EDUCATION FOR TOTAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Educational Methodology

ISA VISWA PRAJNANA TRUST
“We can only end the suffering of the planet when we change our approach to education. Education should have the noble goal of imparting total knowledge.”

“As is one’s thought, so is one’s action. A crystal-clear awareness about ourselves and the universe sows the seeds of harmony, equity, sustainability, purity—and ultimately total happiness.”
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Introduction

Education for Total Consciousness (ETC) is a holistic educational system developed and practiced by H.H. Swami Isa, founder of the Isa Viswa Prajnana Trust, India.

The ETC methodology relates the topic to the self and the teacher to the learner in an integrated format. The student and teacher realize their oneness, and at the same time, they realize the topic within themselves. Knowledge ceases to be an outer attainment and becomes a meaningful, personalized quest, with the final aim of realizing Total Consciousness.

ATTRIBUTES

✓ Relates the topic to the self
✓ Correlates the objective aspect (ex: facts about rivers) with the subjective aspect (ex: my own circulatory system) of each lesson
✓ Is applicable to all disciplines
✓ Places equal emphasis on written, oral and creative demonstrations of student knowledge to encourage total digestion of information
✓ Provides an evaluation system of student progress on multiple levels — i.e., physical, intellectual, emotional, ego, and ignorance
✓ Is relevant for all age groups
Discovering (or rediscovering) the true purpose of education is a hot issue today. In 2011 and 2012, the Purpose/ed website posed this question to educationists and started a great debate on the topic. Everyone had a different answer. Dave White from Oxford University suggested education is about "disruption"; Paul Simbeck-Hampson said it is to develop "inquisitiveness"; Tom Barrett said it is to "cradle happiness", and dozens more had other theories.

We believe that education is directly linked to society’s direction, or lack of direction. When education’s purpose is clear, the function of the society becomes clear. When the educators themselves disagree about the purpose of their role, society begins to exhibit symptoms of fragmentation, disharmony and decay.

The purpose of education is to impart wisdom and build character. Society is benefitted by having noble and wise citizens.

“Education for Total Consciousness” returns the noble purpose to education and addresses the root causes of individual and societal problems such as racism, greed, intolerance, terrorism, etc.

The ultimate aim of education is to make wisdom and perfection of character *total* — in other words, to create Total Consciousness.
1.1 Subjective and Objective Knowledge

Modern education ignores the relationship between the student’s inner landscape of thoughts and emotions and his or her outer world. One feels as if one is separate from the world, unable to connect with it. This creates a sense of alienation and fear, and is responsible for the mounting incidents of stress, addiction, failed relationships and violence. Suffering on the individual, societal, and the global scales are expanding.

Holistic education reduces the gap between self and world by providing subjective awareness to objective happenings.

The power of integrated subjective-objective knowledge, experienced as experience-based wisdom, changes one’s thoughts and actions. The linking of the objective with the subjective expands the student's concept of self, enabling one to see the universe and self as an unbreakable whole.

The earth is composed of approximately 28% solid matter and 72% water. This is objective knowledge. But when I learn that my body too is composed of 28% solid matter and 72% water, it is subjective knowledge. I understand the subjective experience of thirst or drowning, and so I can understand drought and floods. This knowledge connects one to other humans, society, the environment and the universe.

The core of ETC is to impart true and total knowledge to solve the conflicts of the individual and the world. For education to be total, the objective and subjective planes of knowledge must be integrated. This means an individual needs to realise that the subjective factors, or the internally experienced world, and the objective factors, or the externally experienced world, are one and the same.

In short, the human being is a miniature of the universe. This realization is the foundation of universal love.
The ETC diagram denotes the integration of knowledge in the objective and subjective levels that leads to total consciousness.

(1) While teaching, the teacher is the subject; (2) the student is an object to him/her and (3) the lesson is an object to him/her.

(4) While learning, the student is the subject; (5) the teacher is an object to him/her and (3) the lesson is an object to him/her.

The knowledge imparted by the teacher and imbibed by the student remains in the objective plane only. Knowledge is to be integrated into the subjective level also:

(6) The inner consciousness of the student and teacher and (7) the outer consciousness merge. The knowledge in the objective plane and knowledge in the subjective level are blended together. Now knowledge has become total.

(8) That is the light of happiness, total consciousness.
1.3 Outcomes & Benefits

- Systematically trains teacher and student to see one’s self in the outside world and in other beings
- Produces the skills to develop complete knowledge and wisdom
- Improves relations between the teacher and student
- Imbues students with dignity, responsibility, selflessness, self respect, compassion and love of world
- Increases student concentration and efficiency
- Brings out the best in each child through personalisation of the learning experience
- Offers a scientific and thorough way to analyse student development
- Requires no change to the standard curriculum
- Can be used in any culture, language or region of the world
1.4 Application

The teacher delves deeply into the subject and uncovers it in him or herself. Using the ETC Lesson Plan, which includes ways to teach both the subject and object of the lesson, he or she prepares the lesson.

When teaching class and following the lesson plan, the teacher must see the student, as well as the topic, as part of their “self”.

The teacher interacts with the students to assess their preparedness and understanding (note: this is part of the Lesson Plan). Genuine interaction and close observation is the key for success in ETC.

Oral and written examinations are administered in order to assess the student’s completeness of understanding.

Creative projects should be designed by the students for each lesson and displayed or performed on a regular basis.

A daily graph of the student’s progress and performance assists the teacher in their evaluation on many aspects of student qualities including physical, emotional and intellectual development.

Many other key features of the ETC methodology including the design of the classroom, seating arrangements, school building, and interaction between the Principal and students, Principal and parents, and Teacher and parents, have been illustrated in detail in Swami Isa’s book entitled “Education for Total Consciousness on the Energy Plane.”
The Isa Viswa Prajnana Trust was founded in 2000 by H.H. Swami Isa, as a charitable organization. The ultimate aim of the Trust is to contribute to building a world where every human being is capable of achieving Total Consciousness. It runs several educational programmes and institutions to propagate the vision of Education for Total Consciousness in society.

2.1 Pilot project: Isa Viswa Vidyalayam School

The Isa Viswa Vidyalayam (IVV) a school in Anayara, Trivandrum founded by Swami Isa in 1998, enrolling pre-school to grade 7. IVV follows the Central Board of Secondary Education syllabus. In addition, students learn four languages (English, Malayalam, Hindi, and Sanskrit), they make creative projects of their lessons every month in ETC format, and are involved in many clubs, environmental and social service activities.

IVV is a humble but bold beginning in a new system of education, aiming at bringing out the inherent qualities of the child by simultaneously providing conceptual knowledge as well as practical knowledge.
2.2 Seminars and Training

The IVPT conducted an international seminar in Education for Total Consciousness in 2000. Participants developed lesson plans in all disciplines from Kindergarten to postgraduate level.

Every year since 2001, the Trust conducts national workshops to discuss the principles of ETC and how it can be applied in schools state- and nation-wide. Attended by many eminent educationalists, these seminars offer a light to those in need of meaningful and long lasting solutions to the problems they are facing in the current educational system.

ETC teacher training camps are conducted throughout the year by the Isa Viswa Prajnana Trust, including residential and day camps. These courses train educators to understand both subjective and objective aspects of education, and to impart this knowledge to their students in a meaningful way. The camps are led by H.H. Swami Isa, and also include guest lectures by distinguished educationalists, lesson planning, creative workshops, etc.

Inauguration of the 1st International Conference on ETC

Pictured: H.H. Swami Isa, Dr. K. Sivadasan Pillai, Justice P.C. Balakrishna Menon, Hon. Min. Sri. Babu Divakaran, Dr. A. Sukumaran Nair, Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, Dr. Jane Henry, Dr. M.R. Thampan, and others.
2.3 Isa Universal Centre for Higher Studies

The Isa Universal Centre for Higher Studies (IUC) is a recognized distance education centre of the University of Kerala functioning in Peroorkada, Trivandrum.

IUC offers courses in MBA, MA English, MA Sociology, Bachelor’s in Commerce with Computer Application, and Post-Graduate Diploma in Child, Adolescent and Family Counselling.

Students can learn in the ETC format and earn their degree from the University of Kerala. The IUC is one step toward realising the master education project of the Trust, the Universal University.
“We learn facts and figures just like everybody else, but we also learn the topic connected with the subjective aspect. In our Science class, when we learnt about the earth’s composition of minerals, water and heat, we also learnt about those same things in our own bodies. It’s easy for us to tell you why we don’t want people degrading the Earth’s resources - what if they were your resources?” Thusha S. and Akhamsha, students of Isa Viswa Vidyalayam speaking at the National Energy Parliament, 2011.

“Swami Isa has the vision of a new education which will help individuals to achieve the highest mental potential they are capable of – achieve total consciousness, a state of perfect knowledge, total understanding and perfect spiritual bliss. Swamiji has developed a novel system of education, which will help humans to contain conflicts, intolerance and distrust among individuals, by developing a superior understanding of the human being and the universe of which he is a part. Swamiji attributes the incidence of violence and distrust to distorted human thinking and wrong perception of human beings and of the external world, perpetuated through the wrong type of education that we practice. The correction has to come from within education.”

Dr. A. Sukumaran Nair, Former Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University-Kottayam
“In 700 B.C., Vedanta, in 500 B.C. Lord Buddha, in 400 B.C. Socrates and some centuries later Jesus Christ said “Know Yourself.” If the people would have followed their advice, there would be genuine democracy, good governance, nonviolence and sustainable peace all over the world. There is a great hope in 21st Century from His Holiness Jagadguru Swami Isa, who has been enlightening the peoples of the whole world by applying his novel methodology of ‘Education for Total Consciousness.’”

Dr. Surya Nath Prasad, Executive Vice President, International Association of Educators for World Peace

“The Acharya Ramamurthi Committee suggested that education should aim at an “enlightened human society.” It should also try to liberate people from all social evils, which have become the fashion of the day. For the emergence of a god-fearing, peace-loving society, Swamiji’s vision of ‘Total Consciousness’ can go a long way ahead. Earlier done the better.” Dr. K. Sivadasan Pillai (1935-2007), Former Director, Department of Adult and Continuing Education University of Kerala

“I once taught pre-schoolers ‘Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star’ in ‘Education for Total Consciousness’ format, and told them that the same energy shining in the star was shining in themselves. The little ones were so delighted they clapped their hands in joy! I shall never forget it. It is moments like these that make us understand the power and the potential of this sublime teaching methodology.” - Prof. Lalitha Santhakumar, former Professor of English, Sree Narayana Guru College-Chempazhanthy, Kerala