intelligence
 - Buddhi Concept in Vedic Literature
 - Improved Tests: Developing a separate testing tool which conforms to International Standards, under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Sujal Watwe and assisted by Dr. Meenakshi Gokhale and Dr. Devasena Desai
 - Nurturing Scientific Aptitude: with guidance and assistance from Science Observatory, Jnana Prabodhini, Nigadi
 - Giftedness Counseling Booklet
 - JPIP Giftedness Educational Program
 - Bal Yogesh Project: Impact of Yoga on intelligence
 - Nutrition and its impacts on intelligence
 - Studying self-perception of the gifted

Ms. Sameena Manasawala, a researcher at MIP, visited the Belin Blank Center for understating the various activities, research work and programs undertaken at the giftedness nurturing school and will be bringing her knowledge and training to MIP.

Following dedicated researchers will conduct the research activity,

Dr. Sujala Watve, Dr. Devasena Desai, Dr. Meenakshi Gokhale, Dr. Narayan Desai

Ms. Sameena Manasawala, Mr. Amol Shepal, Ms. Pooja Dharane

We are hopeful that our research cell will be able to give us path breaking inputs in our mission for understanding, identifying and nurturing intelligence.

Collaborating for Intelligence

MIP has been fortunate to have a huge network of individuals and institutions, which have been contributing to our activities in a variety of ways. We have the privilege of collaborating with the following individuals and institutes

Donors

Mr. Anand Desai and Mrs. Sonavi Desai of the Kher Foundation

Mr. Prem-ji Godha of the IPCA Pharmaceuticals

Mr. Gautam Bhushan of the Narain Foundation

Mr. Milind Yelsangikar, Angle Advertising

Mr. Kedar Deshpande, Aaroh Travel

Mr. Vinayak Gawde, Makrand Angal – Travel Support

Mr. Sukumar Beri – Stationary

Ms. Anjali Joshi and Col. Joshi

Sujata Computers

Mr. Hishikesh Pendharkar – Website Development

We are grateful for their personal interest and timely guidance and support in our organization.

Collaborating Institutes (India)

Jnana Prabodhini Institute of Psychology, Wisdom High International School, Nasik

Dr. Shamrao Kalamadi School, Pune, Ramakrishna Mission

Kaivalyadhama, Lonavala, Gram Prabodhini, Salumbre

Sevadham Tribal School, Malegaon

Karve Tribal School, Kamshet

Gurukul School, Lonavala

Collaborating Institutes (USA)

Belin Blank Center, USA

Dr. Laurie Croft from the Belin Blank Center, USA visited Mensa India Pune Chapter in order to promote research and collaboration on giftedness. She visited Jnana Prabodhini and inaugurated the library dedicated to Giftedness books and research. She also visited the tribal schools at Salumbre and Kamshet. She gave an address on giftedness at Mensa Delhi and also spoke to the members of Chennai Counselors Federation. She felicitated Ms. Sushama Kathe (Tribal Mensan and Tribal School Teacher) for receiving a scholarship in order to complete her D.Ed. course.

MIP looks forward to getting guidance in its research work and related activities from the Belin Blank Center.

Formation of the Advisory Board

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program Advisory board met on 13th April 2013 at Mumbai and discussed diverse issues and plans. Mr. Anand Desai heads the advisory board and Kishore Asthana, Gowri Shankar, Sonavi Desai, Dr. Watve, Dr. Devasena Desai, Karthik Sarma, Radhika Pereira and Dr. Narayan Desai are members of the same.

Promoting the Intelligent

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program Website

We have attempted to make a dynamic user friendly website for Tribal Mensa, which is being used to showcase the efforts of MIP in front of the global audience. The online presence has garnered a lot of interest from many Mensa members and has led to an increase in individual donations to the programme.

Mensa India Pune Chapter Facebook Page

We have been able to target 7000 persons from the age group of 20 to 40 years through the medium of a Facebook Page. The page gives information on all the latest activities of Mensa India Pune Chapter. We are hopeful that the online, easy-to-access platform will enable us to revitalize our youth based activities.

Future plans

- Initiating the formation of Mensa Opinion Blog to give an open platform for ideas of Mensans. Research op-eds by Mensans, creative thoughts, links to their work, etc. will be uploaded onto the Blog.
- In order to increase visibility of Mensans, T-Shirts and other memorabilia will be promoted through the Facebook Page and website

Team MIP (2012-13)

Following Team Members conducted the activities of the Mensa India Pune Chapter;

Dr. Narayan Desai, Dr. Sujala Watve, Dr. Devasena Desai, Ms. Sameena Manasawala, Mr. Amol Shepal, Nikita and Supriya

In the coming year the following members will be added to the current team and a change in the responsibility matrix is envisaged;

Mr. Akshay Kulkarni:	President
Ms. Shilpa Kulkarni:	Vice President
Ms. Anuja Date:	Secretary
Ms. Priyanka Deosthali:	Activity In Charge
Ms. Manjiri Gholap:	Member