

**BIG
CHANGE.**

**DREAM
&
DREAM**

What is one small step you would like to take to positively change education in your community?



#BigEdConversations
#Millionconversations

BIG
EDUCATION
CONVERSATION

Big Education Conversation

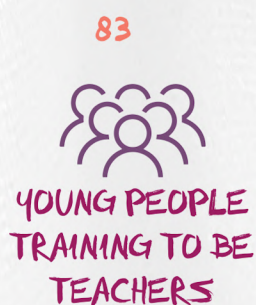
INSIGHTS

2023

Big Education Conversation (BEC) is a global movement, initiated by [Big Change UK](#), supporting people and communities around the world to come together to talk about what education is for so that it can change for the future. As the country partner, Dream a Dream's goal was to facilitate BECs with diverse stakeholders in the ecosystem to shift dominant narratives around the purpose of education through listening. We wanted to provide a safe space for participants to talk, listen and engage with the intention to develop a shared vision for education. We engaged with 393 stakeholders.

“ Majority of the education system is very text bookish, where students are not taught to face the world or be ready for the employment industry.
- Vijayshree, Shikshalokam, Bangalore ”

Two ideas which came up during most BECs were that 'learning is beyond education in schools' and there must be 'universal access to quality education'.



“ Teachers tend to ignore and not support students who don't perform well in exams.
- Young Person, Thriving Centre, Bangalore ”

Many respondents felt that the current education system has a 'One size fits all' approach wherein all children are expected to learn, act and be similar, irrespective of their social identities. To go beyond rote learning towards critical thinking, the education system has to share power and listen to young people while planning for education.



WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION?



Most participants shared that education must prepare young people for life through life skills development, encouraging inquisitiveness, self-confidence, self-awareness, expression and resilience. Holistic Wellbeing comprising of social (positive body image, gender awareness, safety), emotional (mental health support), physical (health and sex education) and cognitive (logical & reasoning abilities) wellbeing should be prioritised.



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"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

- Anam, LedBy Foundation, New Delhi

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Education must develop student agency with the freedom to make learning choices and promote joy of lifelong learning. It should also celebrate their strengths and provide platforms to build upon it. There is a need to foster a strong connection between education and practical societal needs to develop moral citizenship by incorporating human values like empathy, tolerance, coexistence and equipping young people to build a sustainable future.



REIMAGINING EDUCATION

What is an ideal learning space?

It was described as a fun, supportive, technologically updated and clean surroundings, where contextualised lesson plans are created to build on the strengths of learners.



Inclusive Education

Individuality of young people should be respected and all types of learners should be given space to grow and flourish. Instead of imposing one set of curriculum, we need to respect diverse identities and use education as a tool to empower.



Experiential Learning

From personal experiences, participants shared how practical application of knowledge aided understanding of concepts and a love for learning. They emphasised exposure to new opportunities and inter-school meets.

Accessibility

Participants emphasised the importance of equal opportunity to access education for all which can be done by making education affordable and keeping a limit on tuition fees. Schools should not be based on a profit or capitalist model. More schools and colleges must be started so that whoever wants to study specialised subjects gets an opportunity to do so.



Enabling Environment

Government school teachers should be less burdened with additional responsibilities of administrative work and should be given time and space to innovate with pedagogies. The administration must ensure an ideal teacher-pupil ratio so that individual attention can be paid to students. Fair teacher remuneration and acknowledgment of efforts will help make teaching an aspirational profession.



Education should not be confined to a single building. Young people should be encouraged to come out of the school and see the real-life activities around.

- Pankaj, Dream a Dream, Uttarakhand





The current education system fails to equip us with life skills and basic civic sense; Older children should be encouraged to teach at least 1 underprivileged child in their vicinity.

- Tanvi Jha, Child in Need India (CINI), Jharkhand



Curriculum Contextualisation

Participants highlighted the need to contextualise the curriculum and assessments to meet the students' needs and to incorporate the indigenous local practices and wisdom. In the hilly state of Uttarakhand, which feels the impact of climate change more, participants were keen on learning through nature by travelling, organic farming, work experience labs and disaster management awareness camps.

School Infrastructure

Hygiene and sanitation must be maintained and schools should have a playground, library, science and computer labs. To ensure support and help is available for students, counselling centres must be set up for children.

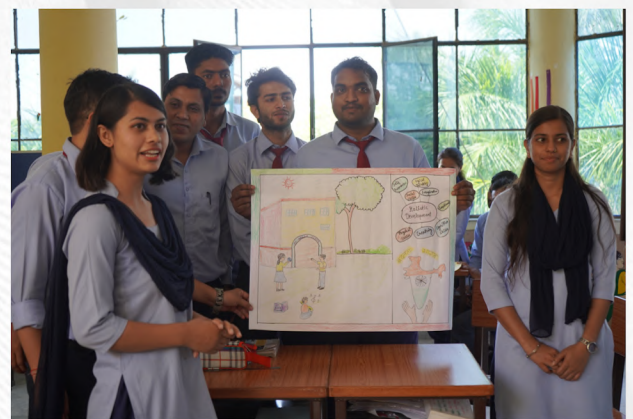


Assessment of Learning

The participants shared their vision to move away from exams to what students pick up through a no marksheets system. Focus should move from testing memory to developing young people's ability to be resilient.

Pedagogy

Contrary to the current scope of teacher's role, primarily limited to syllabus completion and ensuring students score well in exams, participants felt that teachers should be facilitators of learning and instil a love for it. Pedagogy should be inclusive using gender neutral language, pictures and stories with scope for fun and exposure.



Staff and Teachers Training

Teachers/ School staff need support and training to manage challenging behaviour in school like bullying, violence etc. Teachers' learning should also be kept up to date with new technology. Parents and teachers must collaborate and connect regularly to plan in the best interest of young people.



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The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 works for holistic development of young people- from Anganwadi to higher education by providing for initiatives and support in the state education systems.

- Sandhya Wadhwa, Shikshalokam, Bangalore

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Policy

Participants emphasised on the need for thoughtful budget allocations prioritising the areas highlighted here. While most participants looked at the NEP 2020 as a welcome step towards holistic development, few felt it is theoretical and implementation will be difficult given the complexity of the challenges in the education system.

Community Involvement

Participants would like to host more events discussing about education. They suggested starting community libraries with books, computers, experiential activities and mentors to engage parents and students with foundational learning and life skills activities. In the state of Jharkhand, suggestions were made to collaborate with rural Self Help Groups (SHGs) in building community awareness and supporting parents with positive parenting.

ONE SMALL STEP THAT YOU WILL TAKE...





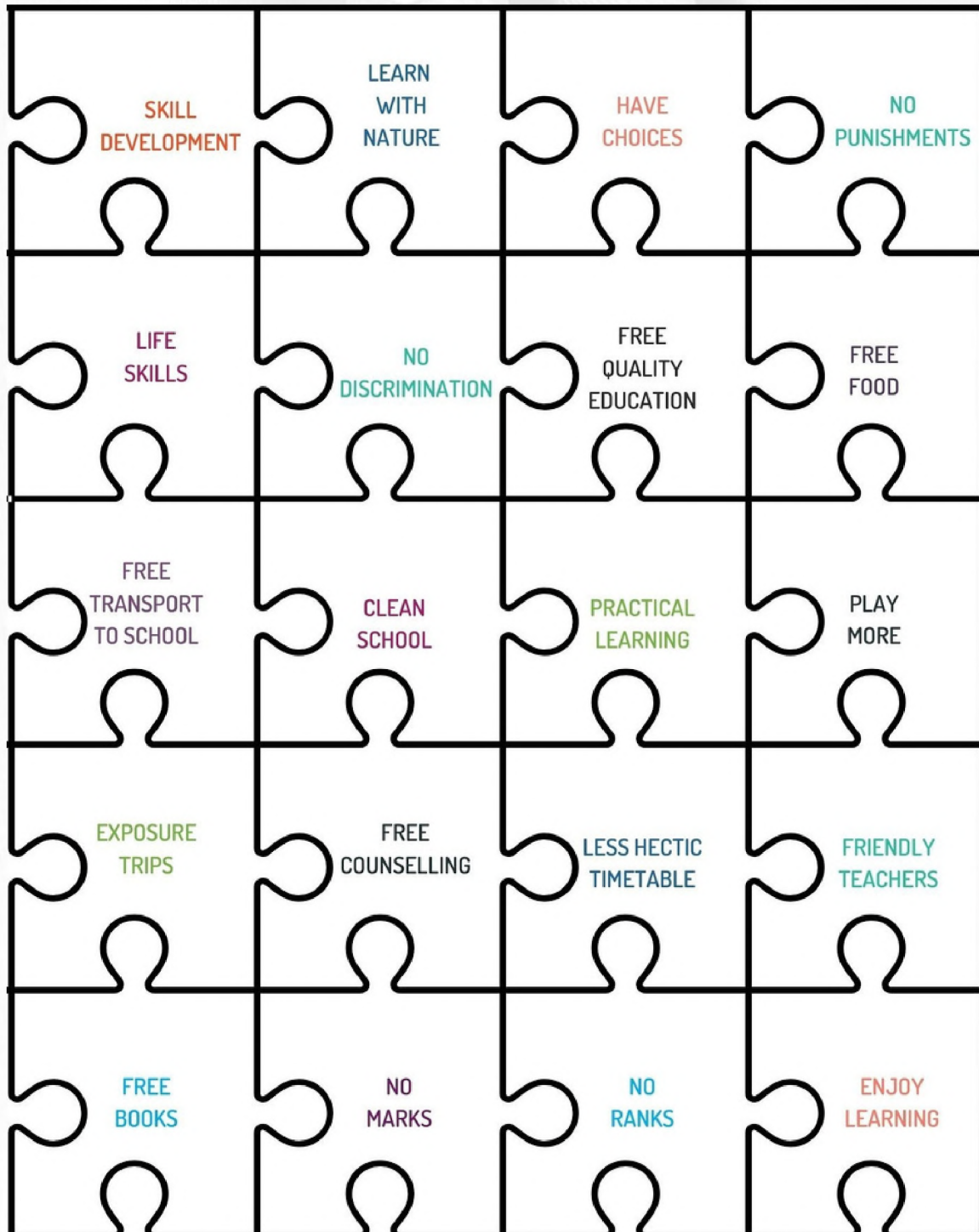
THANK YOU!

We are grateful to our collaborators for BECs:

- Centre for Intrinsic Motivation (CIM)
- Central University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir
- Child in Need India (CINI), Jharkhand
- District Institute of Education & Training (DIET), Uttarakhand
- Dream a Dream Facilitators and Staff Members
- LedBy Foundation

- Pratigya, Jharkhand
- Quest Alliance, Jharkhand
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- Thrive Collaborative
- Vartaleap
- Vishnu International School, Bangalore
- Young People of Dream a Dream

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WANT?



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