

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY : A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The land of Gujarat is known for innovations and experiments. The land has witnessed many avant grade personalities within the fields of politics, academics, economics and so on. This is the land of father of nation Mahatma Gandhi and Iron Man Hon. Sardar Vallbhai Patel, Shri Gijubhai Badheka, Harbhai Trivedi, Nanabhai Bhatt did continuous efforts for child education with different experiments. In this direction Gujarat has taken a lead forward in the direction of child development. This initiative is Children's University, which was established in the year 2009 as a dream of Hon. Narendrabhai Modi. The university gets its functional design under the guidance of visionary educationist respected Prof. Kiritbhai Joshi. This initiative will draw new path in the area of holistic child development.

the Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat and present Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi, while emphasizing this he explained the urgent need of the University that may specifically be made for the growth and development of the future generations. Apart from this, as he pointed out, the prime focus of this institution would be to avail the path-breaking researches dealing with the children's studies. The prime aim is holistic development of child centric education on Indian thinking and spirituality which covers whole life span of human that is from conception to adulthood (-9 month to 18 years) which make this university very unique, novel and path breaking from all other conventional universities. This is very important matter for the government of Gujarat to work in the areas of child development in very different way. The University is presently working in the following areas in four dimensions i.e, Research, Education, Training and Extension Services. Brief Description of the Schemes of Children's University is as follow:

INCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSITY:

The global tradition of academia has no particular institution that could cover a wide range of the children related studies. This domain of sheer avoidance was first torched light upon by Shri Narendra Modi the then Chief Minister and Present Prime Minister of India. However it was Prof. Kiritbhai Joshi who molded and elaborated this idea to the height of the institution. This concept is about to enter in its mature phase and is prepared to counter the challenges that fall under this field which are as follows:

- To build the human future of the Nation basing the ideals of the antiquity and to provide the knowledge of modernity in order to shape the divinely inspired children.
- To create a bridge between the schooling systems and the University set-up and form a connecting path to liberate the generation to come from the evil of individualism and self-centeredness;
- To identify the distinct nature of every child and to prepare their young minds for the quest of knowledge that would be an amalgamation of *Bharatiya Darshans* and Ultra Modern skills.
- To lay emphasis on the spiritual aspect of the personality (In fact this is the first university of the world whose frame of Act includes four dimensional development of the students including the spiritual part at its center.)
- To make the generations to come understand the value of interdependence that is the core of Indian modern antiquity;
- To lay the emphasis on divergent thinking and provide them atmosphere to think critically and creatively;
- To generate novel paradigms of job opportunities for the students
- To inspire researches that may pave the way to the global acknowledgement of *Bharatiya* philosophy.

DISTINCT NATURE AND FEATURES OF CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

Children's University is unique in many ways from the conventional university set up. The University covers very wide area of stakeholders concerning with the child's holistic development. The University's foundation lies on the spiritual base. The organizational structure of the University is also different to fulfill the unique functions of the University. The functions of the University are distributed in very wide spectrum of disciplines which includes philosophy, sociology, psychology, languages & literature(s), education, technology, medical sciences etc. The University concerns with the holistic development of the child. For the accomplishment of this maverick goal, the University has encompassed a wide spectrum of child's growth and development. Some of the distinct features of the University are as follows.

1. The University includes the holistic development of every child beginning from the mother's womb to adulthood whereas conventional universities mainly focus on the higher education after the completion of school education.
2. All stakeholders concerned with the all round development of children are also included in the area of the University i.e., children, parents, family, educational innovators, educational leaders, teachers of all levels, various communities, policy makers, government officers etc.
3. The University is aimed at transforming the prevailing educational system. This paradigm shift will take place through research, education, training and extension services. The child centric research is much neglected area within the higher education fraternity. The University is firm to fill this gap.
4. The University primarily focuses on the synthesis of ancient Indian wisdom and modern scientific knowledge. The University will work for rejuvenating the essential values in all walks of life.
5. The University contributes to the field of child development on the basis of researches guided by various research-councils of the Center of Research.
6. The University has the Director General whose functions are laid down in the Act. The Director General plays the pivotal role for the realization of the mission of the University. The University provides research fellowships to the upcoming researchers to promote child centric researches. The scheme of research fellowships to novel researches is the key feature of the University.