

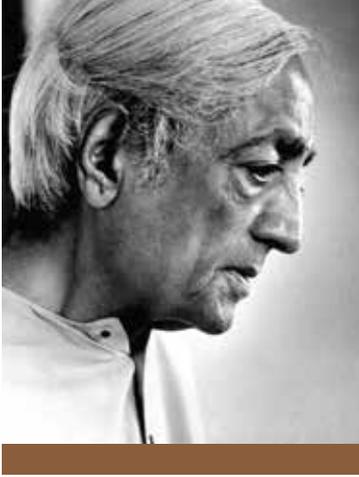


RISHI VALLEY RURAL EDUCATION CENTRE

A Krishnamurti Foundation School

“A school is a place where
one learns about both the importance
of knowledge and its limitations.”





KRISHNAMURTI ON EDUCATION:

The intent of the schools is to equip the child with the most excellent technological proficiency so that the student may function with clarity and efficiency in the modern world. A far more important purpose than this is to create the right climate and environment so that the child may develop fully as a complete human being. This means giving the child the opportunity to flower in goodness so that he or she is rightly related to people, things and ideas, to the whole of life. To live is to be related.

Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895-1986) whose life and teachings spanned the greater part of the 20th Century, is regarded by many as one who has had the most profound impact on human consciousness in modern times.

He travelled round the world till the age of 90 giving talks, writing, holding discussions. His purpose was to set humankind unconditionally free from the destructive limitations of the conditioned mind.

The Krishnamurti Foundation India was founded to share his purpose with the larger world. It patronizes several renowned schools that teach in his vision of education truly free of fear, study centres, publications, archives, rural outreach programs and more.



INTRODUCTION:

Krishnamurti enunciated an educational philosophy based on his understanding that human beings are responsible for the world they create, and have the capability to create a better world, provided they cultivate a long vision imbued with moral insight.

He chose an isolated valley in the interior of Andhra Pradesh located near his birthplace in Madanapalle, in south India to establish his first school. From the very beginning, Rishi Valley was more than a school. In keeping with Krishnamurti's vision, several outreach programmes have grown as part of Rishi Valley Rural Education Centre. They are resource centre for the countryside. These include an innovative programme for rural education, a health centre which conducts research in mental health and chronic diseases, a Bio-diversity Park, a Bird Study unit, and watershed management initiative for water and soil conservation.



RISHI VALLEY RURAL EDUCATION CENTRE (RVEC OR REC)

Rishi Valley Rural Education Centre (REC) consists of RIVER (Rishi Valley Institute for Educational Resources), a residential Middle School for students from the immediate neighbourhood and multiple 'Satellite Schools'. While RIVER, along with two 'Satellite Schools', and the Middle School are located on REC's 14-acre campus, the other ten 'Satellite Schools' are located in nearby hamlets.



The program aims to:

- Promote village-based education
- Train teachers and teacher trainers in a multi-grade multi-level methodology (MGML) developed by RIVER
- Publish instructional materials in the MGML methodology
- Draw working children into the school system
- Create green spaces around the school campus for the conservation of bio-diversity in general and medicinal plants in particular
- Raise awareness of health, nutrition and sanitation
- Actively involve the community in the day-to-day management of their children's school

RISHI VALLEY SCHOOL-IN -A-BOX:

An award-winning pedagogy, it is a true translation of Krishnamurti's vision of education. The kit is a framework of Multi-Grade Multi-Level (MGML) teaching aids and Ladder of Learning. Designed and developed by RIVER team and field-tested for five years in Rishi Valley Satellite Schools between 1988 and 1992.

The program is designed in a way that breaks down topics and subjects of learning in the simplest forms across age groups, where children can all sit together and learn at the same time, from their teachers and from each other; in the true spirit of community learning.

Since its first edition in Telugu, the methodology has spread far and wide, across and beyond the borders of India.

RIVER -

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Rishi Valley Institute for Educational Resources (RIVER) is the teacher training and resource development wing of Rishi Valley Rural Education Centre. It is located on 14 acres of land on the Rishi Valley campus.

SATELLITE SCHOOLS

These are elementary schools, located where there are no adequate government schools. Each Satellite School serves as resource centre for the village in which it is located. Adult literacy programmes, integration of local traditional arts in the form of puppet shows, health and nutrition projects converge in this location. The Satellite Schools use the multi-grade methodology (MGML) developed by RIVER.

The Satellite Schools are gradually extending their reach through interaction with Government Schools, and helping organize reading workshops, metric melas (mathematics festivals) among other joint activities.

FORGING PARTNERSHIPS

The MGML methodology of the RIVER program brought together organisations, institutions and governments dedicated to the cause of education.

Implementations have been done across 14 states (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) by their respective State Governments. In some states the program exists in pockets, in others it is scaled up to cover entire districts.

Notable among these are:

1. The Nalli Kalli Programme in Karnataka where the methodology is being used across the entire state at class 1 and 2 level.
2. The Tamil Nadu's ABL programme which has been first tried out in Chennai Corporation Schools then expanded to the entire state.

These, and other implementations listed above cover 250,000 primary schools and more than 10 million children (2013-UNICEF Report).

As of 2019, the government of Andhra Pradesh has an ongoing project, called ALA, covering grades 1-5 in 1571 schools across 14 districts in the state. RIVER is the implementing partner in the project. To improve efficiency, productivity, transparency and accountability, RIVER is trying out on a pilot basis integrating digital tablets for teaching and assessment.



ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS :

As part of RIVER's endeavour to understand the implications of multi-grade education systems in more diverse communities, and to benefit from the contemporary pedagogical theories and practices, it is building connections outside the country. University of Regensburg in Germany, University of Wurzburg, Germany and University of St. Gallen, Switzerland have long-term collaborative projects with RIVER including placement of students from their universities in RIVER projects.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

RIVER has been achieving some remarkable milestones in its journey towards tenable education for all.

2004 – Won the first prize of the Global Development Network (GDN) Award for the “Most Innovative Development Project 2004”

2009 – “Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship – Social Entrepreneurs of the Year, India Winners” was awarded to the Co-Directors of RIVER, Rama and Padmanabha Rao.

2011 – Awarded the Jindal Prize in the field of Education.

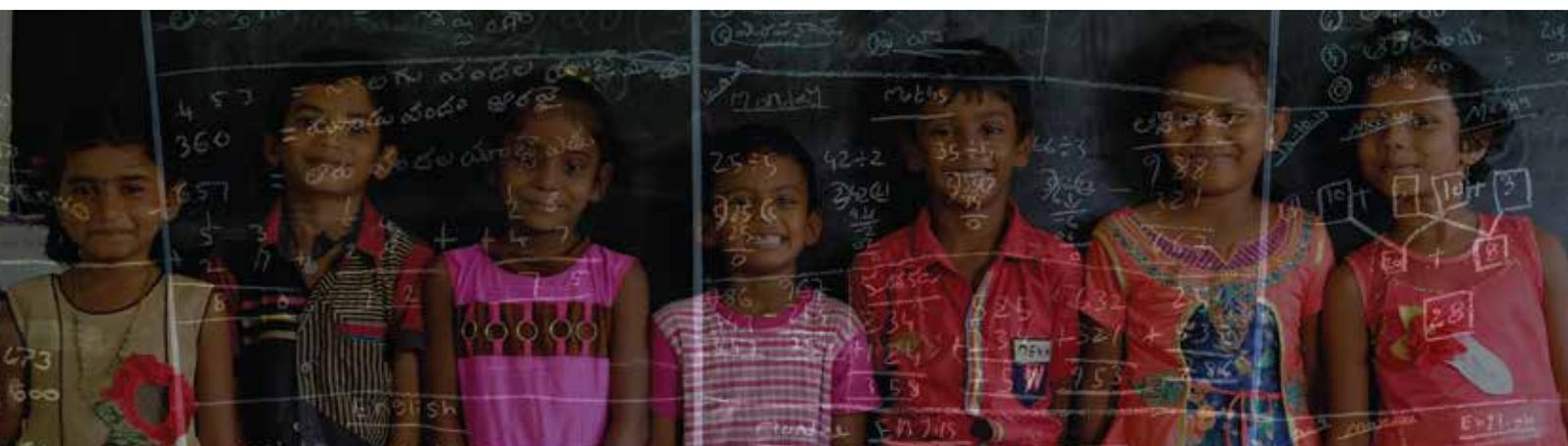
2012 – The Global Journal (published from Geneva and New York) ranked RIVER as one of the top 100 most influential NGOs in the world.

2016 – RiVER is one of the ‘Millennium Alliance’ awardees (R3) under the Education Sector.

2017 – Winner of the National Contest on Social Innovation.

2016 of MoEA & NITI Aayog as one of the top 20 social impact innovations that offer viable solutions to the socio-economic problems of India.

2018 – An article in New York Times on RIVER and its methodology (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/04/opinion/teaching-children-reform-education.html>)



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