



‘Gifted, the so called privileged will remain underprivileged if we don’t reach out to them’

Impact of Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program 2002 - 2013

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program is an initiative started in the year 2002 with the main objective to identify and nurture giftedness in the tribal and underprivileged sections of the Indian society.

A person identified as gifted or intellectually gifted has an intellectual capability significantly higher than average. A gifted person, usually, has characteristic behaviors and intellectual capabilities that are different from others. They require nurturing and support in their childhood and throughout their educational career that is different from those around them.

This is what Tribal Mensa strives to do. It strives to bring out the best in Indian society by identifying and nourishing the gifted children in tribal areas. These children have great capability and potential and Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program seeks to develop this potential and ensure these children gain opportunities to explore their intellectual capabilities.

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program is a three-fold program. From its inception in 2002 it has been concentrating on the identification of giftedness in the rural areas, the ‘nurturing’ of these gifted children and their future ‘nourishing’.

1. Giftedness Identification Phase

The Giftedness Identification Phase is the primary phase of the nurturing program. The identification is done with a modified version of the Mensa IQ Test specially created to suit the tribal children who typically have little to none educational background. Tribal Mensa since 2002 has tested tribal children in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir with hopes to expand its horizons to all the remaining states in India. Till date, 700+ students have been identified as gifted with more than 200 students being identified as gifted in the year 2012-13, a huge leap as compared to its humble beginnings of identifying 4 children in 2002.



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2. Giftedness Nurturing Phase

On identification of the gifted children, Tribal Mensa believes that these children need to be nurtured and educated for them to reach their full potential. The nurturing program follows a one of a kind methodology based on the 5 koshas or the Panchakosha as given in the Vedas. It aims for the all-round development of the children from leadership qualities to the increase in their self-esteem. The program is conducted through residential workshops and pull out programs etc. The team has successfully helped their students achieve degrees that with consideration to their backgrounds would have been practically impossible. 3 girls have completed their BCA and 4 other students have received diplomas in education, agriculture and mechanical engineering.

3. Giftedness Nourishing Phase

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program also recognizes that these gifted children and young adults need support even after completing their education. In the nourishing phase, Tribal Mensa gives its students opportunities to undergo career counseling. The team strives to provide these children with scholarships and academic and medical support. Apart from monetary and financial support, Tribal Mensa provides the students with network support. It helps students get in contact with professionals of various fields and helps them to create contacts in order to establish themselves in the future.

Other Achievements

1. Research

Apart from the practical aspect of helping gifted children reach their potentials, Tribal Mensa also encourages research in the field of giftedness. With the publication of two master’s degree dissertations, three scientific papers and a poster presented at the Giftedness International Conference, research in the field of scientific aptitude and giftedness and a Ph.D thesis on self-esteem all under the umbrella of Tribal Mensa, the team ensures that research and study on giftedness continues to thrive. Tribal Mensa has a collaboration with Belin Blank Centre,



Dhruvā (2014-2016)

Special Program of Mensa India for Underprivileged Gifted

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University of Iowa, USA in Giftedness Research and has also developed a new IQ test especially for the tribal members of the society.

2. Awards and Publicity

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program has received a Templeton Fellowship in 2008 and distributed more than 10,000 booklets on giftedness in both English and Marathi. It also, to a certain extent, has created societal awareness on giftedness and gifted education through publications in leading newspapers like the Times of India, DNA, Sakal and internationally in the The New York Times.

In The Pipeline

Next in the pipeline for the Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program is the expansion of the program to all parts of India. A new online system for creating a big network and gaining funding is being worked upon. Tribal Mensa also hopes to expand its horizons and include the underprivileged in its ambit through the launching of project “Dhruva”.

Soliciting your cooperation,

Dr. Narayan R. Desai

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Every underprivileged gifted child in India is identified, nurtured & empowered for nation building