

DIVERSIVE

Edition 2 - February 2023

THE STORY OF RIEDU

By Dr. Shruti Shankar Gaur, Founder

I was fortunate to enjoy a childhood where, along with knowledge seeking, there was an equal emphasis on character building and imbibing 'humane' values. When I became a mother, I tried to instill the same values in my two daughters. However, the world had changed by then.

Today, the e-world has enveloped us, and individualism is on the rise, thus, leading to a collapsing social structure. I realized that today's children were the most impacted. Yet, formal education focused on IQ thus, ensuring survival and career, but what about EQ and SQ? How do we nurture children with a strong socio-emotional connection?

Today, the world radiates more apathy than empathy, more hate than love, more violence than peace, more animosity than kindness, and more discrimination than oneness at the global level. What do we expect our children to be? Having a background in 'Inclusive Education' these questions bothered me and set me on a quest to nurture a happy childhood full of love, peace and empathy. I believe it's our duty as adults to do so. I want to be part of a world where everyone is celebrated irrespective of gender, age, race, caste, language, religion, ability or disability. Thus, I set foot forward with RIEDU, an attempt to create an inclusive world with our children at the forefront.

How the concept is brought to reality: In 2019, we began by creating children's literature for teens & pre-teens. Our literature is not just magazines/books but a movement to build a generation of thinkers and empathys with inclusive values. It comprises an Inclusive Editorial Board with educators, researchers, parents & children as our Young Editors at the helm of affairs. We launched the children's e-magazine The Marshmallow, Pole Star Book and Young Editors' Program in 2020-2021. Our editorial board is truly diverse and inclusive. It comprises children belonging to different countries and continents (with varied ethnicity) and Children with Special Needs. For us, they all are our esteemed Young Editors.

How did the children come on board? We began our journey with five children as reviewers for The Marshmallow. Working with these amazing kids brought fresh perspectives. It motivated us to involve children at every stage of book/magazine creation, from conceptualization to background research to the magic of weaving a story using facts or writing an article based on the research to creating narratives with them as one of the characters. It led us to create our first batch of Young Editors, ten children part of our Inclusive Editorial Board for Pole Star Volume I. Currently, Pole Star volume II is being created by 20 talented children as our Young Editors, Batch II, as they transcend as part of our Young Editors Program.

The story still being written, here we are with our latest endeavour, this newsletter! Get on board and let's see where it leads!



Our Vision: To nurture the future scions as empathys & thinkers

Our Motto: One for All, All for One

Our Core Values:
Inclusion & Diversity

DIVERSIVE

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A movement to build a generation of thinkers & empathys.

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INCLUSION

An article by Dr. Shruti Shankar Gaur

Fifteen years ago, as a student of Special Education, I remember my professor highlighting the importance of inclusion. She had declared that it was high time and twenty-first century must become the 'century of inclusion'.

Her forecasting came true as the world adopted the term 'Inclusive'. It is a significant part of policy and planning. Yet, inclusion is, for the most part, a fictional, idealistic concept, more on paper than adopted in life. Agreed, nature is inclusive. Sun shines for everyone, rain soaks all, and the same air is inhaled by every aerobic being. But are we humans inclusive?

Alas, the answer is no for the most part, at least. As civilization evolved, hierarchy emerged, and categorization due to gender, caste, religion, race, language, nationality, ability, or disability became widespread. Over the years, we enhanced the complexity to the extent that it became difficult to look at another human beyond the social labels.

If I try to define inclusion in layman's language, it means including one and all in the mainstream social structure. For me, it is breaking barriers. It is meeting individuals beyond the labels and categorization. It is celebrating every life and welcoming everyone. Spiritually, inclusion is worshipping the divinity in you and me.

I want to highlight that Inclusive Education academically focuses on the inclusion of children with special needs in the mainstream education system. I want to remove this narrow definition. Inclusion is an umbrella term that encompasses one and all; thus, in this article, inclusion refers to complete socio-cultural inclusion, of which disability is a domain.

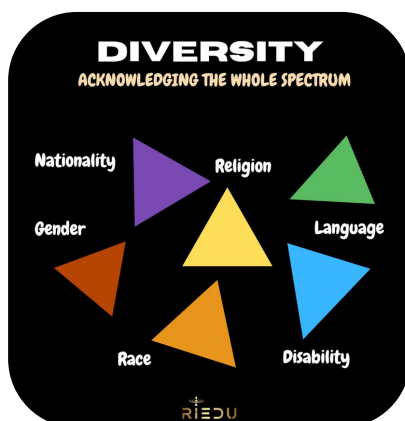
As an academician turned entrepreneur, my mission is to create an inclusive world within my lifetime. For that, children must be raised as inclusive beings. We must first become inclusive in order to demonstrate the value of inclusion to them.

We can try these few things for future scions to imbibe inclusion:

- **Becoming a Role Model:** there is no better way than to become inclusive in words and actions to pave the way ahead for our future generation.
- **Practicing Compassion:** Nurturing compassion for every living is one of the most important virtues of a human. Children must be raised as compassionate beings.
- **Celebrating Diversity:** We must highlight the diversity in nature. There are flowers of different colors and aromas, yet they flourish together. Children must acknowledge, welcome and celebrate diversity. Then only they will be able to embrace one and all.

P.S. - Check out a play on Inclusion, ['The Curious Case of Martha's Vineyard'](#) by our founder.

CRAYO DE VIVRE, AN ILLUSTRATION BY: RIDDHIMA GANGWAL



JACQUIE

A story by Rishabh Chandra

Year: 4,999,999,980 AD.

Hi, I'm Jacquie, an ordinary 17-year-old girl, and I've sent you "2020 humans", my story, in case you get bored and want a sneak-peak of what happens 4.9 billion years later.

I had appendicitis, so I teleported-yes TELEPORTED-(humans evolve to use 93% of the brain) to the hospital. I was knocked out with anaesthesia, but when I woke up it was pitch black. I racked my brain to try and think of what could have happened, but I turned out more confused than when I started! I waddled over to a window, and saw a tsunami heading right for me!

Too paralysed to remember that I could teleport, I cowered in the corner of the room and waited for the humungous wave to go away. When it finally went to terrorise someone else, my jeans caught fire and I wondered why fires were starting when there had just been a tsunami! But there was no time to dwell on that as I needed a way out. Suddenly, I remembered school! STOP! DROP! ROLL! I did exactly that, and came up with an escape plan. I leapt out of the window. I was about 5,260 metres from the ground, and for a second, I thought I COULDN'T teleport!

But falling to the ground knocked me back into my senses. WHOOSH! I was in my room with my phone so I called Edna-my BFF-to ask where she was. She said she was on the rocket and asked if I was in the cabin. I hung up and cried. We were going to a distant solar system called Slud Rud, and I missed the flight! May I just let you know that I can't teleport to different solar systems? Instantly, I bolted to my dad's lab. I always knew he had a part-made rocket! It loomed over me, like a giant, metal ice-cream. Natural disasters circled around me like a tornado, and I worked like my life depended on it-which it did.

CLINK! CLUNK! I'd just finished fixing the rocket, when ZZLLUURRT! My head turned faster than a bullet. An alien appeared right before me. It was a mutated snail, wearing a purple T-Shirt. It slobbered all over me (UGH!) so, naturally, I whacked it with a spare piece of metal, and got ready to hop into the driver's seat. WHOOSH! I was off.

I soared through the emptiness, glaring through the polished window-screen, looking for any signs of another ship. When I finally got to the rocket, I didn't recognise it at first but when I saw Edna waving at me, I set up a tunnel to the other spaceship so I could teleport to them. As soon as I got in, my mom hugged me and started kissing me. It was kind of embarrassing so I asked her to "lay off the mush". She asked me where Geoff was and I asked her, "Who's Geoff?" She said that he was the alien they'd sent down to help.

BIG YIKES!

RIEDU INSPIRE



Rishabh Chandra

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RIDDLE ME THIS !

Below is a list of Japanese concepts for you to guess. Fun and ameliorating life, these ideas are for everyone!

- A continuous pursuit of improving life, I stop at nothing. Don't be disheartened by small steps; I bring significant results. Who am I?
- An amalgamation of four trees in spring, I am an antidote to the rat race. Once you have found me, you will never compare yourself to anyone else. Can you guess my name?
- You may seek perfection, but there is no such thing. You will find me in cracks and blemishes or a painting whose beauty is known only to the painter. Change your view a little, and I will help you live a happier life. Who am I?
- A school I am, but building I have none. Three steps and you will learn. Don't wait for anything; begin your journey. Step in as a pupil and let hard work tell your tale. Can you guess my name?

Answers - Kaizen (Continuous Improvement), Oubaitori (Everyone has their own pace), Wabi-sabi (acceptance of transience and imperfection), Shu-Ha-Ri (first learn, then detach, and finally transcend)

We encourage you to read up more about these concepts!