



## TRIBAL MENSA NURTURING PROGRAM

MENSA INDIA PUNE CHAPTER

### Sita- Wildflower in Tribal Niche



**Report: July-August 2009 Karthik Kridalaya**

The clock of nature has spun its magic all around. It's the sowing time. The valley is filled with the smell of paddy all newly planted. The atmosphere is upbeat and every farmer all around my school is at his busiest. Somewhere in the forests I know that small seedlings are also holding ground. They must be wondering whether they would someday become tall and grand. Whether they would too give shelter to birds and fruits for all? I wonder too! I was sitting in class yesterday, and my teacher told me that Anujatai had arrived. He

informed me that they were going to take the Mensa workshop right here in our school, and that he had arranged for a place in the staff room for the same. Last month Narayandada had visited my school and had explained to me that from August onwards some of the Mensa workshops will be held in our schools (Field Workshops). New activities will be introduced to me for example seed collection, library setup, staging a drama etc. Then I must share whatever I learn with all my schoolmates. In this way, everyday in school will also be like being in Maherghar!

I hurried out of my class and called all my other Mensa friends, as I knew they were awaiting this



workshop just as much as me. Anujatai and all of us sat together, and she introduced us to Prasannadada. She said he is an architect who is studying in Germany and was especially here to meet us. Then we spent some time catching up, as we had met after a long time.

Then Anujatai told us something which made us almost jump with joy. She told us



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that she had brought with her a trunk full of games! All the games that we liked! Games which really need us to rack our brains. She said the trunk had chess, Rubik cubes, set of building blocks, jigsaw puzzles and so many more. It was almost like bringing a part of our Maherghar here in our school!

We were all so excited, but we couldn't see it anywhere. We tried to find out where she had hidden it. But then she explained that there was a condition on which we would get it.

This Karthik Kridalaya (Games Box) she said was a gift from the donation made by Mensa Life member, Mr. Karthik Sharma. He is a software engineer, formerly working at Infosys (USA) and now in a company called WNS. He has donated over three Lakhs and fifty thousand rupees for the Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program. Anujatai said that there could be only one way being truly grateful for his contribution and



that was by learning that a gift also comes with responsibility. I asked Anujatai, "Does being responsible mean taking good care of this box?" Mahesh said, "Probably not just that, it could also mean that we have a responsibility to share what we have received". Anujatai said, "Yes, it means you must take good care of the box while ensuring that

you share this benefit with everyone. But what would you really do to take good care of this box? How will you ensure that the games are available to everyone?" Sharad promptly replied, "I will look after the Games, I will count them every day. I will ensure that the box is kept safely" "Yes, but how do we make sure everyone can participate in this activity?" asked Sagar. Vishal replied, "Let's make a table! We will make groups of ten students from each class, and one of us can go and teach them these Games during our free time!" "What if we hold an inter-class competition every month?" "I will classify the Games according to the age" "I will teach all the girls" "I will write down the rules and instructions" "What happens when there is an exam?" and thus, the discussion continued. We allotted classes, decided who will keep the keys of the box, timings and so much more! Shriniwas found that just two or three Mensa students won't be enough to handle the entire workload.



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Anujatai then called students who had scored above 95 percentile in the Mensa test. She introduced them to Mensa, and all the activities that we do. She told us, that they could help us run the Karthik Kridalaya effectively, as they were also just as intelligent as us. We had a fun time telling them all about our plan, and

the activities that we will do.

But all of this thinking had raised our curiosity to look at the games so much! Then Sachin, Kiran and Yogesh accompanied Prasannadada to bring in the box. We pounced upon it. Beaming smiles swept across our face. Vishakha and I started playing the Rubik cube. Suvarna and Reshma didn't know how to play most of the games, so Chandrakant and Nilesh volunteered to teach them. Akshay was involved in the Tangram and Green cube; he could barely hear anyone else. He made many different shapes from the pieces of the Tangram. Deepak assembled all the Vegetables, Fruits and Birds in the Jigsaw puzzle. The names of all these objects were written in English. So we now know that our favorite 'Methichi bhaaji' is called 'Fenugreek'!





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It was almost lunch time, and all the schoolmates gathered outside the staff room trying to sneak into the room just to see what we were doing. Everyone wanted to know what the box contained. We all asked them to wait till the next day, from when we begin the 'Karthik Kridalaya' activity for everyone!

When we returned from our lunch, Anujatai was ready with some new games. The first game was called 'The Coin Game'. We were all asked to sit in a circle and concentrate on a coin at the center of the circle. Then we had to count from one to hundred. Anyone could start the count by saying 1 aloud. Another random participant in the circle would have to count the next number 2. If two people say the next number simultaneously, we would have to start recounting. We thought the game was easy, but as a



group we couldn't count beyond 25! She then asked us why we must have played this game. I said, "What if no one started counting? We could have never reached even till 25! Someone had to take the lead, the initiative to start counting." Sachin said, "Yes, but if everyone would have taken the lead, all of us would have said number 1 simultaneously, and never gone ahead of that. So there can only be one leader at one time, all others have to understand and support him in the task." Anujatai appreciated what we said, and asked us to follow the same when we did our Karthik

Kridalaya activity in school. We must help the leader we chose, and work together to do the task. In the next game, Anujatai gave us three objects – a long string, a cardboard sheet and a watch. She said we had to use these objects and put together a drama.

Initially we made use of the story of Birbal and made a small skit. We made a crown out of the cardboard and string, but we couldn't find any use of the watch! Prasannadada motivated us by saying, we must make use of the fourth most important resource we had ... our brain! He said we must try to be more creative with the objects that we had. So again we sat together and really put our brains to work and we came up with a small advertisement on Swine Flu! (We had read about it in the newspapers).



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We used the watch to show the beating of the heart, and we made a stethoscope out of the string and so many small objects, most of all we made use of all our creativity. Anujatai asked us to think about why we played this game. We already knew the answer! We have been given the Karthik Kridalaya and we had to be creative with it. We must find new ways to play the old games. We should make use of our creativity to explain the difficult games to everyone, just like we did in our drama!

In the next discussion, Prasannadada narrated us the story of Shivaji Maharaj and his famous escape from the prison in Agra. He told us how Shivaji Maharaj had used all the qualities we had mentioned earlier like taking responsibility, taking the lead, supporting people, sharing knowledge, being creative, resourceful, etc. Then we all came up with our own Seven Principles of Leadership! The qualities we

need to imbibe, here they are



1. Sanshodhan (Research): a. Door drushti (Vision), b. Navinyapoornata (Creativity), c. Kutuhal (Curiosity), 2. Sankalp (Resolution), 3. Sanghatan (Unity), 4. Sainyojan (Management), 5. Sahishnuta (Empathy), 6. Samvardhan (Nurture), 7. Samarpan (Devotion)

It was evening, and the sky was especially dark due to the clouds. All of us sat together today evening planning out our activities for tomorrow. We spoke to our teacher to keep the Karthik Kridalaya box safely. As we were about to leave, Rohit joked and said "You know we have been thinking so much, we can almost run the country now!" We all replied, "We think we should! hahahaaha" **Karthik Sharmanchya navane Chang Bhala!**



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### Annexes 1 Karthik Kridalaya Administrative Report

Date	School Name	Mensa Members	95+ Members	Leader
31/07/09	Aasane	Rohit Dhubal Ganesh Pardhi Shriniwas Pote	-	Ganesh Pardhi
09/08/09	Phulawade	Sagar Pardhi Mahesh Nikam Kiran Shinde Yogesh Kadale Akash Pardhi Deepak Kadale	Alka Gabhale Suvarna Pardhi Reshma Kengale Shamrao Gawde	Kiran Shinde
10/08/09	Gohe	Chandrakant Bhavari Sachin Talpe Nilesh Memane Akshay Bhomale	Rajesh Bhavari Vishakha Dharwad Kailas Pote Sagar Lohokare Shilpa Gengje Ganesh Potkule	Sachin Talpe
11/08/09	Kohinde	Sharad Bharati Vishal Bharati	Kavita Talape Anil Pardhi Ujwala Pawar Chhaya Dhindale	Sharad Bharati
12/08/09	Tokawade	Sagar Supe	Nitin Supe Asha Bhokate	Sagar Supe



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Games

Distributed

Game	Aasane	Phulawade	Gohe	Kohinde	Tokawade
Chess	4	5	7	4	5
Business	3	3	4	3	3
Brain vita	6	4	4	4	4
Patience Stick	4	-	1	-	-
Tangram	3	3	4	3	3
Jigsaw Sets	5	4	3	3	3
Rubik Cubes	10	3	4	3	3
Green Cubes	2	-	-	-	-
Origami Book	1	-	-	-	-
Notebook	1	1	1	1	1
Pen	1	1	1	1	1
Snakes-Ladder	-	1	-	1	1
Mechano/block		5	5	5	3
Plastic Jigsaw		1	1	1	1