

According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Human Development is about putting people at the centre of development. It is about people realizing their potential, increasing their choices and enjoying the freedom to lead lives they value. Since 1990, annual Human Development Reports have explored challenges including poverty, gender, democracy, human rights, cultural liberty, globalization, water scarcity, climate change, and mobility. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary composite index that measures a country's average achievements in three basic aspects of human development: health, knowledge, and a decent standard of living. Health is measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge is measured by a combination of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary, and tertiary gross enrolment ratio; and standard of living by GDP per capita. India has made some progress on the HDI - its value has gone up from 0.556 in 2000 to 0.612 in 2007. However, India's rank relative to other countries is falling – it is currently ranked 134 in UNDP (Oct 5, 2009) report.

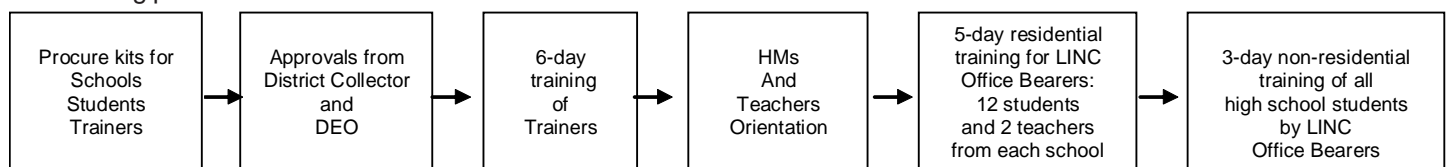


In his book *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium*, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam says, “A developed India by 2020, or even earlier, is not a dream. It need not be a mere vision in the minds of many Indians. It is a mission we can all take up - and succeed.” Following the UNDP lead of putting people at the center of the development and keeping in perspective that 54% of our population is youth, Prof. N.B Sudershan Acharya integrated Dr. Kalam's ideals, vision and mission and created a training program for the youth titled ***Aap Badho Desh Ko Bhadao*** – the fundamental philosophy being ***Individual development leads to National Development***. Encouraged by Dr. Kalam, Acharya started Lead India 2020 Foundation, an NGO focused on igniting and channelizing hidden potential in our youth.



Most of the training is delivered to the students by their peers, Change Agents, who form the Lead India National Club (LINC) in their respective schools. Guided by 10-point oath (<http://www.leadindia2020.org/oath.html>) designed by Dr. Kalam, the Change Agents embrace a new way of living. Graduates of Lead India 2020 training program set high goals in life and become Change Agents to change society and environment around them. The training was first delivered to 6,000 tribal students in remote villages and then to 25,000 tribal students in the next two years. Later on mass transformation in high school students was accomplished with over 1 lakh students participating in Medak and over 2 lakh students in Karimnagar. In 2008, partnering with Government of Andhra Pradesh, about 5.5 lakh students underwent training.

The training process is outlined below:



The training ignites scientific temper, inculcates human values, and inspires leadership with patriotism. At the end of the training session, each student not only sets a “mission for life” but also writes his/her mission statement and is kept in his/her file. With support from corporations like GE and IT industry's HYSEA member companies' employees, a mentor network is being created to help the students to work towards their career goals. Lead India 2020 Foundation works to ensure that the student's “mission for life” is accomplished. In his last speech as out-going President, Dr. Kalam said, “Lead India 2020 is the 2nd National Movement, a mission oriented program transforming youth, gave me an assurance that this will transform developing India into a developed nation by 2020.” Lead India 2020 is in the process of publishing the results of its experiments to be shared with Chief Ministers of all states.

The training is more experiential and addresses the gaps in current educational system and has the following modules: Physical, Mental, Career, Social, and Spiritual. For example, instead of telling the students to tell the truth and not tell lies, they are encouraged to be completely truthful for a week. Students experience the confidence they derive from being truthful. Some examples of how Change Agents are leading a new way of life based on Dr. Kalam's 10-point oath follow:

Commitment and work ethic is improved from the oath - ***I will pursue my education or the work with dedication and I will excel in it.*** Remarkable improvement in 10th class results were observed: 10% improvement in Avanigadda, Krishna district, Shanthipuram, Chittoor district, Thadikonda, Guntur district, entire Medak district; 4% in entire Karimnagar district; and 30% in Raphthad, Ananthapur district. This addresses the “Aap Badho” aspect of the training.

Examples of setting “mission for life”:



Srikanth, a Change Agent, who is a visually challenged boy, told Dr. Kalam that he will become the first visually challenged President of India. Today he is the first blind Indian to pursue undergraduate studies in MIT, Boston and with full tuition waiver.

Naresh wanted to lead people by taking up guns and by violence. After attending Lead India 2020 training, he now wants to lead people by service, get elected as their leader in a democratic way. He trained over 1 lakh students in Yoga. In the picture below, he is bringing Gopi (a coastal school child from Nagayalanka - Krishna District) back to school after a long period of absence.



The oath - ***I will Plant at least 10 saplings and shall ensure their growth through constant care,*** is implemented by every student who not only plants the saplings, but also names the plants after his/her beloved relatives and friends and takes care of the saplings everyday. This habit ignites the love towards people and environment.



The oath - ***From now onwards, I will teach at least 10 persons to read and write for those who cannot read and write*** addresses the “Desh Ko Bhadao” aspect of the training. In a pilot project in Karimnagar district from May 1 to June 18, 2008, 524 Change Agents worked in 60 villages and out of 2,823 adults participated, 749 adults were declared as literates by Deputy Director of Adult Education for Karimnagar district. Change Agents convinced their parents and neighbors to participate. Picture shows a Change Agent Padma being recognized by D. Purandareswari, Union minister of state for human resource development, for educating her mother.

The oath - ***I will visit rural and urban areas and permanently wean away at least 5 persons from addiction and gambling,*** is received extremely well by the students. Thousands of stories from students are documented in how they are stopping their parents and even strangers from smoking, drinking, gambling, etc.



In recent Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, 1 lakh Change Agents in Chittoor district, convinced registered voters in their homes to sign a postcard saying “We will not sell our votes for notes” and 1 lakh such postcards were presented as a garland to Dr. Kalam in Chittoor on March 19, 2009. This is an implementation of the oath ***I will be honest and will endeavor to make a corruption free society.*** In the next Assembly elections in AP, there would be more than 25 lakh homes participating in this kind of activity.

The oath - ***I will not support any religious, caste or language discrimination*** is taken to heart by Lead India 2020 graduates and Change Agents who proudly wear T-shirts and caps sporting the message “I am Indian First.”

Assessment of training impact on students by Hyderabad Central University:

“The training has moulded the lives of students with positive attitude towards the world and developed them as patriotic responsible future citizens of India. It should be conducted all through the academic year and made integral part of academic curriculum and replicated in all the states. This nation-wide movement is the only way to ensure disciplined future generation and to bring back past glory of India.”

Dr. Manmohan Singh, our Prime Minister, in his recent speech in USA said, “With one of the youngest populations in the world, India is estimated to have the capacity to create 500 million skilled and trained technicians by the year 2020 and claim a fourth of the global workforce.” The opportunity being presented with this situation is being referred as our **Demographic Dividend**. The demographic dividend is a rise in the rate of economic growth due to a rising share of working age people in a population. According to Mckinsey Global Institute, over 40% of Indian population will be considered Middleclass by the year 2025. According to a Report by the World Economic Forum’s Global Risk Network and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), India can see sustainable 8% - 10% economic growth rate, provided some major risks/issues are addressed. However, if our youth do not have the employable skills, then we stand to lose the most unique opportunity presented to us.

Today 4 out of 10 are below poverty line. Government, over 12 lakh NGOs, corporations’ CSR groups, NRIs, and good samaritans’ efforts are helping us reduce the gap between our country’s economic development and human development. However, no united efforts are made to address our country’s major problems. Every constituent of our country united to achieve independence - now it is time for all of us to unite to achieve development of our country. Dr. Kalam says, “Nation is missing a National goal like Independence and so, Development could be our goal.”

Lead India 2020 is working on creating a LINC Network to achieve unification of everyone’s efforts a) to ensure that today’s youth (tomorrow’s stake holders) not only have employable skills but also are patriotic with value-based education and b) to ensure that we will be able to reap the benefits of India’s Demographic Dividend and achieve Developed India by the year 2020.

Introduction of LINC

Lead India National Club (LINC) is set up in each school after the Lead India 2020 training programs. The 12 officer bearers of a school LINC train the remaining high school students. It is envisioned that the students form LINC in villages with one or more objectives like 100% literacy in the village, plastic free village, corruption free village, etc. When a LINC undertakes an activity such as 100% computer literacy in a village, it publishes its requirements and LINC which can provide resources such as computers, instructors, funding can provide them. With a noble objective such as this, the rest of Indians have to conspire to ensure that this village is 100% computer literate. Such activity needs collaboration between LINC on a LINC Network, where each LINC publishes what it can provide and subscribes to what it needs.



It is envisioned that on

11/11/11 at 11:11:11 am, 11 crore students will take oath from Dr. Kalam

First of our projects to unify all Indians is Celebrating

60th Anniversary of “Jana Gana Mana” recognition as our National Anthem

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Links to Dr. Kalam's videos:

Nov 14, 2009 at Oasis School of Excellence, Hyderabad:

<http://www.youtube.com/leadindia2020#p/a/u/2/yaEEp2rpU0c>

10-point Oath:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhE8ph30ghA>

Inauguration of USA Chapter, March 2008:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XpousG_RaQ

Dr. Kalam's last message to the Nation as President

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZADM-SPxReQ>

Dr. Kalam declaring Lead India 2020 as 2nd National Movement

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GezHEIG_nZU

For further information, please visit: <http://www.leadindia2020.org> and <http://www.youtube.com/leadindia2020>

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