

Students are 'confident and avid learners'

Share with us some vivid memories of your childhood days at school/college and that left a deep impression on you.

My English teacher taught me to become an extrovert and an avid reader. She encouraged me to participate in co-curricular activities. She made reading regular, interesting, stress-free and fun. Gradually, I learnt to grow with her expectations. She has left an indelible mark on my childhood days and has made me what I am today.

Which key steps led you to become a teacher and then a principal?

I inherited the spirit of an academician from my father who was a 'Karmayogi'. He had a heroic spirit. It was my passion for teaching and affection for children that created a flair and zeal in the profession. My interest in imparting knowledge, effective decision making capacity, leadership skills, administrative and educational acumen won me the acclaim from educationists and dignitaries of the DAV management.

Given a chance, what would be the one change that you would like to make/see at the national level in the present education system?

I would like to make values and ethics a must in education. Schools should impart value education to children right from their formative years. It will be ideal to see the curriculum of all the classes from pre-school to Class 3 based entirely on values. Our country should be guided by morally upright citizens.

What is the most satisfying/heart warming aspect of your work? And the most challenging?

I get to learn as much as I teach. It gives



■ Chitra Nakra, principal, Veda Vyasa DAV Public School, Vikaspuri

me immense pleasure to guide students and make them ethically upright. The challenge is to make students good human beings and empower them to update their skills regularly. We have the onerous task of creating peaceful and harmonious individuals for a peaceful world.

Having closely observed Gen Y, identify some qualities about them that make you happy. Are there areas where you would like to see improvement?

I feel happy to see Gen Y going global and yet being anchored to their cultural moorings. The youth has the urge to learn and assimilate knowledge. They are confident, enthusiastic and avid learners. They have the capacity to

make quick decisions, think critically and communicate effectively. I would like to see them solve their own problems, have a good moral character and face challenges with ease.

Has any student left an indelible mark on your thinking/values? Or has there been any from whom you have learnt something valuable?

I have learnt from students that they won't care to learn until teachers learn to care. I have also learnt that they have different learning styles. When we, teachers, interact with students in right earnest, listen as much as we talk and encourage collaborative learning, we learn a great deal. By interacting with students, we learn to be humble. **HTC**