

## Homeschooling a Gifted child

Today I write to you as a mother who is struggling to give her child the education he needs. Last two years have been turbulent but now I am quite happy about my decision. Ishan, my 8 year old son is being homeschooled. When I made this decision and had Ishan quit school, I was alienated by my family and friends. Questions arose- "What are you doing with your kid? What about his social life? You are wasting your time and spoiling your career".

Ishan is a gifted child or so says his IQ test. Since his childhood, we have noticed his rapid development. But what we didn't know is that being a genius child is very difficult in a society that wants to go by majority, that wants to treat everyone equally and wants everyone to think and act 'normally'.

It was in Primary school that Ishan had the most trouble. The expected behavior of sitting in one place, quietly, do only as much as told and having to repeatedly to what one may have mastered made it difficult for him to fit in. One of his teacher advised us to consult a psychiatrist. It is then that we found that Ishan falls in genius category and at the same time a diagnosis of hyperactive and impulsive was given.

At home, we follow a structured schedule and encourage Ishan to indulge in as many activities as he enjoys. For his physical development, he starts his day with Surya namaskars, chanting of Omkar & Gayatri mantra. He reads Marathi newspaper every day and watches news channels with his father in evening. History, we study through listening to audio clips of 'Shivacharitra' written by Shri. Babasaheb Purandare. And currently he is reading 'Zashichi Rani'. He also reads the biographies of eminent individuals like Swami Vivekananda and I also tell him a lot of stories. He is very enthusiastic about some topics such as mathematics, sports (especially cricket and football), cooking, maps etc. He helps me in the kitchen regularly and we also maintain a small kitchen garden. He learns karate, chess and tabla since almost 4 years. Of course we do have our own set of struggles, especially when it comes to expectations of the mainstream school regarding writing speed and test taking ability. But besides that the journey has been very enriching.

As a homeschooling parent I have realized that I need to create learning opportunities for my child. His interest in Geography thrived when he took him for a visit to the planetarium. We have recently begun to organize talks by people from varied fields who can share their experiences and personal journeys. Our first program was by Smt. Anuradha Gore (mother of martyr Captain Vinayak Gore) which was attended by 60 children and adults from our neighborhood. I have also started inviting other children where we do some science experiments, learn math tricks, meditation and also discuss their study related issues.

I am very thankful to Ishan and almighty God that because of them I have realized so many things. I am learning from him and the joy he is giving to me is priceless and I am proud of my son. I am changing as a result of this experience and this change is very positive.

- Mrs. Deepi Natu (Parent, Homeschooler from Tarapur, Maharashtra)

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## Science Exhibit at College

"Science is simply the word we use to describe a method of organizing our curiosity."

True to that statement by Tim Minchin, the students of KSJC Science are constantly being given avenues to organize their curiosity and channelize their creativity. Recently, on the 17th of December 2016, we participated in organizing a science exhibition, spanning all the departments, from electronics to biology. By the joint efforts of students and teachers, the exhibition displayed creative concepts and interesting exhibits.

Students of both FYJC and SYJC participated in the exhibition, coming up with projects through research and collaboration. Each department had a section of the exhibition set up in its laboratory. The event was inaugurated in the Biology laboratory, at the hands of management member Mr. B. Babu Rao and the former principal of the Junior College, Dr. Mrs. B. Satyanarayan. The Biology department had set up a few projects on the culturing and cultivation of plants and microbes. The Physics department displayed a number of projects that used the behavior of light or electricity to create impressive models. The Electronics laboratory was full of working models of all sorts of contraptions, from robots to smoke detectors. The Chemistry department had the unique theme of 'Chemicolor'- from experiments with natural pH indicators to visual treats using dry ice, the projects were a mixture of science and art. Students particularly interested in mathematics came up with engaging charts and models both to prove common theorems and introduce lesser known ones. Students of Geography showcased rock samples and demonstrated, with replicas and relevant tools, the process of mapping an area. There was even a section for languages, where the literary works and projects of students were displayed. Events ranging from a film on the theory of relativity to an intra-collegiate Chemistry quiz ensured there was something for everyone to learn.

As a student who participated in the Biology exhibit, I can say that the project was an engaging experience. Being part of the Biology project gave us reason to read and think about new topics. We also got the opportunity to work on our project in a microbiology laboratory- something all of us enjoyed every moment of. In the days running up to the exhibition, we collected information and tried to apply it to our experiments. We then worked together to present the projects in a way that would capture the attention of visitors. The guidance of the teachers of our department, and every other department, for that matter, was crucial in getting the exhibition up and running.

Overall, the science exhibition was a great way to learn new things, both for participants and for visitors. The role of the teachers in 'organizing curiosity' and the enthusiasm of the students in working on and explaining their projects made it a fun experience which I would love to be a part of again.

- Contributed by Ms. Rujul Gandhi, student of Std XI of Dr. Kalmadi Shamarao Junior College

# Seeking Sheldon

Last Saturday, once again, I felt myself bursting with laughter as Jim Parsons tore through the mundane with his exceptional performance. This was my 79th time watching Season 3 of the Big Bang Theory with my daughter and amidst the innocent but obnoxious dialogues of Sheldon Cooper, I felt the coming of an epiphany of sorts, which is usual and I so I waited for this too, to pass.

However, it didn't ! Like an itch, it prevailed and I decided to pen down this blog so readers would have a chance to collectively troll and trash it. As Sheldon himself would say: "***If I were wrong don't you think I'd know it ?***"

Have you noticed how most organizational systems and structures are designed to suit the normal? The only thing they succeed in doing is **normalizing** the outliers, classifying them as people with attitude and as a result they end up with people who fit in comfortably, happy to go about their daily chores.

The world around us has been inundated with a whirlwind of acronyms. One of them doing the rounds in the business world is VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity). Time after time, we keep hearing about how companies have to embrace the VUCA world or end up being perished. War rooms are wrought, lofty strategies are concocted and all to secure the transient competitive advantages; new business models are designed to fit this changing world order. We know that companies need people to build innovative products and execute on the innovative strategies that differentiate and this becomes critical when you are challenged by nimble start-ups or highly complex business environments. "Normalized" people would find it very difficult to measure up to this challenge.

I strongly believe that in such situations it is imperative to have people with skewed excellence on your side. People like Sheldon who can think **fast and think deep**. They are the people who have the right answer or have an ability to **mine through reams of complexities** and get you the right answer. People who **make the regular intelligent people yearn to improve**. They are people who seemingly have less empathy and **inadvertently end up insulting people**, but are oblivious of what they have done - because they **never had an agenda to do so**. It's just the way they are! Call it a side-effect of super-intelligence, if you must!

So Sheldon Cooper (wherever you are), here is my open letter to you:

I know that companies have been guilty of normalizing your types into the "acceptable" bracket via performance reviews. You have been rejected in interviews just because you don't 'fit in' or because you aren't 'a team player'. Some interviewers might have had their ego hurt in only the first two minutes of conversation with you and decided to strike you off the list as payback. Society might have out-casted you or laughed at your brilliant ideas, simply because it was beyond their comprehension.

Let me tell you this: **We need you, we want you!**

Sheldon, we know that we will have to do a lot to keep you engaged. Our cafeteria has been informed that you prefer your chicken diced and not shredded with low sodium soy sauce and spicy hot mustard and brown rice instead of white. We will bring up your request to make Klingon the official language of communication and have training sessions for playing Halo on Wednesdays. We will not ask you to dance or sing at company parties unless you want to.

Eagerly seeking you! Wherever you are and whatever you may be named, if you feel you are "**Sheldonisque**", whether you are within IDeaS or outside, just write to me. Don't forget to refer to **#BAZINGA**.

In case the thought crossed your mind, "***I am not insane; my mother had me tested.***"

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**The Kaveri Gifted Education Center is an initiative of the Kaveri Group of Institutes, a premier educational institute in Pune that started weekend, pull-out programs for gifted children in 2009. The center was inaugurated on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014 with support from Mensa India Pune. The aim of the Center is to meet the unique and distinctive needs of gifted students in the current educational system**

**For more information regarding our programs and services please contact,  
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**Nurturing**