

PRERANA: School of Experiential Learning

A Mission to Inspire India - Framework

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

Great leaders around the world have looked back at their life and acknowledged their first school as a start of their inspirational journey to cause change. They all revisited their first school and transformed them into institutions of excellence to inspire the youth of their respective countries. Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi started his journey at the vernacular school in Vadnagar. The Vernacular School (Lat 23.78, Long 72.64) in the city of Vadnagar, Gujarat was established in the year 1888 AD (at a cost of rupees 16,023/-) from Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad of the erstwhile Baroda State, Gujarat.

Prerana will be based in the living town of Vadnagar, district Mehsana, Gujarat, in the Vernacular school, of which the Hon'ble PM is an alumnus. Prerana - The Experiential Learning School is the vision to inspire Bharat. It is a one week residential program offering the best of experiential and inspirational learning, equipped with the latest in technology, for students across the country. The program will be implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy, MoE.

Prerana School in Vadnagar will be the first of such schools, providing an experience due to its innovative and engaging curriculum which is a novel idea, and unlike traditional teaching, a pioneering concept acknowledging the fact that true education extends beyond textbooks and classrooms. It will be where history will meet innovation, and tradition is seamlessly woven into a future-focused educational experience.

At the heart of the curriculum is the philosophy of value-based education which is a cornerstone of the NEP 2020. Its essence lies not only in the present but also in the ancient knowledge system which will reinforce the value system, creating experiences that can be replicated and adapted to inspire learners far beyond its walls. This will be achieved through a framework of joyful experiential learning with field visits, collaborative learning, use of advanced technology and community interaction. Children will express their understanding through different mediums such as art work, podcasts, blogs, photo essays, models made through 3-D printing, jingles, digital posters, games, and a variety of other such outcomes. Exposure through activities done in this /programme/camp will develop a sense of citizenship, pride in their country and instil a sense of enterprise and entrepreneurship in the children. This will promote a respect for the great unity in diversity of Bharat and a spirit of "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*".

The curriculum of Prerana will be based on 9 theme-based classrooms being designed as under:

- **Swabhiman and Vinay-** Pride for the country's heritage and achievements, self-respect, and nationalism and humility
- **Shaurya and Sahas-**Various forms of strong leadership, bravery, and courage
- **Parishram and Samarpan-** Knowledge and heritage from ancient India to modern India, persistence, and perseverance in the face of difficulties and hard work
- **Karuna and Sewa-** Selfless spirit of service and compassion for deprived communities, Development of social consciousness for the progress of the country and society,
- **Vividhta and Ekta** – Respect and inclusion of the country's diverse culture and heritage, spirit of unity in diversity
- **Satyanishtha and Shuchita** - True integrity, honesty, and dignified leadership in personal and social life, Virtues for a leader
- **Navachar and Jigyasa-** Technological and entrepreneurship development in India with innovation and creative thinking, Make in India
- **Shraddha and Vishwas-** Reliance on reliability, honesty or competence, faith to succeed and develop resilience for future endeavours
- **Swatantrata and Kartavya** – Value for freedom and how to uphold it alongwith a Sense of duty towards society and country

These nine values, around which Prerana is founded, are the values which are the hallmark of a great and true leader. The curriculum based on these themes is at **Annexure I**.

2. Objectives

The aim of Prerana is to inspire the students of all the districts of the country from a place from where the inspirational journey of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi started. The week-long camp/programme at Prerana school is a journey of inspiration to invoke the 3 following fundamental themes:

- Who am I?
- What is our history and Cultural Heritage.
- What can I do for my country?

Prerana School creates opportunities for students to explore country's great culture through their journey of Vadnagar, a living city, its history, archaeology, and traditional Bhartiya Gyan Parampara. Students will learn to appreciate their heritage through state-of-the-art technology.

As the participants embark towards this program, they will be driven by a steadfast dedication to inculcate values intricately woven into the fabric of the

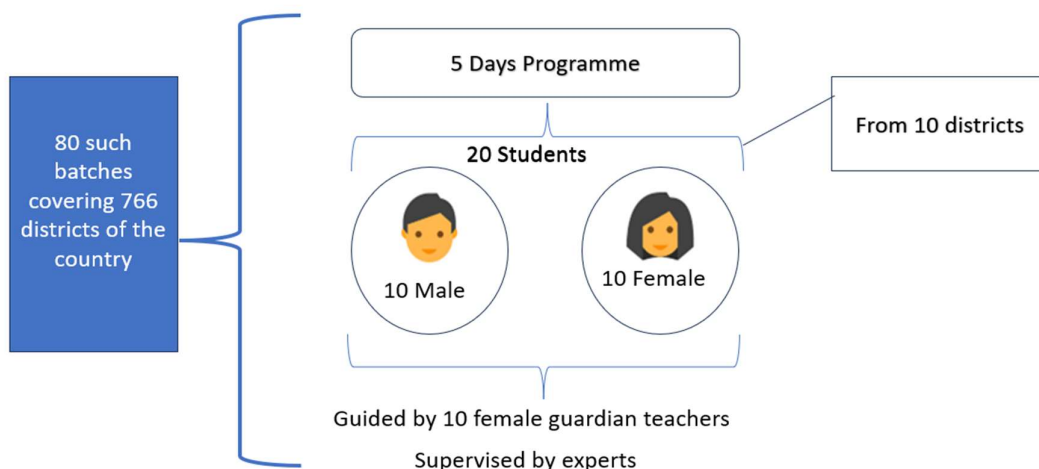
Indian education system—values that have endured the test of time and make effective leaders.

3. Outcomes

- Students to develop a sense of belonging and pride, and reflect on how they can contribute to nation building.
- Experiential learning inspires students to take on a productive and leadership role for the progress of the nation. The program is expected to make students learn about an innovative pedagogy through experiential and immersive learning.
- After attending the program and gaining from the diverse inputs, the participants would go back to their schools and become advocates and ambassadors of the values and experiences imbibed at Prerana School.
- The participants will carry the ethos of Prerana into their respective communities, become changemakers and spark positive change and inspire others.
- The program will directly benefit 1600 students and 800 guardian teachers in one cycle of 80 weeks, by providing them the 'Prerana Experience' specifically and the schools, community, and society at large when these students go back to their homes and spread the values learnt.

4. Implementation

- **Target beneficiaries** – The program will be for the students of Class IX to XII from each district of the country. The selection of Students will be done by a prescribed format and method through registration on **Prerana Portal**. The criteria will consider proportionate representation of gender, categories, CwSN and urban/rural population. This selection process will prioritise individuals with well-rounded personalities, driven by a deep passion and unwavering enthusiasm for shaping the future of our nation. The students will be accompanied with a female guardian teacher from the same district.
- **Main Program** – The full cycle of the program will be of **80 Weeks** to cover representation from all the districts in the country. Every Prerana Batch will have 20 students from 10 Districts of different States/UTs. Thus, 80 batches of 20 students (10 girls and 10 boys) and 10 Guardian Teacher each will be participating in the program.



- **The Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) will be the executing agency for the program in its pilot mode.** It will be responsible for the selection of students, guardian teachers, their travel arrangements, student kits etc
- At the initial/pilot stage of the programme, students from neighbouring states of Gujarat like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, will be selected.
- **Guardian Teachers:** The Guardian teacher will be a female teacher of the same school where the girl student is coming from. If a female teacher is not available with the school of girl participant, NVS will provide a female teacher as guardian.
- **Mentors:** There will be mentors to provide the joyful experiential learning through different mediums and innovative techniques. The Mentors/Facilitators can be selected from experts in diverse fields. Mentors will possess basic IT skills and good communication skills. For each batch of twenty students and 10 guardian teachers, there will be 8 mentors. All the mentors will have different profiles/expertise to bring in diversity. In the initial phase, mentors have been selected from among the teachers of NVS and GCERT, out of which the last 30 mentors will be selected out of which 8 will be mentors and 8 will be backup mentors. Course design will be shared with the mentors and training given in advance so that they are prepared for the nature of this type of course.

5. Capacity building of Mentors/Facilitators

The mentors for each batch will deliver the activities prescribed in the curriculum for which they will be given a residential training and capacity building program(CBP). They will be appointed preferably for a year or 6 months at a time. The curriculum will be designed by IIM-A in collaboration with IIT-G and the CBP will be delivered at either institute. The curriculum will be implemented through hands on activities and excursions in and around Vadnagar.

The candidates will be given a 5 days training in experiential learning methodologies at the site, followed by refresher courses of two days thrice a year in online/offline mode. This will include feedback, monitoring, troubleshooting and handholding. They will be awarded certificates after the completion of course and teaching the programme. They will be required to maintain reflective journals and portfolios and encouraged to analyse, reflect, research, collaborate, create, and share through different activities so that they are equipped to run the 5 days course for students.

6. Prerana Curriculum: The course will include the following focus areas:

- ***Indigenous knowledge systems;***
 - Games and sports
 - Health & food related to Ayurveda
 - Sacred Geometry, Science & Art related to architecture,
 - Natural dyes, printing & weaving related to textiles
 - Astronomy
 - Performing and visual arts
 - Mythology and legends
- ***New technologies and their creative uses;***
 - Cameras, drones, computers, 3D printers etc
 - AR, VR, Video making, Jingles, photo-essays, digital posters/ newsletter/blogs/magazines etc.
- ***Inspirational Indians;***
 - Researching and getting inspired by figures and personalities from India like Sardar Patel, Bhagat Singh, B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Dr J.C Bose, APJ Abdul Kalam, Shri AB Vajpayee, , Sir CV Raman, Guru Teg Bahadur, Rani Laxmi Bai, Rani Chenamma, Birsa Munda, Lachit Borphukan, Surya Sen, Shri Narendra Modi, Shri K. Kasturirangan, etc
- **Visits:**
 - The participants will also visit archaeological and historical sites that make Vadnagar unique. They will also learn about the living traditions of other states in India. As participants from various corners of the country converge here, the cultural exchange becomes an invaluable aspect of the experience helping the participants gain insights into the local heritage and the diverse traditions that shape our nation.
 - In addition to excursions to archaeological and heritage sites, other diverse activities are also planned that will encompass visual, aural, and haptic modes of learning. The students will also understand the growth and glory of the country from ancient Indian civilisation right up to transforming into one of the top 5 economies and landing of Chandrayaan-III on Moon.

- They will walk alongside the lives of real-life heroes who have exemplified these virtues, discovering how their choices transformed the country and the world. By the time they complete the 5 - day Prerana program, they will not just hold a certificate; they'll wield the power to make a positive impact wherever they go.

7. Day Wise Schedule and Activities

The day-wise program schedule will feature yoga, mindfulness, and meditation sessions, followed by experiential learning, thematic sessions, and hands on interesting learning activities. Evening activities will include visits to ancient and heritage sites, inspirational film screenings mission life activities, talent shows etc. ensuring a holistic learning approach. Apart from this, students will engage in diverse activities, embracing indigenous knowledge systems, new technologies, and inspirational figures.
