



**Dr. Rosetta Williams, CEO, Dalmia Vidya Mandir, is a versatile educationist and strategic leader with over 30 years of experience in managing and leading educational institutions. Dr. Williams spoke with Priyabrat Biswal of *The Political and Business Daily* about our present education system, New Education Policy 2020, and suggested some reforms to make our present education system futuristic, productive and more acceptable worldwide. Excerpts of the interview.**

**PRIYABRAT BISWAL:** *Indian education system is more theoretical and less practical. So, don't you feel that judging a student's calibre on the basis of marks secured in the examination will serve a barrier in the way to success?*

**DR. ROSETTA WILLIAMS:** Well, it is unfair to a certain extent but things won't be the same again. The 21st-century classroom requires different methods of learning. Every child is differently-abled and for their talent to be nurtured, it is important to bring in change and that's exactly what NEP-2020 intends to do. The revised curriculum, play- and activity-based pedagogy, vocational training etc. are sure to bolster the most critical phases of learning

and expose them to multiple career paths.

*Do you support the proposal to teach young students in their mother tongue/regional languages?*

Yes. It is important to be well versed in one's mother tongue along with being fluent in English. Multilingualism needs to be promoted and practiced in all schools – rural and urban.

*As an eminent educationist, what kind of reforms do you suggest to make our present education system futuristic, productive and more acceptable worldwide?*

To encourage holistic development, skills such as critical thinking, creativity, scientific temper, communication, collaboration,

## It's important to understand the difference between offline and online modes of education

multilingualism, ethics, social responsibility, and digital literacy should be practiced. As such, all our curriculum, textbooks, pedagogy, and assessment shall be transformed by 2022 to bring about the desired improvement in the quality of school education.

*You are an academician par excellence and an able administrator too. What is your prime focus now as the CEO of Dalmia Vidya Mandir (DVM)?*

The objective is to inculcate pride and avid patriotism in the students towards our country and to implement a "Sustainability Culture" across the schools to encourage them to be 'thinkers and doers.' Students must engage at the intersection of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), energy, environment, and public health. This will encourage them to develop technologically driven sustainable solutions for all.

Alongside, we will be charting out ways to implement the Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ) plan for

the holistic welfare of our students and teachers at large.

*What's the primary focus of DVM – Imparting education that will fetch a lucrative job to make one financially rich, or inculcating Indian ethics and values which will make a good human being and a socially conscious & productive citizen?*

Our approach is towards creating a robust and holistic learning system for developing the future citizens. We take immense pride in imparting an education that imbeds strong Indian values and enables the students to develop into respectful, socially conscious, and productive global citizens and leaders in their respective fields. The eight arms of Dalmia Vidya Mandir, 'Octave' (Ashtabhuj), ensures holistic development of the students thereby putting them on the path of "self-actualisation" and helping them to give a meaningful purpose to life. Our recently introduced 'Desh bhakti curriculum' is focused on inculcating ethics, values and patriotism in our students.

*What are the unique methods you*

*apply in your teaching system to tap the real potential of a student and bring out the best in him/her?*

We follow a three-pronged teaching system for maximum effectiveness and draw out the inner potential and talents of every student. As such, it is important to have trained teachers, who possess good skills in order to identify the talent in students, backed by a well-crafted curriculum. We have Dalmia Teachers and Teachership programs to tap student potential along with different training modules to be the 'ideal' teacher for them.

*Dalmia Vidya Mandir has recently emerged as winner among 380 schools at the prestigious IGBC Green School Award 2021 for its focus on developing sustainable and environment friendly solutions under 'Green School's initiative. Would you please share more details about this?*

The Green School initiative seeks to develop the next generation of leaders, who are both aware and responsible towards the environment. The holistic project addresses multiple dimensions

concerning the environment, biodiversity restoration, and sustainability and has received a 5-star rating from GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment). While DVM, Rajgangpur, Odisha emerged as the winner, DVM in Chirawa, Rajasthan bagged the 5th position. DVM Rajgangpur submitted 10 projects around waste, energy & water management.

*The education sector has been badly impacted by the Covid pandemic. Online education has become a new normal now despite so many hurdles. What's your suggestion to make it accessible to all, and more interesting and productive?*

Positive attitudes towards learning and self-regulation play an important role in improving performance. To make it more engaging and interesting, recreational activities and projects should be mandatory. It is important to address the difference between offline and online modes of education; and the responsibility is upon the teachers and management to curate effective ways to make e-learning fun, interesting and productive.