

CORE INSIGHT

Child is ready

The child is childhood-ready
The child's family is child's
childhood-ready.

CORE INSIGHT

If they were to follow their natural instincts, the family unit has everything that it takes to bring up a child.

The system makes the family, and through it, the child feels inadequate. A reassurance is all that their wounded self-esteem needs.

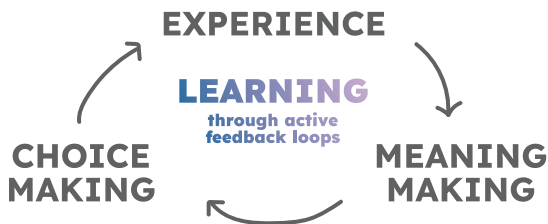
CORE INSIGHT

Active Feedback Loops

Nature's way of making
the child self-reliant

CORE INSIGHT

In the early years, the child and life are engaged in a fascinating process - building complex feedback loops related to living, learning and livelihood.



CORE INSIGHT

Activities of Daily Living

Is the child world ready?

CORE INSIGHT

Activities of daily living (ADLs) are essential and routine tasks that most young, healthy individuals can perform without assistance.

The inability to accomplish essential activities of daily living may lead to unsafe conditions and poor quality of life. Activities that support independent living – self care – self-feeding, personal hygiene (grooming, toilet hygiene), maintaining living space, functional mobility, managing transactions – financial, social.

CORE INSIGHT

Aahaar, Vihaar, Vichaar

आहार - विहार - विचार

CORE INSIGHT

The three foundational pillars

Aahaar: Eat well

Vihaar: Be-do-relate well

Vichaar: Think well

Mental Model Shift: From Fragmented child development to Integrated child development.

Health, according to the World Health Organization, is "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity".

CORE INSIGHT

Inborn, Imbibed or Induced?

जन्मजात, आत्मसात्
व उत्प्रेरित

CORE INSIGHT

Some skills are inborn, some imbibed and some have to be induced.

It is suboptimal to induce the skills that are ideally imbibed, for instance, language.

Activities of daily living (ADLs) are best imbibed.

CORE INSIGHT

First 3000 Days of Life

Womb + Home: 1000 Days

Home + Preschool: 1000 Days

**Home + Foundational School:
1000 Days**

CORE INSIGHT

जीवन के आधार कौशल

The first 3000 days of life are critical for building the foundational life skills / growth factors.

Competencies, the lack of which at early childhood stage could lead to potentially detrimental long-term life outcomes for children.

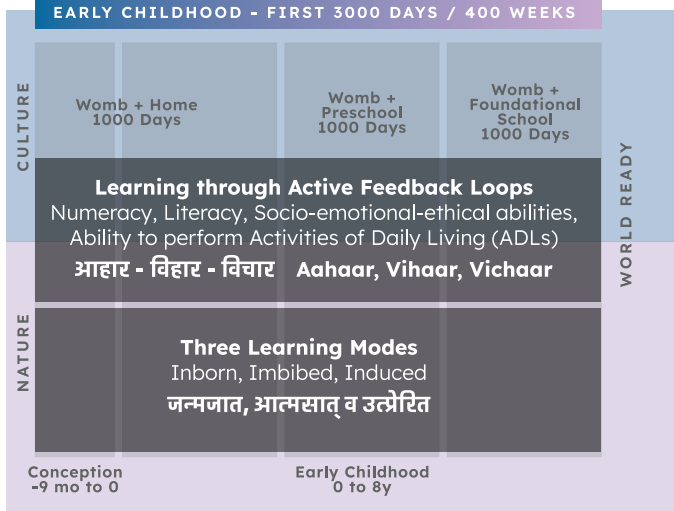
CORE INSIGHT CARD 1 OF 2

Womb to World Ready

In the first 3000 Days /
400 Weeks of Life

CORE INSIGHT CARD 1 OF 2

EARLY CHILDHOOD - FIRST 3000 DAYS / 400 WEEKS



CORE INSIGHT CARD 2 OF 2

Womb to World Ready

In the first 3000 Days /
400 Weeks of Life

CORE INSIGHT CARD 2 OF 2

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CORE INSIGHT

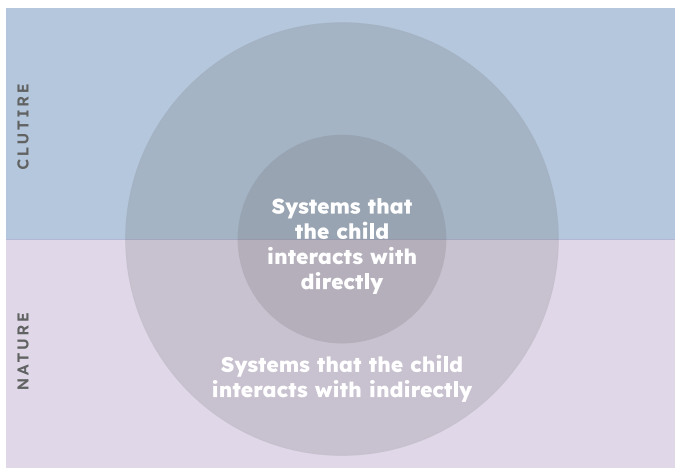
CARD 1 OF 2

Nature + Culture

Learning happens when the child engages with culture and nature directly.

CORE INSIGHT

CARD 1 OF 2



CORE INSIGHT

CARD 2 OF 2

Nature + Culture

Learning happens when the child engages with culture and nature directly.

CORE INSIGHT CARD 2 OF 2

Nature is all the animals, plants, and other things in the world that are not made by humans, and all the events and processes that are not caused by humans.

Collins (modified)

Our **culture** is our life organising system, our meaningplex – a complex yet coherent matrix of meanings, complete with its values, norms and artefacts*.

*Physical, social and mental artefacts: tangible and intangible constructs that are a result of human agency operating in an emergent social structure.

CORE INSIGHT

Deductive & Inductive Learning

Two distinct and opposing instructional approaches.

Both approaches offer advantages, but the biggest difference is the role of the teacher.

CORE INSIGHT

Deductive Learning: Theory » Hypothesis » Patterns » Confirmation

Inductive Learning: Experience » Observation » Patterns » Hypothesis » Theory

In a deductive classroom, the teacher conducts lessons by introducing and explaining concepts to students, and then expecting students to complete tasks to practice the concepts; this approach is very teacher-centred. Conversely, inductive instruction may be a more student centered approach. Makes use of a strategy known as ‘noticing’.

CORE INSIGHT

Natural Vs Processed

Aahaar, Vihaar, Vichaar are better served natural than processed in the early years.

CORE INSIGHT

Henry David Thoreau felt it ‘removes people from a sense of connectedness with society and with the world at large, including nature. He claimed that the average man in a civilized society is less wealthy, in practice than one in “savage” society. According to him self-sufficiency was enough to cover one’s basic needs.

CORE INSIGHT

Child Centricity Vs Child Centrality

CORE INSIGHT

We are truly child centric if we don't allow the child to get used to centrality.

Individualistic / Collectivist

CORE INSIGHT

Abnormal levels of judging normalised

EARLY CHILDHOOD

CORE INSIGHT

Insecure parents often begin judging their children too harshly too soon.

They are anxious about the child not learning enough to compete well to get into a good school.

Mental Model Shift: from over-evaluation - disabling evaluation to enabling evaluation.

CORE INSIGHT

Child is not adult-in- progress

CORE INSIGHT

Child is not a lesser adult. S/he is often more.

There are certain physical, mental and social competencies that are higher in children as compared to adults.

Because children explore more than adults, this helps them learn better than grown-ups, according to a recent study. (New York Post)

CORE INSIGHT

Are we in a hurry to turn children into students?

Forcing a structure too early is interrupting nature's processes that are designed to give the little one a solid human foundation.

CORE INSIGHT

Disproportionate focus on 'education' too early is robbing kids of rich multisensorial engagement with the world around.

#HumanCompetenciesBeforeProfessionalCompetencies.

Mental Model Shift: Infrastructure / Institution led early childhood to Natural instincts led early childhood.

Scientific evidence confirms conception to age 3 years as the time during which adverse exposures exert the greatest harm, and effective interventions the greatest benefit. The development of young children has been neglected to date in favour of emphasis on survival and preparation for school. The focus should be on optimisation of development at scale during early childhood. (Lancet Study)

CORE INSIGHT

**You live, you
don't 'do' life**

**You learn,
you don't
'do' learning**

CORE INSIGHT

Modern living is often too deliberate and too designed.

Life is a series of interventions, and so is learning.

Best learning is often a consequence of living.

#HumanDoingVsHumanBeing

CORE INSIGHT

Self-taught is better than system- taught

CORE INSIGHT

Most children spend most of their waking hours in performing adult enforced activities aimed at teaching them.

Children don't need to be forced, if they get to pick their own pursuits.

Self-taught-system-supported is better than system-taught.

#ImmersiveActivities #EnergisedFocus

CORE INSIGHT

Child interrupted

Stay out, when the child
and life are at play

CORE INSIGHT

A child's brain forms neural connections at a pace of at least 1,000 per second. However, recent indications are that the speed could be up to 1 million per second.

CORE INSIGHT

Exclusive Possessions vs Collective Commons

CORE INSIGHT

‘Privileged’ children must own their toys (bought for exclusive use).

The less privileged ones feel a sense of ownership even when playing with shared playthings, often freely available, non-owned stuff too.

CORE INSIGHT

**Make toy,
play with toy**

**Cook food,
eat food**

CORE INSIGHT

It is common in rural areas for kids to make their own toys and create their own games. The way you play with your toy changes if you make and repair your own toys. Same with food that you grow and cook yourself.

If not, this learning journey makes you nothing more than a demanding consumer.

CORE INSIGHT

Best teacher of life skills

CORE INSIGHT

The best teacher of life skills is not a teacher, but life itself.

The next best would be life simulation, not a classroom.

CORE INSIGHT

**Schools, not
as institutes
of education
but as
centers of
community
learning**

CORE INSIGHT

Schools are not just places where children go to get educated, but where the community converges for individual and collective learning.

CORE INSIGHT

Villages still live up to the old adage

CORE INSIGHT

It does take a village to raise a child, and villages still manage to do it well in spite of them trying to mimic city lifestyles.

Children spend a lot of time outside home interacting with 'the village'. They become self reliant early in life partnering parents in running the household.

City children in comparison lead detached, insular and clumsily curated lives.

शहर बच्चों को पालता है, ग्रामीण बच्चे पल जाते हैं;
और ज़्यादा सक्षम होते हैं।

CORE INSIGHT

Preparing them for 'a good life'

EARLY CHILDHOOD

CORE INSIGHT

If parents can afford it, they would rather the children focus on studies and not spend time in household chores.

Do well in education >> do well at work >> earn well >> hire help.

3 kinds of parents:

1. Don't involve children in household work.
2. There's no option, everyone does house work.
3. Involve kids to give them 'exposure'.

CORE INSIGHT

**Is good
parenting
being 'good'
or being
authentic?**

CORE INSIGHT

Some parents in their effort to be good role models for children become self consciously 'socially/morally correct'. They come across as measured, prudish and often awkward.

Others continue to be who they have been before they become parents. They come across as spontaneous, uninhibited and authentic.

CORE INSIGHT

**Not less or
more
exposed,
just
differently
exposed**

CORE INSIGHT

‘Exposure’ seems to be a big thing for parents who want to expose their children to different kinds of experiences.

They plan their lives around the ideal exposure they would like to offer their kids.

You also meet parents who don’t do any of that and yet have kids who are worldly-wise.

CORE INSIGHT

The best things in a child's life

EARLY CHILDHOOD

CORE INSIGHT

If the best things in a child's life are things,
humans just become lesser 'things'.



SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Being worldly-wise

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Being worldly-wise is not about being smart enough to cheat, but to be smart enough to deal with cheats.

(a young father in rural Bangalore)

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Mums lead by example

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Children learn not just if they have educated mothers who can teach, but even better from observing (often uneducated ones) those who run successful households.

#LeaderFigures #AbsentFathers

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Parents who don't teach, teach better

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Traditionally, parents just kept busy running their households.

Their children would shadow them and became their apprentices in performing chores before taking on independent roles at home.

Children who take on real household roles, using real implements learn better than those who just play-act using toys.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Some of the best toys for kids aren't toys

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Most objects and spaces the child engages with were never designed for children.

Children use their imagination and repurpose everything as 'toys'. Household objects make for compelling play things.

A sewing machine could become a car steering, a bicycle or even a musical instrument.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Adults believe they orchestrate the child's world

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

It is in the child's nature to be charmingly resourceful when it comes to securing all that they and their childhood need – physical and human resources.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Stockholm syndrome?

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Ask a child to visualize a classroom.

‘Teacher with a stick’ image keeps reappearing.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

It's like flying a kite

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Raising children is like flying kites: keep them anchored, let go enough, a tug only when it's needed, and celebrate when they soar.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

SOP and personal initiative powered Anganwadis

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Anganwadis in the south (Karnataka) are very active. They follow all standard operating procedures; put in a lot of effort into 'checking boxes' ('checkboxed' learning).

In the north (UP), well run anganwadis are an exception, which run well thanks essentially to the enthusiastic worker, who often engages family members as they are short staffed.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

ASHA + Anganwadi Worker: FPG for rural parents

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

ASHA and Anganwadi workers together are great support (friend-philosopher-guide) for the young rural parents when it comes to early childhood.

Right from conception till the child is ready for school.

They are around in most moments of truth, and just a walk away.

Parts of India where Anganwadis are not well managed or active, lack this.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

An appeasement, a bribe or convenient distraction That's what toys are

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

In urban areas, toys are rarely seen as tools for learning.

They are either appeasement, bribes or a convenient distraction.

The smartphone is a super-toy.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Assertive mothers don't dethrone submissive fathers

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

In traditional families where the mother happens to be, by nature a more dominant parent, leads most decisions but still accords the father the privilege of 'approving' the decisions as the 'head of the family'.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Thanks to the system, Or in spite of it?

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Being educated and having a healthy sense-of-self might not always have a correlation.

Many uneducated adults come across as wise, self confident and led by their own convictions.

मुझे जो पता है, वो मुझे पता है. और वो काफी है।

While there are some educated ones who seem very tentative, unsure and with a shaken sense-of-self.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Children sent away from precarious homes

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Loss of livelihood, or when families become dysfunctional, the children are sent away to safer places. Either to live with grandparents, or if the family can afford it, to a hostel.

These children are brought back once things get better. But the 'away stint' is often a life-altering one for them.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

When a happy rural family moves into a city slum...

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

From being in control of their lives and destiny to feeling miserable every day.

From feeling safe in the fabric-of-life in the village to living precariously on daily wages.

Health conditions are a double whammy - loss of wage and medical expenses.

What follows is neglect of the children.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Private schools and passport to success

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Private schools promise equipping the children with a skill that opens new avenues of earning and therefore growth.

The skill is knowledge of English language.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Land, property or education

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

**If you are not born powerful,
you have to acquire power.**

If you don't have inheritance that makes you powerful, the only way to acquire power and respect is through education.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

By earning on the side the woman earns more than money

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Women are not content with only taking care of households; they have begin making money on the side. Stitching clothes, embroidery etc.

It corrects the power equation with the partner a bit. It also earns her respect from her children.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Touchy middle class

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Middle class has hang-ups about the kind of profession the children will choose.

There is pressure on the children to pick work that belongs not too low in the profession-hierarchy.

Other classes are not too hung up; and kids not too under pressure.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Overenthusiastic Anganwadis

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Anganwadi workers have to be high on initiative and very resourceful, given that they have to run the institution with scarce resources.

You will find highly energetic and driven workers in the most successful Anganwadis; often show-boating her children and her role.

It's ironical, but 'successfully run' Anganwadis are more about the worker than the children.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Kids perform; Parents pass parenting test

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

When parents ask the kid to perform for a guest, it isn't so much about the kid or even about the guest.

It is really about the parents.

They seem to seek validation of parenting from whoever comes along.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Serve and Return

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Learning is not one way, only towards the child. The child learns also from the way the adult receives and responds to what the child says/does. It's a two-way play.

A good rally can take both parties to some fascinating places.

In most households though it was like demanding enthusiastic serves without offering equally enthusiastic responses.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

He, good cop She, bad cop

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Mothers in a number of households play the bad cop; and are fine doing it.

New fathers are more indulgent, and play the good cop.

Mothers enforce discipline – ‘study well to prepare well for school’. Fathers on the other hand would rather leave the the disciplining bit to the schools.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Parents send them to study. Children go to be with friends

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

School for children is a space to be with friends;
to play, run, spend their surging energies.

Classroom is often a price
they have to pay for all the fun.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Too much attention Too little freedom

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Urban children feel too watched.
Too much attention from parents.
Too little freedom in a small insular home.

Coping strategies are emerging
- stayovers and play dates.

Gated communities provide the kind of
collective care and safety that traditional
villages provided.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Mental health is finally getting its due attention

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Urban parents are becoming aware of mental health issues.

According to a pediatrician, the movie Tare Zameen Par triggered the much needed discourse.

More such discourse altering content is needed when it comes to learning. Positive mental health is enabled by the triad of parents, teachers and friends

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Grandparents are the best 'nannies'

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Says a pediatrician:

The combination of true love, sense of duty and entitlement.

A professional nanny in comparison would be far more transactional and less entitled.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Resenting the pains of parenting

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Some young urban parents resent the pains that accompany parenting.

Go getting professionals who trust their abilities to make things happen often feel challenged when it comes to parenting.

Some acknowledge, but only in hindsight that the experience helped them evolve as people.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Teach the society if you want children to grow well

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

A pediatrician's view:

To help a child grow don't teach the child, teach the society (one family at time), children's education is less about children and more about system.

Begin with the new parents, they are more positively predisposed to learning.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Invested parenting

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Invested parenting is more about investment in the child's sense-of-self.

Teaching her numeracy and literacy and leaving her with a broken sense-of-self isn't being truly invested.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Comparison and Projection

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

A plethora of choices create comparison and projection. This leads to competition. Which leads to a state of constant anxiety.

(The respondent plays the Gayathri Mantra while cooking for her child). Music creates the right energy around food and actually makes the food better. Music is an ingredient in food. Khaane me gaana. Toys look neglected.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Home as a learning space

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

"Ghar pe" is seen as a bad word/thing. Home is not perceived as a place of learning. If the child is at home, s/he is thought to be doing nothing and not learning.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

**The world
people desire
might not be
the world
they chase**

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

For their growing children, parents desire a space that has more peace of mind, traditional food of the past, no mobile phones.

But the world they desire is diametrically opposite of the world they are chasing today. A world full of stuff and frantic pace.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Future shock phenomenon?

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

With so many choices they are trapped in a world of projection and performance, and they can't handle it.

"Smile kar ke dikhao". The mother wanted to show how the child smiles even as she told us how things like playing with her nani, sitting on her bean bag etc. make her smile.

There is an obsession performance even in the smallest things.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Tuition vs Intuition

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Everything taught by tuition, nothing sought by intuition. Everything is about Investment and return. Nothing is just for the experience.
Eg. She's already tall, she doesn't need to go for swimming.

Only numeracy and literacy are perceived as skills. Everything is "extra" curricular. Sensory learning experiences are being missed. We are compromised learners. The Potential Paradox - What the child is good at is not being observed. Everything is just being thrown at them - swimming, abacus.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Playing and learning are mutually exclusive!

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Play and Learn are generally seen as different and disconnected activities.

Learning spaces can be situational & contextual. Even as early as foundational level (pre-school and primary), kids feel a sense of burden of academics and the syllabus.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Good burden?

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Some parents aren't sure about the kind of education they want for their children.

While they complain about 'too much work given by the school', they feel the school must do more.

They feel the child is too loaded, but also believe that this load is preparing them for a tough future.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Celebration for celebration's sake

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

A sense of community life, togetherness, joy and abundance

A belief in the process, in emergence
Being in the present, in the 'here and now'
Authentic, spontaneous - not fake, deliberate

“we celebrate Holi, not photos, its not for show”

Can learning be for learning's sake?

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Just like fish takes to water

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Most children take to water naturally.

A toddler splashes and enjoys even in spilt water. In a pool, water is their playground, play as well as the toy.

And they create their own challenges and adventure.

They can spend the whole day in water, they have to be pulled out to go back home.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Peer Influence

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Children's choices are influenced by media, advertisement, availability, promotions, etc but the biggest driver for decision making is:

What friends say

Children listen to friends and decide where to take the family for the weekend.

They travel long distances to reach the water park. (Marino Water Park)

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

**Play is
instinctive,
adventure is
a part of it.**

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Many children choose adventure over swings and slides these days.

Some feel motion-sick on swings, like they do in cars.

एडवेंचर में डर नहीं लगता, हर बच्चा उतना ही करता है जितना वो कर सकता है

Adventure allows Autonomy

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Markets don't discriminate

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

लड़की लडके मे अंतर घर वाले ही करते है
बहार वाले नही

Market just wants to sell, whatever sells.
It has no gender bias.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Fear - a means, or an end?

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

डर लगे तो ध्यान बांट लो,
आँख बंद कर लो,
जीत के बारे में सोचो...

The lengths that we go to distract from something that is a symptom of what really needs to be addressed.

It is implied that - fear is shameful, hence has to be overcome

Can fear be a measure of one's current threshold?

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

दूर के ढोल सुहावने

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

The grass is always greener on the other side
Villagers want to go to the cities, city-dwellers to
bigger cities.

People from Lucknow come to the water park so
far away in the village. Villagers don't come
here, they go to the city for amusement.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

It's not only children, all imitate

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

जो लोग करते हैं, वो सब करते हैं

There is a comfort and security in doing what others are doing, often without thinking.

Like - family outing, eating out, buying snacks, gifts, celebrations.

#herdmentality

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Securing a badge called school

(more for parents than for the children)

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

For the parents:

The school building is more important - not teaching.

Area is more important - not classroom or playground.

The fact that a minister's son studies here - not for good teachers.

Certificate is more important - not knowledge.
#school-as-a-status-symbol.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Oblivious to the obvious

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Selective ignorance can be bliss for children. Parents, at times, are too preoccupied in their work and at times have a way to look away, ignore and let children do what they are doing, or not doing. Thanks to this children get their space to be, explore, experiment, fail, succeed and they learn from all of this.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

बचपन ही सीखने का माहौल है

Childhood is the most conducive
environment for learning

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

High confidence, experimentative, self-challenging, no fear or fear of failure, not much conditioning.

बच्चों में जो हिम्मत है वो बड़ों में नहीं
पंद्रह से पहले के पड़ाव

डर - डाँट का, ऊंचाई का, गाडी चलाने का - पंद्रह से पहले पार कर लें तो बाद में कोई मुश्किल नहीं

Fear of authority, height, driving if you cross these before fifteen then there is no difficulty later.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

डर के उस पार, सांप, शेर सब सामान

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

डर की शुरुआत माँ से होती है, फिर स्कूल आता है
डर - बिगड़ने का, पीछे छूट जाने का, अल्पसंख्यक
होने का

Adults are fearful of their children getting spoilt,
them getting left behind, being a minority, etc.
Children pick it up from them.

Fear brings in artificiality, inauthenticity, con-
straints, won't let you move.

It makes you lose your voice, questions one's
worth, loss of control.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Learning by living

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Meeting and engaging with many people as an important life skill. Children want to try everything that comes their way. They want to try out stuff.

experience >> meaning making >> choice making >> experience.

चलने के बाद पता चलता है कहाँ नहीं जाना है
बोलने के बाद - क्या नहीं बोलना

They are gauging, and trying all the time.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

It's endured and therefore good for us

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

अपनी बेटी पराई
पराई बेटी अपनी
ये तो हमारा संस्कार है, विधि का विधान है।

This is our culture, It works for us

The tried and tested habits of
letting go - starting anew,
detach - attach

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अन्न जैसा मन

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मन वैसा होगा, जैसा अन्न होगा।

We are what we eat - our food defines our behaviour.

शाकाहारी - माँसाहारी
घर का - होटल का

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दिवाली से होली तक

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That's the best part of the year for children.

Nature is at its best
Festivities are in the air
Celebrations galore

The much deserved abundance.

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Every belief comes with an expiry date

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CULTURAL

“A belief is important as long as it gives us money”

It expires once it stops being useful.

The snake charmers (nath jaati) use their skills to earn in the temples where people come to seek blessings from the snake god.

They may not believe that the snake blesses people, but they want to make people believe it as it helps them in their livelihood.

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Natural progression Upgrades in life

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**From a tree to a pindi to a temple.
From home to school to a better school.**

Adding more, whether tangible or intangible,
seems to be natural.

Upgrading is satisfying.

What is fulfilling holistically needs to be exam-
ined though.

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Boundaries are self-made

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And so are structures, customs and rituals
Whatever is self-made can be self-changed.

मंदिर में हर घड़ी शुभ है।

Temple - a potent space

Every moment in a temple is auspicious
The same moment elsewhere can be otherwise.

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HUMAN

Competition that's rooted in insecurity

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

अभी जब वो चल भी नहीं पाती है।
हम उसे दौड़ाना शुरू करा दें।

It's the age of competitiveness
and mindsets that are rooted in scarcity.

A child needs support, collaboration and
abundance of love and care to thrive.

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LEARNING

Self Learning Mode

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LEARNING

Skill development of drop-out youth:

Drop-outs are being trained in their interest areas through self-learning mode in a shorter period (60-65 days) in a residential training set-up which includes:

1. Self-study check
2. Content delivery
3. Knowledge check

All this is done through activity, videos, movies and not books.

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Earning dignity and entitlement; Not just livelihood

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CULTURAL

When you are not born entitled,
you have to earn the dignity of being a human.

Education as a tool for social dignity
Vocation, job as another means towards it.

#Rehabilitating rejects of the school system

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LEARNING

पहले पैसे महंगे थे अब पैसे सस्ते

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

An old shopkeeper on the depreciating value of currency (not on the value of things).

At his old age, he still runs the shop, not for money, but to just meet people.

बुढ़ापे में कमाई नहीं, दर्शन ही खुराक है।
हर आदमी भगवान है।

Every one is busy earning money, all the time goes in that, no time to just meet.

बच्चों में संस्कार तो मिलने से आते हैं।

Children learn values by meeting people, they are not learning these in schools.

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LEARNING

What is worth learning?

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LEARNING

The age-old wisdom says: Learning for life comes from home.

आचरण, शिष्टता
छोटे - बड़े का अदब
अवतारी या अविनाशी प्रवृत्ति

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

बड़े बनना है तो छोटों से मिलिए

To really grow big, meet those
who are small

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Experience is not linear.

Learning comes from investment.

The real Investment is investment of time.

समय का प्रभाव

समय का अभाव

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You value what you earn

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CULTURAL

मुफ्त का राशन

Free distribution of ration seems to be the root cause of all malady.

Anything that is earned, is precious
If one pays for something, it's valued more
Ration or School.

#govt school/private school

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CULTURAL

Gravity of a sacred space

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CULTURAL

मन्नत मांगते हैं, गाँठ बांधते हैं।
पूरी होने पर गाँठ खोलने आते हैं।

A place of worship, a marketplace, a picnic spot,
a cultural hub, a happening place.

To request, to demand, to state expectations, to
thank.

At times to de-stress and sometimes just to be
Many reasons for all age-groups to pay a visit.

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Rural – in touch with the Real

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The landscape
The structures
The people
The relationships

A sensing of space, expansiveness, abundance,
bonding, trust, more land, more sky, clean air,
more focus on
essentials.

Less crowding, less artificiality, fewer buildings,
fewer vehicles, less toys.
Free movement and free play.

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CULTURAL

Everyone wants an ideal other

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CULTURAL

When the expectation is that things will happen only if others become ideal – ideal parents, ideal children, ideal schools, ideal teachers, everyone else is suboptimal.

We resent suboptimality, and yet do nothing about it as others need to change first.

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CULTURAL

Coaching is now essential, School is optional

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Coaching classes are a norm these days. The child's days is busy, we make it busy. Children go to school, to the coaching class, to tuition class and some, even hobby classes.

#ClassHopping

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CULTURAL

The undesirable Anganwadis

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Parents often don't want to send their kids to Anganwadis. They say children just play there, that too on their own. Parents expect the teacher to pay more attention, teach them.

Caste+Class play a role in rejecting Anganwadis
Parents of higher castes don't want their kids to mingle with those of lower castes.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Mother and kids co-learn?

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Some mothers who are uneducated want to fulfill their unfulfilled desire to study through their kids.

New Possibility: run parallel learning programmes for children and mothers.

Mothers who are keen could join Anganwadis as sahayaks.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

सरकारी school
की मान्यता ज्यादा
है, पढ़ाई तो
coaching से भी
हो जाती है

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Govt schools are respected more,
Children go to a coaching center anyway.

Because of lack of government provision of minimum essentials in schools, people find their own jugaad way to deal with it.

Eg: alternating between private, public and coaching is necessary if sending to public school.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Literate bad is better than illiterate bad

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Educated bad kids are better than un-educated bad kids.

पढ़े लिखे बच्चे कुछ तो सोचते हैं,
अनपढ़ तो बहुत बुरा बर्ताव करते हैं।

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Women are earning their influence at home

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Women have begun to earn by sewing clothes or running small shops/beauty parlours from home. They do it so that they can confidently assert themselves when it comes to key decisions.

“Now that I earn, I have the right to spend on myself and my children without feeling guilty.”

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

It does take a village to raise a child

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Agents of learning beyond the parents –
A relative (mausi/chachi), a friend or a
neighbour confidant and guide in the extended
family.

Many help the children and guide them through
key life thresholds. They do it with an
affectionate entitlement and the parents don't
mind it.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Iron fist in a velvet glove

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Shy and submissive women often turn fierce when it comes to securing their daughter's future.

Either through her own financial independence

Or through Education as a tool to ensure social dignity of the daughter.

Daughters are mother's secret social hack.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

**Son's failure
is our failure
Daughter's
success is
only hers**

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Girls have begun to exercise agency for their aspirations.

For the parents though, the stress around son's failure is felt more than daughter's failure.

Sadness in the son's failure is felt more than happiness in the daughter success in school.

लड़की कसिी और घर की है,
लड़का तो हमारे साथ रहेगा ।

Because daughter belongs to some other house,
son will live with us.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Let's flip the cliché

What will you be when you grow up?

to

What would you do/be if you were a child?

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

What will it take for us to consider
Childhood as a complete stage and respect it.

There are some things only a child can do:
fit into spaces, climb trees, constant activity,
persistent, resilient, let go easily.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Poverty, a reality harsh, no doubt

(Often from the other's
perspective)

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

गरीब है हम - ऐसा लोग कहते है,
मन से हम धनवान है।

If only money is the measure, then there is poverty.

If only literacy is the measure, then there is illiteracy.

Underprivileged, underdeveloped, illiterate are all terms coined by the better-offs to address them.

The lesser ones don't call themselves by these terms. #Timetochangethebenchmarks

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

**The change,
a step at a
time, is
evident**

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

A daughter is valued more than before for the care and support she provides in parent's old age.

The sons are not matching up to the parent's expectations.

लड़की मेरा सहारा बनेगी,
लड़कों से तो धक्के मिलेंगे।

Their experience is making them adopt this change, The change is not because someone is asking them to
#ActiveFeedbackLoop

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Not intention, but implementation is flawed

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CULTURAL

A general lack of trust in the governance because the schemes meant for people are not implemented well.

An expectation mismatch also does not let a good support system to thrive. Parental narrative is school does not care. School narrative is parents do not know our care. They don't see each other as being on the same team for the child.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

**Either we
change
mindsets
or we ride
them, the
choice is
ours**

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

The reason that certain practices have endured is the same as that its difficult to change mindsets.

कुछ मान्यतायें तो खून में हैं, हमारे साथ ही जायेंगी।

Ideas of living are rooted in strong belief systems, difficult to shake.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

**Learning
mode is
always on,
whether we
want it or not**

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Certain things we don't want children to learn like mobile usage, foul language or an attitude.

Whatever is in the air, gets picked up.

The environment plays a huge role, children are absorbing everything.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

**Lack of one
thing
is presence
of another**

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Lack of father's presence in child's life.

Fathers being out for work the whole day, hardly get to spend time with children. As a result, mothers take charge, siblings take charge, young children too.

Multiple caregivers in the community end up offering deep attachment.

healthy interdependence vs toxic independence.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Escaping to a new future

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Progress for some is about escaping the mundane, regressive or ugly. Leaving behind one's past and escaping to a bright future.

Socially isolating families from their community and getting education from the world they intend to escape to, has its pros and cons. Life ends up becoming a pursuit of managing these pros and cons.

Villagers escaping to the city
City folk escaping to a metro, or to a foreign land.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Managing home prepares them better for Anganwadi

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

According to an Anganwadi worker:
Girls seem to fit into early learning centres
(anganwadis) better than boys.

The system demands a certain discipline and
application that girls have, thanks to them
getting involved with household chores.
Boys often lack this.

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CULTURAL

Mockery- Immunity check

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CULTURAL

Boys who try to engage in household work traditionally assumed to be done by females, get mocked at by peers.

Only boys with a strong sense of self continue without hesitation.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

The evading attention in a scarcity paradigm

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Parental responsibility is 'ध्यान देना'
- to pay attention, ask about what's happening,
keep communication alive with school.

In their preoccupation of securing life essentials,
this essential seems to be evading them.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

"आजकल की लड़कियाँ..."

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Their entitlement, choices, rights, demands, everything is commented upon.

There is lot of 'othering' of the girl child.
The space of child is not respected!

She others unknowingly
when she has been othered herself.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Godly and Worldly Learning

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Some parents choose two parallel track route for their children.

दीनी – दुनियावी

Conventional school + madrassa/spiritual teacher in the evening.

आध्यात्मिक – सांसारिक

Conventional school + ashram classes
Both tracks are kept separate but co-exist.

Parents believe both forms of learning complement each other.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Loss of face and private schools

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

People fear loss of face if the child is debarred from taking the exam due to non payment of fees.

No indignity at government schools.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Villagers aspire to live in cities, cities offer them nothing better than slums

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

From an anchored existence in a village, in the slum they live a day at a time.

They aren't aware of sarkari yojnayan for them.

Village children are much better taken care of (often better than some city kids).

Slum children drift, and become easy victims of vices.

Slum children grow up on a diet of junk – food, and entertainment content on phones. Voice search on YouTube has got even toddlers addicted to the screen.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Old system misses their most effective tool

Corporal punishment being banned is making some affordable private schools feel helpless

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Fear of punishment was their main tool.
Teachers feel clueless, as they don't know any other way.

Parents, who have been in favor of schools disciplining their children accuse school teachers of not doing their job well.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Toys are gathering dust

As there is a very compelling
super-toy that hasn't spared even
the parents

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Smartphone will definitely have a big impact on this generation. No one know how big though.

People are just going with the flow and hand over phones to children. It's just too convenient.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Slum girls marry early

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CULTURAL

Working parents in slums marry their daughters off early as they fear for their safety.

To keep her safe from lumpen elements around; or the fear of her falling into bad company.

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CULTURAL

Affordable Refills

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CULTURAL

Slums have their own popular products.
Affordable Rs. 5 snack packs to Rs.100 gas refill!

They have devised their own jugaad contraptions that allow dispensing small quantities of gas from one cylinder to another. What's more. The refill is home delivered.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Urban aspirers want Math+English

These two subjects that build
potential in you to succeed in life

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

While in school, every subject is taught in English.

After school, the world speaks English; you have a voice if you do too.

Math is how you earn, measure and spend money.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

School gets you society ready

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

There's shame associated with not going to school.

School nahin jayenge tho logon ko kya bolenge.

Baat karni nahin aayegi logon se!

School is a place for social interactions and “norms” + behaviour! School is a space to learn to engage with society!

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Missing Baccha

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Managing the 'bojh' of education is the responsibility of parent.

Manners, discipline and morals have to be taught in school.

There is a lot of discussion on who is responsible for what. And a lot of grudges against each other.

The only person missing from all this is the child.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Real Influencer Teachers

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Teachers who have a real influence on children are not found in schools; they are friendly neighborhood didi/bhaiya.

Senior boys and girls who begin earning by starting coaching classes.

This is a thriving business that is making formal schools redundant.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Naughty is not good

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Child is expected to fit into good person category, and not be shararati.

Good children listen to their parents.

And just study.

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CULTURAL

Expression of endearment

मारना प्यार
जताना होता है।

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Beating kids is our expression of love and care for them.

Beating is delivered casually and is received equally casually. Children accept it and run off to play.

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CULTURAL

WiFi keeps the kids safe!

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

“Thanks to WiFi our kids stay indoors. Otherwise they’ll find bad company outside and pick up bad habits.”

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Keep them engaged

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Kids trouble you when they are bored.
Don't allow them to get bored. Keep them
engaged.

Any engagement is good – good or not so good

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

New and Improved you!

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

Met a family that follows an interesting norm.
Study on your birthday!

You were born that day; give birth to a 'new and improved you' every birthday!

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

**Study from
books and
school.
Learn from
everywhere**

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Books, school and teachers will help you study (Padhai).

But learning is something else it will happen when you do something and engage with people (Seekh).

Ask a child what they like to do “study” (just a pat automatic reply) but ask as child what they are getting from sitting in their fathers shop helping in the store after school (bright eyed response “bahut kuch seekhne ko milta hai).

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Education is the only path

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LEARNING

Without education and formal school education there is no other option.

Dissatisfaction is also high.

Lack of respect is experienced by both child and adult in the formal school space.

Education is the essential path to a better life but there is trust in the idea but not the system.

Also a recurrent belief ... For one who wants to learn they will learn anywhere.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Adversity opens up instincts for parent and family

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

When faced with adversity or a challenge, a parent and family will dig into their instincts and find solutions that will emerge from observing and understanding the needs of the child. They will find help and look for resources that they can use/ provide within their means and ability.

The faith in the child is immense - seeing, observing and celebrating the child in non conventional ways.

Example:

Parent of a child with speech delay becomes aware of and will try various 'conversational' techniques quite naturally with her child

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

“Unko
special mat
bana do” /
“Don’t make
them special”

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

HUMAN

Children with atypical needs can & must learn to do things for themselves, especially activities of daily living.

Disabilities are a spectrum.

Focus on what children can do, not what they cannot do.

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CULTURAL

Inclusive Schools are better than Special Schools

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

CULTURAL

In the end the child will have to integrate within society.

And society must learn to accept & accommodate from the start.

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LEARNING

Teachers of children with Atypical Needs are more protective & more passionate

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LEARNING

When teachers see the impact they are having on the lives of their students, they cannot unsee it & become invested in their development.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Teaching a mixed classroom with blind people & sighted people is possible

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

There are ways in which classrooms can be made inclusive without much effort.

The student have access to assistive technology & teachers just need to be mindful of a few practices.

It's not THAT hard & definitely not impossible.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Mobiles are devices that enable personal choice, reduce friction and agency to learn, in children

SUPPORTING INSIGHT

LEARNING

Children can choose what they want to watch and didn't have to negotiate with adults to watch unlike TV.

TV is a community experience.

Mobile is a personal/ personalised experience.

Children can do what they and there is no "kit pit".

Children are smart... voice search is easy... they teach adults.

