

An Indian view of lifelong learning

EDUCATION/SCHOOLING	LIFELONG LEARNING
Based on notions of human capital and survival of the fittest mentality	Based on the faith and belief in human potential, human spirit and liberation
Education is only for degrees, jobs and money-making	Lifelong learning for meaning-making, creating, understanding and practical doing
Visions and notions of 'development', success and progress pre-defined by a select few	People engage in creating self and collective visions for development, while challenging and rejecting inappropriate notions of Development
Focuses on Fitting the learner into the mainstream system	Facilitates the creation and regeneration of meaningful and just systems/communities
Teaching, transmitting and memorizing information	Learning, understanding, constructing knowledge and connecting knowledge to wisdom
individualistic, selfish interests and competitive	Collaborative, giving, sharing nurturing For the good of all
Disconnects learners From their local communities	Facilitates deeper connections among and between local communities
Discovers and values the potential of only a Few	Discovers and develops the hidden potential of all
Reinforces and creates new hierarchies	Challenges and breaks down hierarchies and inequalities and builds more equitable relationships
Mechanistic planning and implementation	Organically evolves and is actualized by the people
Usually an imposed Government Initiative in which the roles of Government, NGOs and citizens are predefined and static	Emerges as a Citizens' Initiative which grows from the interests, intrinsic motivation and actual needs of the people. Citizens' roles evolve and keep changing with processes of continuous self-reflection/creativity/dialogue
Schools and colleges are factories and institutions of thought control	Schools and colleges are learning communities
Responsibility of defining education lies in the school's hands	Responsibility for learning lies with oneself and the community
Education is seen to only take place in schools and colleges	Learning is understood to take place everywhere and these other spaces are valued
The only teachers are in schools	Everyone is a teacher and a learner

Jain, Vidhi and Manav ' A Search for Meaning: Udaipur as a Learning City' in Unfolding Learning Societies, Challenges and opportunities, March 2000 - Shikshantar – the people's agency for Rethinking Education and development, 21 Fatehpura, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India