



New Era Development Institute

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Teacher Training and Development Materials

For the past 15 years, the New Era Development Institute (NEDI), a national development training centre of the Bahá'í community of India, has been, in collaboration with Norwegian partners¹, learning about the process of personal and community development. This work, which is based on an understanding of man as a spiritual being, has resulted in a unique integrated teacher training and development program.

The teacher-training program at NEDI consists of a one-year certificate course for pre-primary teachers and a two-year diploma course for primary teachers. A unique feature of this training program is that, at its core, is a curriculum of personal and community development which gives these future teachers the vision, attitudes and skills to enable them to become active agents of social transformation in their communities. The technical aspects of their teacher-training program build upon this core-curriculum, helping them translate it into action. The contents and methodology of the teacher-training program are consistent with its central purpose – to effect a fundamental change in society by changing the aims and methods of education. Already, graduates of NEDI's teacher-training program around the country are having an impact on the educational system and the communities that surround their schools.

As an integral part of its teacher-training program, NEDI has developed innovative curriculum materials for pre-primary and primary schools. These include a complete integrated curriculum for the pre-primary level, as well as environmental education, moral education and peace education materials for the primary level. All of these materials are based on the central principle of the oneness of mankind and on an understanding of religion in forming morals and values. The use of advanced educational methodologies and cooperative learning structures provides lasting learning experiences for the children and builds in them the necessary values and skills to become active promoters of social change.

All of these materials and training processes have been tested in the schools surrounding NEDI in Panchgani and in various other settings around the country and they have proven highly successful.

The Department of Secondary and Higher Education of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, has recognized the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India as a Regional Resource Centre for Education in Human Values. As one of its agencies, NEDI is currently in the process of diffusing its experience and materials to the educational sector in India.

¹ The generous financial support of the Norwegian Development Agency (NORAD) and of the Bahá'í community of Norway, as well as the technical collaboration of the Telemark Teacher Training College in Norway are gratefully acknowledged.

NEDI's printed materials include the following:

- **“An Overview of the First-Year Core-Curriculum”**- presents the aims and objectives of the NEDI first-year core curriculum, of its components and structure, and a brief description of the 30 modules that compose it.

(Overview - 24 pages Rs. 30/-)



- **“Developing My True Self”**- is an integrated training package, made up of four books, covering one third of the first-year core curriculum at NEDI. It gives students a vision of the nature of the world, the nature and potential of man, the oneness of mankind and the purpose of their life. Systematic learning activities help develop the student’s spiritual nature, acquire virtues and learn to work together in collective service and artistic activities. It can be used as an integrated moral education curriculum at the high school level, as a series of training activities for community groups or as part of the training of teachers so that they can engage in their own path of service and personal growth.

(Set of 4 Training Manuals - 870 pages Rs. 800/-)

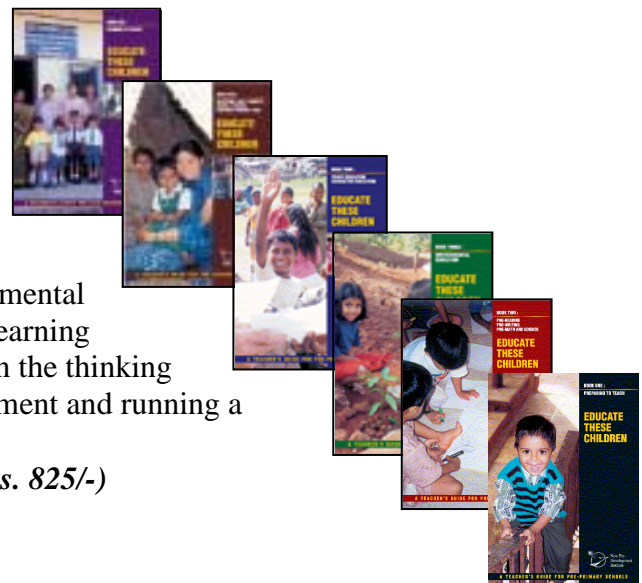


- **“Student Workbooks”**- is a set of three student workbooks for the “Developing My True Self” package described above. All the handouts in the various lessons of the package have been grouped and re-printed under separate covers to facilitate teachers’ use of the materials.

(Set of 3 Student Workbooks - 180 pages Rs. 100/-)

- **“Educate these Children”**- is a set of six teacher guides for an integrated curriculum at the pre-primary and primary levels. It includes pre-reading, pre-writing, pre-math, science, playground and arts, crafts, drama and cultural activities, complemented by a program of character training and environmental and peace education. It uses cooperative learning methodology and also includes sections on the thinking teacher, classroom discipline and management and running a school.

(Set of 6 Teacher Manuals - 588 pages Rs. 825/-)



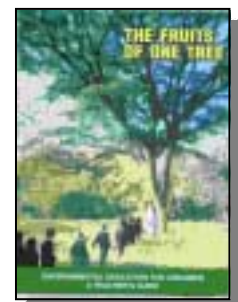
- **“The Light of a Good Character”**- is a teacher’s guide for values education for children ages 4-6. It includes a general guide and a set of 32 lessons covering important points about God, His creation and His Messengers, some basic points about good character and virtues, some prayers and songs on spiritual topics, some quotations from the Sacred Writings of the world’s religions, and some co-operative games that teach unity.

(Teacher’s Guide - 72 pages, Rs. 55/-)



- **“The Fruits of One Tree”**- is a teacher’s guide for environmental education of children. It combines inspiration from the world’s great religions regarding the conservation of the world’s environment with scientific knowledge about environmental protection. The materials generate feelings of interest and caring about the environment, an understanding of the importance of protecting it and a desire and basic skills to take action through a variety of activities in and out of the classroom.

(Teacher’s Guide - 188 pages, Release Date: February 2002).



- **“Learning and Teaching English”** - is an innovative and practical method for teaching English. Developed and tested by NEDI, this training manual enables students to learn basic English in four months. Not only do students learn English, but they are also challenged to teach English, first to each other and then as a community service project.

(Training Manual – 207 pages, Release Date: February 2002)



- **“Peace Education for Children”**- is a set of teacher’s guides for peace education lessons and activities for pre-primary and primary levels. The material centers on developing peaceful values, feelings and attitudes in the children, and on teaching them the skills of the peace-maker: mediation, conflict resolution and problem solving. The activities involve the family and community of the child, leading to positive action in and out of school. Cooperative learning and cooperative games are used throughout the guide.

(Teacher’s Guide – Release Date: March 2002)

The above materials are part of the comprehensive training program at NEDI. They are useful resource materials for individuals, schools and other institutions of learning and can be used and adapted in many ways. Using these materials effectively, however, requires a special effort by teachers to themselves engage in a path of personal transformation and see themselves as facilitators of learning. To maximize their effectiveness, NEDI can arrange for in-service teacher-training, so that use and application can be carried out within an optimal contextual framework.

Further information is available on the NEDI website: www.nediweb.org