

Surat Unaided School Association
presents

A Dialog On
**CULTIVATING COMPASSION
IN EDUCATION**

SURAT, GUJARAT | 21st DECEMBER, 2019

Time: 3pm - 6:00pm

Venue: Sanjeev Kumar
Auditorium, Pal, Surat




On 21 December 2019, we're honoured to host a dialogue on **"Cultivating Compassion in Education"**. Over the years, one very prominent inquiry for all educators is around imparting values within the framework of prevalent Conventional Education system that we are a part of.

Alongside competence, how can we build character in our students? We have enough tools, techniques and processes for educating the intellect, but how do we ignite our innate intelligence?

Today's dominant paradigm is optimised for Intellectual Quotient (IQ). In recent years, we've seen a keener understanding of Emotional Quotient (EQ). And we'd like to explore a third metric to broaden the conversation: Compassion Quotient (CQ).

What does it take to educate a generation that is equipped to navigate difficult emotions, that is trusting in the virtues of our inter-connection, and that is rooted in ethical behaviour?

This evening, we'll hear stories of wide-ranging experiments, innovations, and journeys of inspired luminaries who are expanding our systems of education to bring values like compassion into greater circulation. This is an invitation to be a part of the dialogue collectively.



SPEAKERS



Nipun Mehta is the founder of ServiceSpace – an incubator of projects that support a gift culture. In his mid-twenties, Nipun quit his job to become a "full time volunteer" and over the last 20 years, his work has reached millions, and mushroomed into numerous projects like DailyGood, Awakin Circles, and Karma Kitchen. Among his accolades, President Obama appointed him on a council for social change, Dalai Lama recognized him as an "*Unsung Hero of Compassion*", and Germany's OOOM magazine named him Top 100 Most Inspiring People of 2018. One of his most formative experiences was a walking pilgrimage across India, with his wife of six months, whose profound lessons also became the subject of his widely-read address at UPenn commencement. Nipun's mission statement in life reads: "*Bring smiles in the world and stillness in my heart.*"



Kiran Bir Sethi is a Designer who became a Teacher, a Principal who grew into an Education Reformer and subsequently morphed into a Social Entrepreneur. A trained Graphic Designer, she comfortably uses the language of Design – iteration, prototype, design specs – to develop not only curriculum innovation, but also community-based Social Programmes. She is also the founder of 'aProCh'—an initiative to make our cities more child friendly, for which she was awarded the Ashoka Fellow in 2008. In 2009, she received the "Call to Conscience Award" by the King Centre at Stanford. In 2009, she launched "Design for Change" which uses a simple 4 step design framework – FIDS (Feel, Imagine, Do, Share) to cultivate the I CAN mind-set in all children. Today, DFC is the world's largest movement of change - of and by children, and is in 60+ countries — impacting over 2.2 million children and 65,000 Teachers.



Sangeeta Isvaran, a Bharatanatyam artiste, a co-founder of Katradi (www.katradi.org) and creator of the Katradi Method, is a choreographer, performer and also works to use the arts in education, empowerment & conflict resolution. She has worked for over 25 years with many marginalised communities across the world, such as sex workers, street children, indigenous communities, landmine victims, victims of caste and religious conflict and so on, across 30 countries, 5 continents, using the performing arts for social development and change, developing a unique method called Katradi – Empathy Based Social Transformation. A highly skilled performer, she has performed in more than 40 countries over Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America.



Chaitanya Bhatt is a Gandhian educator, whose idea of scale is to go from small to smaller. In a small village of Dheduki, he runs a school that is steeped in virtues, that he feels are "caught not taught." Getting creative with local resources, innovating in small ways and big, after decades of work, and building deep community ties along the way, Chaitanya Bhai is a model for social change world over. He has received recognition from countries as far away as Sweden, but when you meet him, he will opt to tell you stories of how they started their dorm by putting a flat log of wood on a treetop.