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## THE MISSING INGREDIENT

A recent World Bank report found that some 70% of 10-year-olds in Low and Middle Income Countries are unable to read. Children are attending school, but not acquire essential skills. This puts their entire education in jeopardy.

We are living in a literacy emergency - we must act swiftly to ensure everyone learns the key skills of reading, writing and arithmetic.

The missing piece in global efforts to improve FLN is pedagogy. A paradigm shift is necessary in the way we approach teaching.

Innovative solutions like Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) show that it is possible to teach children and adults to read in just 45 days and achieve full FLN capability in only 90 days. This is in stark contrast to the 3 to 5 years required by traditional methods, which still leave more than half of Grade 5 children lacking basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills.

These groundbreaking pedagogy and processes not only address learning, but also tackle issues such as climate change, peace, and global citizenship simultaneously.

## **READING WARS**

## **Whole Language and Phonics**

Historically, there are two broad ways to learn reading: Whole Language and Phonics. The vast majority of the world still uses whole language even though research has shown phonics works better. There are many reading wars and strong proponents of different reading programs. Regardless, most methods typically take three to five years of schooling, and even after that, many children are not proficient in reading.

## A THIRD WAY-ALfA

A new approach, Accelerating Learning for All, is now freely available in 30 languages. It utilizes a known-to-unknown teaching methodology. ALfA has proven that it's feasible to teach individuals to read within 45 days and attain full FLN proficiency within 90 days, with just one daily session (or even in just 45 days with two sessions per day).

## A PARADIGM SHIFT

The revolutionary ALfA goes beyond traditional education by not only improving reading, writing, and math skills, but also cultivates the 6C Skills essential for the 21st Century, and addresses global challenges such as climate change, peace, and global citizenship all at once. Children work in pairs, which develops their cooperation and communication skills, while creative hands-on activities boost their critical thinking.







**Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Defence, India,** in his message for the policymakers conclave, urged participants:

"Friends, the biggest asset on any nation, the condition and direction of any country depends on its education levels. The United Nations has set such Sustainable Development Goals for the world towards ensuring completely free quality primary and secondary education of all children and the deadline to achieving these goals is 2030. We have to increase the pace of improvements in the educational system."

He further added, "As we all know during COVID, the situation of education only worsened. Not only India but the whole world faced problems due to school closures despite the online modality. To overcome this, we need to use disruptive technology in FLN to not only bridge the education gap but to take it to a much higher level."

He also quoted, "If you think that education is expensive, try ignorance and adopting illiteracy for once, it will prove much more expensive than investing in education now."

He emphasised "I would like to mention the concept of ALfA: Accelerating Learning for All, running in different parts of the country and I was told that through this anybody can be made reading capable in 45 days and fully FLN capable in just 90 days, I hope in the coming times, this program becomes more successful and gets wider reach."

Robert Jenkins, Global Director of Education, UNICEF shared his insights saying, "Indeed it's a very challenging time globally for education recognizing the global learning crisis, recognizing an increasing disparity, recognizing the number of overlapping prices we have linked to climate change and other challenges. It is indeed a very challenging time for the sector and therefore, I congratulate you to convene and to deliberate on how to address this challenge but also how to have a step change in the education sector to transform and reach children with improved quality and access to education so they can realize their full potential." He also stressed the urgent need to improve climate change education across the world.

# REBUILDING

RESILIENT EDUCATION SYSTEMS AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

# Book by REIMERS

Prof. Fernando Reimers of Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) released "Rebuilding Resilient Education Systems After the COVID-19 Pandemic" in the first week of March 2023, which is now available on Amazon.

Chapters 8 and 10 of the book cover the ALfA program, with four HGSE students documenting the program's implementation in India's Low-Performing District of Shamli, Uttar Pradesh (Chapter 8). Here the randomized control trial demonstrated a significant effect size of 0.23 for Grade 3 and 0.89 for Grade 5. The implementation in Maldives schools is covered in Chapter 10 of the book.

Edited by Fernando **Reimers**. Ashutosh **Bhuradia**. Charley **Kenyon**. Yue (Yoly) **Liu**. Nam **Nguyen**, and Margaret **Wang** 

## **PANELISTS**



Shri Rajnath Singh
Defence Minister of India

Rajnath Singh is an Indian politician and lecturer who is serving as the 29th Defence Minister of India since 2019. He is currently the Deputy Leader of the House, Lok Sabha since 2019.



Chief Guest

Dr. Abdulla Rasheed Ahmed

Minister of State for

Abdulla Rasheed Ahmed is the Minister of State for Education, Republic of Maldives. Mr. Rasheed is a distinguished educationalist

**Education, Maldives** 

is a distinguished educationalist with 30 years of experience in the field of education. Dr. Rasheed served as a principal of government school for 18 years.



Convenor

Dr Sunita Gandhi

Founder, DEVI Sansthan

Dr Sunita Gandhi is a notable humanist and educationist who develops new pedagogies and processes to bring about a progressive change in education. Her Accelerating Learning for All program enables children to learn to read in as little as 45 days.



Special Guest Abdul Salam al Joufi

Advisor

Mr Al Jouffi is an Advisor at Arab Bureau of education for the Gulf state and Former Minister of Education Yemen



Special Guest Robert Jenkins

Global Director, Education & Adolescent Development

Robert Jenkins, Director of Education and Adolescent Development, Programme Group, joined UNICEF in 1995. He brings over 20 years of experience in international development and humanitarian programming in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.



Chief Guest

## IAS Rashmi Arun Shami

Principal Secretary School Education

Shrimati Rashmi Shami, IAS, has held numerous key posts in the Madhya Pradesh government, including the Director of Tribal Area Development and Planning and Commissioner of Rajya Shiksha Kendra.



Guest of Honor
H.E. Mohamed Maliki

Ambassador to King of Morocco

Mr Mohamed Maliki Ambassador of His Majesty, Mohammed VI, King of Morocco to the Republic of India, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of Maldives and Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.



Shri Jagdish Gandhi

Founder-Manager City Montessori School

Dr. Jagdish Gandhi is an Indian politician and Educationist, who founded the City Montessori School with his wife Bharti Gandhi. He had served as a member of the UP Legislative Assembly from 1969 to 1974 independently.



Guest of Honor
K.P Fabian Per Joanne

**Ambassador** 

Mr K. P. Fabian served in the Indian Foreign Service from 1964 to 2000 when he retired as India's Ambassador to Italy and as Permanent Representative to UN in Rome. His published works include: Common Sense on War on Iraq. He is currently Professor at Symbiosis, and Indian Society of International Law.



Guest of Honor Dr. Manjula Sharma

State Quality & women Development Incharge Samagra Shiksha

Dr. Manjula Devi is holding the joint portfolio of Pedagogy and State Women Development in Samagra Shiksha in Shimla for Himachal Pradesh Government - the body governing elementary and secondary education as well as teacher-development in the state.



Ouest of Honor Dr. Anjana Goel

Director, SCERT

Dr Anjana Goel is the Director, State Council of Educational, Research & Training, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh



Guest of Honor

Dinakar Nallamala

State Project Director

Mr Dinakar Nallama is State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Puducherry



Speaker

Martha Muhwezi

Executive Director, FAWE

Ms Martha Muhwezi is the Executive Director at Forum For African Women Educationists (FAWE).



Speaker

Dr. Modupe Adefeso-Olateju

Managing Director, TEP

Dr Adefeso-Olateju is the MD of The Education Partnership (TEP) Centre, NigeriaEducation Policy Expert, Global South.



Speaker
Samuel Sasu Adonteng
Lead Programmes Officer, AASU

Mr Samuel Adonteng is the All Africa Student Union's primary contact with the UNESCO COVID-19 GEC and ECW Youth Subgroup. He is a consultant on quality assurance and innovation initiatives.



Guest of Honor

## Prof. Geeta Gandhi Kingdon

MD & CEO City Montessori School

Geeta Gandhi Kingdon is the Managing Director & CEO of City Montessori School Society, while also being Professor at the Institute of Education, University College London (UCL), where she holds the Chair of 'Education Economics and International Development'.



Speaker

## Dr. Bernardo Javalquinto

Former Candidate to the Presidency of Chile

Dr Bernardo Javalquinto is a Chile-based economist and academic. Bernardo Jfollows a social approach to Economy and is the founder of Escuela De Negocios Sociales (ESN) an academic institute focusing on social business - which he founded with the help of Yunus Center and the CFT of Maule.



Speaker

## Sigamoney Naicker

Chief Director Inclusive Education, South Africa

Mr Sigamoney Naicker, PhD (University of Western Cape) is extra-ordinary Professor at the University of Western Cape in Cape Town and also Chairing the Ministerial committee on inclusive education in South Africa.



Presenter Fred Mednick

Founder, Teacher Without Borders, USA

Dr. Fred Mednick began his career as a teacher and school principal. In 2000, he founded Teachers Without Borders (TWB) to connect teacher leaders to information and each other to close the education divide.



Presenter

## Joanne Telser

Director of Program Development, Literacy Chicago

Ms Joanne Tesler has lived and worked in France, Pakistan, Egypt, and Qatar. Joanne is fluent in French and can get by in Arabic. She has worked in many fields including education, radio, tv and even brain training.



Presenter

## Mary McCool Berry

Founder and Practitioner, Read Keys, USA

Ms Mary McCool Berry is a grants writer; she wrote several grants, which resulted in awards totaling thousands of dollars. The grant monies provided materials for children during her teaching career.



Speaker

## Michael Matos

**Director for ScaleLIT** 

Mr Michael Matos is currently the Education Technology Director for ScaleLIT (formerly Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition) managing the Illinois Digital Literacy Lab, The Chicago Connected digital literacy team, and more.



Presenter

## Rana Dajani

President, We Love Reading

Rana Dajani is a Ph.D. molecular cell biology from University of Iowa, currently Cmalakova Fellow at the Jepson school of Leadership at the University of Richmond, Harvard Radcliff fellow, a Fulbrighter, Fulbright Foreign Student Program, Jordan to the United States, 2000.



Presenter

## Gail Davvis-Carter

Innovator, New York, USA

Gail Davvis-Carter is an UN ECOSOC Representative, UN Partner and Social Entrepreneur. In the past, Gail has owned companies in Europe and US simultaneously.



Presenter

Bill Graham

Chief Mentor

Bill Graham is the Chief Mentor and Adviser at Rotary Youth for a Better World, New York City Metropolitan Area



Presenter
Inger-Mette Stenseth
Co-Founder of World

Climate School, Norway

Inger-Mette Stenseth is cofounder of World Climate School, desentralised network and part of the Climate Education Coalition



Speaker

YOGESH KUMAT

Operation Head, Programs,
HCL Foundation

Mr Yogesh Kumar is a Senior Operations Manager for HCL Foundation. He is a Post Graduate from IIFM, Bhopal; and has worked with various multilateral organizations like UNICEF, as well as several state governments. I



Special Guest & Speaker
Chukwuka Enujekor
Founder, Think EdTech

Chukwuka Enujekor is an author, research scholar and the founder of Think EdTech and the Think Big Initiative. He is passionate about redefining education and technology in Africa.

## **Recommendations from Panelists**

## Ten Key Take-aways

- Illiteracy is a bad as slavery. Around the world, there are 771 million humans who are illiterate. If we proceed with business as usual without changing direction, we will not reach the Sustainable Development Goal of universal literacy by 2030.
- We need greater introspection about education, asking questions like 'what it is we have been able to accomplish?', 'What has worked well?' and 'What has not worked so well?' Consultation with all the stakeholders is crucial.
- The ALfA method introduced by Dr.
  Sunita Gandhi, is a powerful process
  to Globalize Literacy. We urge
  governments and corporate bodies
  worldwide to lend support necessary
  for taking this project further.
- Active Learning is a particular specialty of the ALfA method: instead of students being passive recipients, as in the conventional approach, students construct their own learning.
- It is not a matter of going into school but it is what you get out of school and how you put that to use in your daily life. Education should be borderless, we really appreciate this conclave for discussing the glitches in the Education System.

- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is crucial because students need a tool to learn. If a student is struggling with either literacy or numeracy, they cannot learn well further. We must first learn to read before we can read to learn.
- In Nigeria, at Grade 9 level only 55% of children are able to read the text which they should have been able to read when they were eight years old. It is highly unjust that many children can't even read by their 10th birthday.
- Data-led, evidence-based decision-making approaches are key, whereby it is sought to understand what competencies children are lacking in particularly and to enable the system to address those gaps as a priority.
- Children have a wonderful visualization power and ALfA is one of those innovative programs which uses the power of picture recognition and a concrete-to-abstract approach to make learning real and tangible.
- Teachers are the hinge point, without whom nothing ever moves. The role of teacher has changed drastically in an ALfA classroom, making them a galvaniser rather than an instructor

# Watch on **You Tube**



Videos of Appeal to the

# POLICYMAKERS of the world





## **Global Advisory Committee**



Aïcha Bah Diallo Founding Member of FAWE, Guinea



Alesha Anderson Senior Program Officer at Pro-Literacy Worldwide, USA



Advisor to Companies Dedicated to the United Nations, USA



Bill Graham Alexandre Romanovsky Vice Chair, NGO Committee for Education, Learning & Literacy at the United



Chetnaa Mehrotra Founder, Applied Theatre Urganization (Rangbhumi), India



Chris Macrae Head of Talent, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at GlaxoSmithKline, USA



Cindy Charles Kupanda Sisters Inc. Founder & CEO,



David J. Rosen Director, Adult Literacy Resource Institute, University of Massachusetts, USA



David Bovill Partnerships Manager, DEIP, UK



Ernesto Schiefelbein Chilean Pedagogue, Professor, Economist & Politician, Chile



Fred Mednick Founder, Teacher Without Borders, USA



Gail Davvis-Carter UN ECOSOC Representative, UN Partner and Social Entrepreneur, USA



Girish Menon CEO, STIR Education,



Inger-Mette Stenseth Founder, World Climate School, Norway



Joanne Telser-Frere Director, Program Development, USA



Jon M Corippo Author, Eduprotocols,



Kyle Zimmer Author, Eduprotocols,



Mary McCool Berry Founder, Read Keys,



Michael Matos Education Technology Director ScaleHT USA



Nicolas Gravel Professor of Economics Aix-Marseille University. France



Nixon Joseph CEO, Children's LoveCastles Trust India



Peter Campling Global Programmes Director, USA



Peter Kwasi Kodjie Secretary-General All Africa Student's Union, Ghana



Rana Dajani President, We Love Reading, Jordan



Rebecca Doreen Founding Director, Vadiwa Trust Organization, Zimbabwe



Richard Allen Director of Partnerships VOYCE, USA



Robert Thorn Director, Developing Real Learners & Academy of

Learner Development, Turkey



Samuel Sasu Adonteng Programmes Officer for Tertiary Education, AASU, Ghana



Sigamoney Naicker

Professor, University of the Western Cape, South Africa



Sigbjorn Dugal

Founder, Pickatale Norway



Stephen Peters

President. The Peters Group, USA



Sylvia Guimarães

Co-founder & President. Vaga Lume, Brazi**l** 



Tim Howarth

Senior Advisor, United World Schools, UK



Vicky Colbert

Founder & Director. Fundación Escuela Nueva, Colombia



Yogesh Kumar

Operation & Programs Head, HCL Foundation, India

## **News Section**



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## **Global policymakers to discuss education**

TNN / Mar 6, 2023, 08:34 IST



Lucknow: A unique online program will help your children to make up for the education loss during the pandemic. The 'Accelerated Learning for All' (ALFA) program developed by Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI Sansthan) will help children easily learn how to read, write and do arithmetic. To make this online program, which is free for children, reach the masses, a Massive Open Online Training (MOOT) and global policymakers conclave will be held in online mode from March 9 to 14.

"Around 7 lakh teachers from 39 countries and 24 states of India will be participating in three different slots per day during the conclave," said founder and CEO of DEVI Sansthan Sunita Candhi.

The conclave will be inaugurated by Defence minister Rajnath Singh, Prime
Minister, the Central African Republic Felix Moloua, and former education minister
of Yemen, TNN

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#### MOOT for educationists ends

LUCKNOW: The two-day long Massive Open Online Training (MOOT), for educationists, concluded on Friday with the stage set now for the global policymakers' conclave, to be inaugurated on Saturday by defence minister Rajnath Singh. MOOT, conducted by Sunita Gandhi, president of

Devi Sansthan, (Dignity **Education Vision** International), is being hosted by City Montessori School, Lucknow.

## सरकार का प्रयास हर घर तक पहुंचे शिक्षा : राजनाथ सिंह



सिंधन है। सनस् जन्छ जात न्ह ह न यह कार्यक्र म निःश्रुट्क है। शिक्षक नए शिक्षणशास्त्र का प्रयोग करते हुए कम समय में छात्रों को साहित्यिक और



#### **Massive online** programme from March 9 to 14

Lucknow (PNS): Founder of Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI Sansthan) Sunita Gandhi will be conducting a 'Massive Open Online Training (MOOT) and Global Policymakers' Conclave' from March 9 to 14. Seven lakh teachers from 39 countries and 24 states of India will participate in the programme in three different slots per day. The conclave will be inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"70% of the world's 10 year olds can not read, write or do basic arithmetic. To combat this, a unique programme called Accelerated Learning for All (ALFA) has been adopted by various states of India under an MoU with the government. It has also been adopted by the Government of Maldives, she said.

TV INDIA LIVI

Dr. Sunita Gandhi, Founder, DEVI Sansthan to hold a MOOT &



ssk Lucknow/ Dr. Sunita Gandhi, Founder, Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI nan), will be conducting a Massive Open Online Training (MOOT) & Global Policy Make wer from 9-14 of March '23. From 39 countries and 24 states of India, Seven Lakh ers will be participating in it in three different slots per day.

On 11th March, Global Policy makers will be sharing their inputs including the memb On 11th March, Global Policy makers will be sharing their inputs including the members of the nedia. The Conclave will be inaugurated by Sri Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, Gort. of India. Mr. Felix Moloua, Prime Minister, Central African Republic. Mr. Abdul Salam AJ Jou, romer Minister of Education, 'Yemen, Dr. Abdulla Rashid Ahmad, State Minister of Education Maldives, Mr. David Molrina Sengeth, Minister of Basic & Secondary Education, Sierra Leone M. Africa and Pobert Jenkins, Global Director, education and adolescent development, UNICEF will be the special guests.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is world's biggest challenge today, post covid. Or the world's 10 year olds can not read, write or do basic arithmetic. To combat this, DEV/I Sainsthan has developed a unique program called Accelerated Learning for Ali, (ALFA), which has been adopted by various states of India under an MOU with the Govt. It has also been adopted by the Govt of Maldives.

The purpose of MOOT is to empower participants with renewed motivation to implement the LEA pedagogy of paired learning leading to greater improvement in ELN immediately ollowing the training.





#### ग्लोबल पॉलिसी मेकर्स कॉन्क्लेव आज से

लखनऊ। डिग्निटी एजुकेशन विजन इंटरनेशनल (देवी संस्थान) की संस्थापिका डॉ. सुनीता गांधी ने बताया कि ग्लोबल पॉलिसी मेकर्स कॉन्क्लेव का उद्घाटन 11 मार्च को रक्षामंत्री राजनाथ सिंह करेंगे। इसमें 40 देशों और भारत के 24 राज्यों से प्रतिदिन तीन अलग-अलग-स्लॉट में सात लाख शिक्षक शामिल होंगे। ग्लोबल पॉलिसी मेकर्स, मीडिया के प्रतिनिधि अपनी बात साझा करेंगे। शुक्रवार को दो दिवसीय मट या मैसिव ओपन ऑनलाइन प्रशिक्षण का समापन हुआ।

> LUCKNOW SUNDAY MARCH 12, 2023

### Sunday Hindustan Times

#### Global policymakers conclave inaugurated

LUCKNOW: Global Policymakers Conclave was inaugurated on Saturday. A pre-recorded message by Defence minister Rajnath Singh was played. The event was held after a two-day MOOT, wherein educators from 50 countries and 27 States of India participated. The conclave convened by Sunita Gandhi, president of Devi Sansthan (Dignity Education Vision International) was hosted by CMS.

## THE TIMES OF INDIA

### **Global policymakers to discuss education**

Lucknow: A unique online program will help your children to make up for the education loss during the pandemic. The 'Accelerated Learning for All' (ALFA) program developed by Dignity Educa-tion Vision International (DEVI Sansthan) will help children easily learn how to read, write and do arithme-

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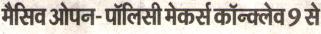
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VI Sansthan Sunita Gandhi. The conclave will be inau gurated by Defence minister Rajnath Singh, Prime Mini-ster, the Central African Republic Felix Moloua, and for mer education minister of Yemen. TNN



लखनऊ, सोमवार, ६ मार्च २०२३



लखनऊ । डिग्निटी एजुकेशन विजन इंटरनेशनल (देवी संस्थान) की संस्थापिका डॉ. सुनीता गांधी ने बताया कि 9-14 मार्च के बीच मैसिव ओपन ऑनलाइन टेनिंग (मूट) और ग्लोबल पॉलिसी मेकर्स कॉन्क्लेव का आयोजन किया गया है। इसमें 39 देशों और भारत के 24 राज्यों से प्रतिदिन तीन अलग–अलग स्लॉट में सात लाख शिक्षक शामिल होंगे। 11 मार्च को ग्लोबल पॉलिसी मेकर्स, मीडिया के प्रतिनिधि अपनी बात साझा करेंगे।



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