

Mentor's Energizer

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Welcome

What a privilege to continually be involved with youth. We are their teachers, but teaching is the highest form of learning. We are present during the transformative years when students make some of their most important decisions about completing their education, earning a living, marrying and raising a family. We are privileged to watch their questing minds deal with the greatest opportunities, challenges and tests in their lives so far. With our guidance, they can learn to overcome the pressures of the world and to provide true leadership for their generation and the generations to come. They can develop the abilities, skills and positive attitudes needed to exemplify high moral standards and values in the midst of a society filled with loose standards, decadent theories, frenetic experimentation and desperation.

We know that it is within the power of the youth to contribute significantly to the shaping of an ever advancing civilization. We know that they can, with appropriate guidance, channel their energies, capacities and talents toward this greater purpose. We are encouraging them to strive day and night to become endowed with strength, brilliant motives and excellent characters. We engage them in meaningful conversations and activities so that they will distinguish themselves through their loftiness of purpose, magnanimity, determination, tenacity and high aims. As they become confident, skillful and capable change-makers, we rise with them in an effort to embody the qualities we hope they will acquire. Often, we gain more than we give. How fortunate we are!

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National Creativity Award Poster Contest—enter now!

Light the fire of creativity in your students. Encourage them to participate in the quarterly National Creativity Award. The deadline is 31 March, 2014.

For details please logon
www.bahaiacademy.org

National Conference on Universal Human Values

In accordance with the Academy's mission, we have the pleasure to announce organizing the first National Conference on Universal Human Values, a 2-day event on 5-6 April 2014.

For details please logon
www.bahaiacademy.org

The Bahá'í Academy wishes to thank our mentor of the month, Prof. Salve, for his thoughtful comments.

Meet the Mentors

Meet Prof. Prashant Mohan Salve
Education: M.A, M.Ed.
Work Experience: 14 years
Subject: Geography
College: S.M.S.M.P. Mahavidyalaya, Rahimatpur



In 2008-9 I took the Orientation Mentoring Workshop in Panchgani on Education in Universal Human Values. When I read the content of Module -1 Moral Capabilities, I liked it very much. From 2009 I became a mentor and started working. The more I understood the module, I developed even more interest. My own actions and thoughts seemed to develop and change. My nature changed into one which was cooperative. My characteristics of anger and gossiping were pushed far away. Continuing to teach and learn, I developed inspiration, especially positive thinking. My relationships at work, as well as with my family, became better. First I used to think that I was always right, but later I realised that even what the women of the household said was valid. Consultation developed in our family and I learnt to do my work myself. I tried to increase the values of myself and my family. I also learnt cooperative learning, Happy Hippo Show and educational games which helped me a lot in my occupation as a teacher.

I became a mentor of Education in Universal Human Values for BBA 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students. When they took the Programme, even the students developed in many ways and their behaviour changed. The level of cooperation and taking initiative increased, and because of this, the students were leaders in all the other activities in the college such as N.S.S, tree plantation, cultural programmes, etc. After finishing the module students themselves take the initiative and carry out their Service Learning Activity in which they do something for the social development of society as well.

Please send your comments and pictures to: energizer@bahaiacademy.org

Setting Personal Goals Sets Example

Businesses have missions, visions, goals, plans and regular review to adjust and move forward. Individuals need the same. We don't want to reach the end of our lives only to realize that we've kept ourselves busy, but we have not used our particular talents and capacities to make the world a better place.

Mission and Vision

Why are you here? What is your purpose in life? What are your talents and capacities and how will you use them to serve mankind? Teachers are servants by nature. They live to give. Sometimes they give too much. How can you stay balanced in all of the important areas of your life: spiritual, physical, mental, family, community, etc.? Take the time you need to meditate on your true purpose, before writing a statement about what you believe and how you want to put that belief into action. To put it into action, we must:

✓ Set Goals

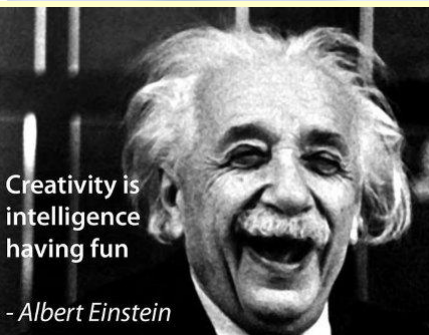
Goals are milestones for your vision, which is more a state of being than a destination. They may be short term or long term, individual or collective. They serve different purposes ranging from simple chores to character building, behavior transformation, new and improved skills and achieving dreams. Any goal needs a set of steps to achieve it, therefore, we must make a:

✓ Make a Doable Plan

The Universal Human Values courses teach us that our purpose and goals should be praiseworthy. Once you've set goals, a doable plan is the most effective way to achieve them. And remember that true happiness is not just the achievement, but the process of learning along the way. Be sure to plan the most important things first, the things that are critical to your well-being. Otherwise it's easy to get lost in the minutia and you end up doing a lot, but not achieving what you really want.

✓ Reflect and Revise

Regular reflection brings results. Keep your goals visible so that they stay priorities. Share your goals with others so that they'll keep you working toward them. Your students, particularly, will be inspired by your desire for self-improvement and what you learn from your mistakes along the way.



Inspired students share their learning in many ways. Mentors have found that encouraging students to express themselves artistically leads to remarkable breakthroughs in learning.

How do I encourage my students to do their Service Learning Activities (SLA)?

The most powerful tool is example. Students will be touched and inspired by your own attempts to build better communities. Share your struggles with them, the mistakes you've made and what you've learned. The in-class readings, discussions, activities and assignments are only one part of the course. The practicals and the service learning are the ways that students complete the course to get their certificate. These are essential requirements and the students need to know that most of the learning takes place by applying the skills.

Preparation is the first key to success. From the very beginning of the course, mentors find that their excitement about the upcoming SLA begins to awaken the students' enthusiasm. Telling stories of other successful, and not so successful, SLAs is one of the best ways to connect hearts. Hearing about the issues in other communities makes the SLA real. Real people with real problems and issues who worked together to bring about change are powerful motivators for your students to do the same.

The second key is time discipline. Many students wait until the last minute to make a plan. Suddenly, they feel pressured and overwhelmed. Gradually introducing the process in class and then checking the progress each session are critical. Knowing that they are accountable each week for a small part of the process is also a strong reward in itself.

Students supporting each other, the third key, builds confidence and achieves results. Experienced mentors have said that modeling this behavior has really helped their students learn and grow. One mentor suggested the "Feedback Sandwich". When looking at a students' work from a home activity, practical or SLA, she always finds something positive to say first, then shares what could be improved, and finally ends on another positive note.

Finally, the fourth key is finishing in a timely manner. Encourage students to write down their observations and reflections immediately after each part of the process. This way, the final report does not loom as an impossibility, but rather just needs polishing.

Next month: How can we measure moral capabilities?