

Talent Point in Focus: Kaveri Gifted Education and Research Center

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Kaveri Gifted Education & Research Center, Pune India
an outstanding Associated European Talent Point



**Kaveri Gifted Education
and Research Center
(KGERC)**

Given the extraordinary linguistic and cultural diversity of the education system of India, due to the size of the country, as compared to that of the corresponding European systems, it is

not easy, especially for someone coming from a small country, to understand and grasp this diversity and to become attuned to it.

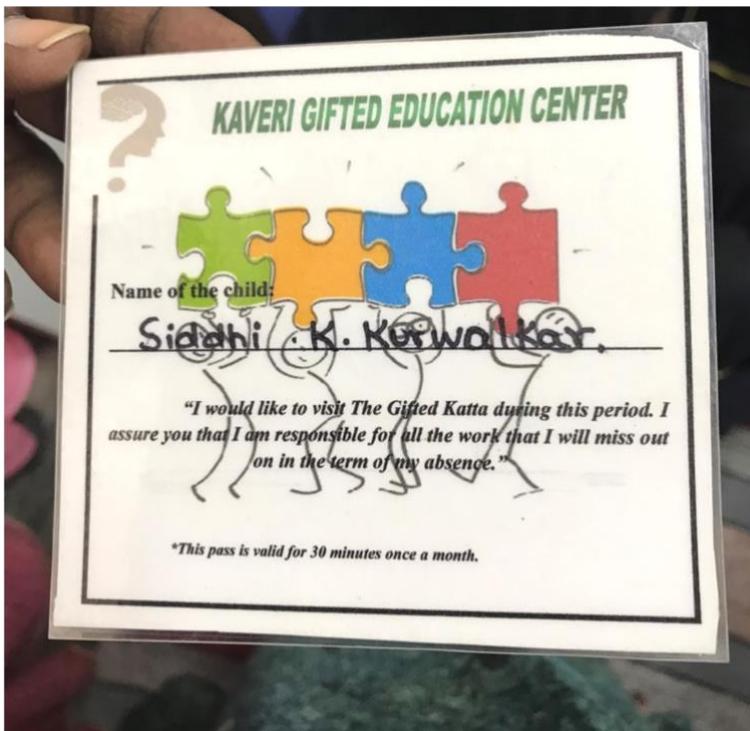
I am most grateful for Dr. Devasena Desai's help that made it possible for me to visit various institutions of education and to compare them during my January 2020 visit to India – as a result, I see the specific components of education in India, of course, not all of them, as a coherent system now.

One of the climax points was my visit to Dr. Kalmadi Shamarao School and Junior College, where I was introduced to the operation of Kaveri Gifted Education & Research Center (KGERC), founded by Kannada Sangha in 2014. It was particularly interesting and heartwarming for me because the KGERC is one of the 16 Associated Talent Points of the European Talent Support Network. Let me share some of my thoughts concerning this point with you.

As mentioned above, the Indian education is most diverse, and the practice of talent support must adjust to this diversity: every institution type must design its own talent support best practice that works well and is adequate for the area and the language concerned. The number of talent support programmes is rather modest compared to the dimensions of India at the moment; it is difficult to find existing best practices that are easy to implement. Therefore, a combination of talent support programmes like the one the team in Kaveri Gifted Center, Pune developed under the leadership of Dr. Desai is a real treasure.



Gifted Education in the so called Gifted Katta (Gifted Corner)



Special pass to visit the Gifted Katta (Gifted Corner)

Obviously, local schools of a similar type have also realised its value, and the programmes of Kaveri Center have therefore been considered a model in recent years by them. I consider this model role one of the biggest assets of the Center: you cannot acquire such role by force, only through real achievements and real needs. We can truly congratulate KGERC on the scale of your successes achieved in the past 6 years!

Thanks to the outstanding preparations, I was fortunate enough to get acquainted with the programmes there from many aspects. I listened to presentations on the talent support programmes, had talks with institution leaders and members of the teaching staff. I met gifted students in the school

at their lessons and also at the so-called Gifted Katta. Thanks to the leader of the institution, Mrs. Malati Kalmadi, in the evening I had an informal meeting with the heads of other institutions, curriculum developers, talent support staff and colleagues interested in talent support in Europe at a dinner party.

Based on what I saw and experienced, I would like to highlight several points which, in my opinion, have made it possible for their programmes – and the KGERC Center itself – to become role models for other institutions.

1. The visible commitment of the school management.
2. The excellent match between the designed model and the school type; traditions deeply rooted in Indian culture going back thousands of years meet the most modern talent support strategies in a special structure called Panchakosha Nurturing Model.
3. In addition to their theoretical knowledge, the staff have extraordinary, almost unbelievable, practical experience and skills in Gifted education and Counseling.
4. The programmes are scientifically grounded; the ones I got acquainted with were hierarchically structured, in a logical way.
5. All actors of talent support are involved in the programmes: students – teachers – psychologists – parents – scientists.
6. The Center is open and it aims at self-sustainment.



Lesson in the Computer Room

Thanks to the activity of Kaveri Gifted Center, the ethos of knowledge and the recognition of giftedness permeates the school atmosphere; this is a hard-fought and commendable achievement.

During my visit I learned that the awareness of the best practices of Indian and European/American talent support has suddenly materialised in this Talent Point. It was partly thanks to some lucky constellation but most of all to lots of excellent and hard work.