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Education

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Living Values Education Newsletter Issue 65 - July 2020

EDITORIAL

First and foremost, on behalf of all the ALIVE Board, I hope that you, family and friends remain well and in good spirits notwithstanding the devastating and myriad health and other troubles that are currently having such a profound impact on the world. While some have experienced not much more than relatively minor disruption our hearts go out to those who have felt the full force of this crisis as it continues its trajectory around the world.

In these uncertain and challenging days, as well as following relevant requirements and guidance, we may find ourselves being called upon to make personal sacrifices, be they small or large, in the interests of others. Yet at the same time we also have (whether we like it or not!) a rare opportunity to reflect on our lives and our relationships with others and the natural world, to reassess our priorities and the values we live by – and appreciate all the good and important things that we still have in our lives.

Most immediately, heartfelt appreciation and thanks are due to all those working in caring and other essential services to help keep society functioning, often courageously and selflessly putting themselves at greater risk as they do so. Many examples bear witness to how it is when times are most dire, as now, that people are able to draw on the best of themselves, and in doing so not only address the situation in front of them but also, through their acts of empathy, compassion and solidarity, offer inspiration, reassurance and hope to others.

While much of our attention is presently focused on coming to terms with new routines and uncertainty regarding coming months, we can remember that all things must pass and so also look forward to a positive turning point which, sooner or later (and hopefully sooner!) must surely come. Together, with patience, perseverance, optimism and faith, we will prevail; indeed if we apply ourselves we may find that we emerge from this crisis stronger, kinder, humbler and wiser.

For sure, the groundswell of volunteering and the outpouring of creative communications to inform, provoke thought and uplift the spirit is heart-warming. There are certainly messages to



be found and lessons to be learned within all this, in particular for reflective values educators, and once these darkest of days are behind us we will need to make values choices to help build more inclusive and resilient societies founded on sustainable ways of living and better able to prevent and respond to crises. If we can do that with the unity of purpose and commitment that this current challenge is pushing us to, then we may indeed look to the sun rising on a better tomorrow.

That said, the demands on educators and schools are likely to be significant for some time, even if in a different way from now; data from UNESCO indicates that by the end of March 2020, over 180 countries had closed down their schools due to the pandemic, affecting 87.4% of learners, and leaving over 1.5 billion students out of school. While EdTech has been quickly and creatively deployed for the benefit of some students that has not been the case for too many millions of others and there will be massive amounts of catching up to be done once schools re-open.

Notwithstanding the maelstrom, the Association for Living Values Education International, and its network of Associates and Focal Points around the world, have – each in their own way – been keeping the light of values alive and well while seeking to do their bit for others, sometimes with great ingenuity and creativity. The effort that we continue to put into our distance learning offerings has been much appreciated and if you haven't yet had a look then please see below for further details.

We had been making plans for regional events this year in Hungary in late August and Sri Lanka in early November and are hopeful that some of these plans may still be realised – watch this space for updates! – while in the meantime work continues apace in other ways including on new Rainbow booklets and the updating of the LVE Educator Training Guide.

Looking further ahead, each of us has an opportunity to re-think education and all that it entails in the new socio-economic paradigm and public health context that is unfolding before us: What is that we value most in our lives and societies? What values do we want to guide our decisions today and in the years ahead? How can we ensure that these values are at the heart of education and learning and nurture ourselves and generations to come?

We would welcome hearing from you with your thoughts and inspirations!

Stay safe, healthy and happy.

With best wishes from all of us at ALIVE

Chris Drake

President, Association for Living Values Education International

Parents make the world go round!

Parents can be a child's best friend – or, when things go wrong, worst enemy. From womb to old age the experience (or the lack of it) that we have with our parents can have a lasting effect. Our parents lay down the foundation upon which we build our lives, the bedrock of values and morals that underpin and guide how we live our lives and interact with others around us and our environment. Therefore the relationship between parent and child from the time of conception, through the womb to birth and every day beyond, is a critical element in how a child develops. Parents often see their children as like sponges absorbing everything they hear and see, every emotion and attitude that their parents express (and those that they attempt to hide).

Children are sensitive to expressions of values and at a very early age they themselves start valuing as an inherent part of their process of growth and development. With many families

around the world now finding themselves spending more time together at home than they have been used to, and parents often feeling scared, confused or overwhelmed, we have given greater prominence on our website to the content we offer for parents – see <http://livingvalues.net/values-for-parents/> – with opportunities for sharing, collectively exploring and entertaining a child, adapted to suit different age levels. Interactive and participatory materials include stories and activities to help strengthen bonds, experience and understand values and learn how different choices have different consequences. If you have a story or activity that's special for and that you'd like to share with us please send it, and/or any comments and experiences to resources@livingvalues.net

NEWS FROM OUR NETWORK AROUND THE WORLD

An LVE Workshop for Educators was conducted at Campuhan College, Ubud, Bali for 25 students of the College's One Year Professional Programme on 20-22 January 2020 by Ni Wayan Yeniari with co-facilitation by I Wayan Januarta and I Gede Supardika. The purpose was to allow students to practise the LVE skills that can help them support each other in class and to strengthen their relationships with their family and the people they served during the "Seeds of Kindness" project that they carried out.

One of the participants, Ni Kadek Dwi Darmaniti, commented: *"This LVE workshop helps us to be active listeners"*, explaining that giving an ear to her friends could encourage them to be open with her. *"It creates a friendly, warm and comfortable atmosphere at school or a workplace"* she continued, emphasising that in such supportive circumstances a school or a business would flourish and that it is important to connect with values in every moment and situation. *"Pay attention to your surroundings. Looking at the relationship between people and dogs I learned about loyalty. I saw ants moving in a line and this told me about cooperation. This workshop reminded me always to be aware of my values"*, she concluded.



The following month a LVE Workshop for Educators was held by Yayasan PUSPADI Bali on 7 – 9 February 2020 at Annika Linden Centre in Tohpati, Denpasar, Bali for 25 participants including Community Assistant and Management staff. The workshop was facilitated by I Made Skolastika and Philip Yusenda from Karuna Bali and aimed to prepare staff to be more aware of their values while implementing programmes and activities. PUSPADI Bali is a Non-Governmental Organization providing mobility aids, education and training services for 'diffable' (differently-abled) people and running quality advocacy programmes in Bali and Eastern Indonesia.



Netherlands – LVE Course for Parents and Grandparents



In December 2019, the LVE group North Netherlands (Martina and Evelien) completed a Living Values Education course for Parents and Grandparents. They reported that it had been their goal to make the valuable information, lessons and activities of LVE known to parents, caretakers, grandparents and teachers of young children (3-9 years) in the north of Holland. The group celebrated the completion of the course with a cheerful workshop during which the participants received a LVE-certificate.

The local newspaper came by, took a few pictures and wrote an informative article about Living Values Education. The group reported: "The ten sessions of the course covered 12 values and each session usually started with a story, poem, song or film or current newspaper article about someone who had given form and content to the value in question in his or her life followed by self-reflection and a story or a drawing; this was followed by (grand)parents sharing how to communicate the relevant value in a real-life situation to one's own children and grandchildren. We were inspired by examples and also discussed what we could do if our efforts at home did

not work. Finally, we made a craftwork of the value that we could do with the children at home while we listened to songs about the value we dealt with. It is our serious intention to continue and expand this course for parents and grandparents in 2020 and we look forward to that."

Comments of participants included:

"Living Values Education activities bring me back to the base of what is important in life and family especially the way we interact. I am gaining more awareness of what I want to give and share with my kids and what is important in family education. I learned how I can show them that they are special and good just as they are in their core being."

"LVE made me curious. What could a course like that teach me about the values-based subjects which I already heard of or think I know about? Fellow human interaction, happiness, respect, love and responsibility...values for everyday life. But I must say I had some 'surprising interactions with MYSELF!'. Some insights and views were new. The course is meaningful. It gives me thoughts and insights in myself to ponder on. The course taught me also how to share values and qualities with my grandchildren."

Sierra Leone – LVE makes a come-back!



The history of LVE in Sierra Leone dates back to 2004 when a few teachers were given a training workshop by Mr. Alhaji Kamara, a Sierra Leonean who had travelled from Banjul, the Gambia, where he had been trained in LVE. A Focal Point for LVE was appointed a few years later but for various reasons activities tailed off until

NEW BEGINNINGS – In November 2019 a group of teachers met Mr. Alhaji Kamara and shared information about Living Values Education that one of them had come across on the internet. Mr. Kamara told them he had been trained in the Gambia but had encountered problems in establishing an association that could fulfil his vision for LVE in Sierra Leone. With enthusiasm, the teachers offered their cooperation and asked him to conduct a training workshop for them. This was the beginning of a new chapter for LVE in the country!

On 7-8 November 2019, educator workshops were conducted, sponsored jointly by the participating teachers and Alhaji Kamara. This was followed on 29 November by a workshop for

teachers from a number of different schools that was sponsored by the participants and a new executive group of teachers who helped conduct the workshop. At the end of the day, all felt inspired to put into practice what they had learned and experienced and the group got together and established Living Values Education Sierra Leone, a Community Based Organisation (CBO) that has been registered with the Freetown City Council and now applied for membership of ALIVE. LVE is on the move again in Sierra Leone!



Active listening exercise by the executive committee of Living Values Education Sierra Leone, November 2019

Hungary – ALIVE Inspires Celebration of World Values Day 2019

We were delighted to receive the following report from Edina Szász, a teacher of English as a Foreign Language at Kandó Primary School, Budapest, Hungary.

"I first heard about World Values Day (WVD) in the autumn of 2019. I was inspired by the video made by the President and the other Members of ALIVE to make a World Values Day Exhibition. First, I asked my students what was precious in their life. The first answer was 'a smartphone' and others replied similarly. So I then asked: 'What human values make your life nice and (school) work efficient?' The three most common answers were 'family', 'friends' and 'diligence'. Then I asked them whether they had heard about World Values Day. Although they had marked several world and national days (such as World Animal Day, World Water Day, Earth Day, World Wetlands Day, European Day of Languages, Hungarian Poetry Day, International Music Day, Birds and Arbour Day and Mountain Clean-up Day) World Values Day was new for them. I gave a short introduction about ALIVE and the 12 values and we watched the ALIVE WVD video. The children enjoyed the video and they were delighted to see the Hungarian participants. When I asked who felt like making a values mini-poster for a school exhibition (similar to the ones in the video), one-third of my students (aged 9-14) showed interest.

"I did not want to restrict my students' creativity, so I gave only three criteria: they had to write the value word in English on A4 size paper and decorate it or draw on it by 15 October.

"The task was assigned as a 'free choice homework' (non-compulsory, additional homework) and parents were informed about it. I was happy to hear that parents supported the idea and the children were looking forward to the display of their work. We put the posters on the corridor

wall panel, which is one of our exhibition areas. On World Values Day (17 October), I 'visited' the exhibition of 34 mini-posters with my students. Though it was a short walk from the classroom to the corridor, it was a special event for the children and they created some beautiful and meaningful displays.



Posters created by the students, ages 9 – 14, in support of World Values Day

"One of the best things was that children with different perspectives were peacefully looking at the exhibition and politely sharing their opinion with me and the others. It was a wonderful break; we left routine school life behind us for some joyful minutes and were entranced by the magic world of values and art."

Egypt – Educator Workshops for Government School Teachers and More!

The ALIVE Associate in Egypt is the Jesuits' and Brothers Association and it was wonderful to receive news from the Association's Magdi Asham on a series of workshops and other activities last year for the benefit of at least 270 educators, school supervisors and youth.

Values Festival for Youth, July 2019

In cooperation with the Ministry of Youth, Minya directorate, we held a one day-values festival for

young women and men on 13 July 2019. The aim of the festival was to activate and support value awareness and self-responsibility. A hundred youth attended and although it was only a one day-activity, the participants expressed that it gave them time to reflect on the meaning of the values in their life and to what extent they live by them.



LVE Training for 60 Village Youth Volunteers, August 2019

Two groups, each of 30 young women and men with middle-level education, participated in a two-day Living Values Education workshop. The first workshop was on 15 and 17 August and the second on 22 and 24 August 2019. The participants were all volunteers from Tahaa village and Bani Mahdi village who are working with village children and they wanted to acquire skills to develop the children's awareness and improve their behaviour by adopting values practices. The LVE training team presented LVE to the participants and then made groups for participants to introduce each other and also to discover and express their own values.

During the two days' training, many activities were presented to deepen the participants' understanding and experience of the values covered, in particular peace, respect and love. At the end of the second day trainees were divided into two groups to design and present different activities for values with the observation and comments of the training team. In their feedback, participants expressed their happiness with the training as they experienced a values-based environment and said that the activities touched their heart and that they had learned about values through practical activities.

Many thanks to Shemoaa Association for Sustainable Development in Minia.



Three-day Workshop for 50 Youth in Qena Governorate, October 2019

"We lived in a perfect environment through these three days and I don't know whether I can live that afterwards or not. But I decided to try." With these words, a trainee from the group of supervisors for activities nurseries expressed at the end of the training his desire to create a better world for children, while also acknowledging how difficult that is. As always, we began with the educators' awareness and belief about their own values. The participants reflected on how

they live by/with values and how they are rooted in their life. They expressed their desire to practise what they believe and how difficult it is now with the world's materialistic way of thinking and lack of values. The values explored in this training, hosted by the Ana El Masry Association for Development at Qena governorate and held on 4-6 October 2019, were respect, peace and responsibility.

LVE Educator Training Workshop for 60 government school educators, December 2019

An LVE Educator Training Workshop was held for 60 government school educators on 13-15 December 2019 with the aim of building their values education capacity. It was the first time to work with governmental schools as it not easy to integrate any activities that are not part of the school curriculum. The head of the Education Directorate in Menya attended the training and was impressed with the activities. He asked us to spread this training to many schools and at the education department level.

The result of the training was very inspiring as the educators were very enthusiastic to apply the activities within the school day. They declared that LVE touched them personally and they are very optimistic about the expected results on the students' behaviour. At the end of the training every participant presented a wish for world peace through a symbol of the earth and wrote their wish on a dove of peace. On following up with the trainees after the training, we found that they began immediately to implement the activities during the school day, in particular in relation to Respect, Responsibility and Love.

Participants said that they will use stories and games in their work with students and that values education could support and improve teacher-student relationships. Comments included: *"We have the values already but we gained the skills of how to use different activities to help children to be aware of them and to live them"*; *"These activities help us to change the student's behaviour"*; and *"During the training days, we lived a peaceful time and we intend to deliver this to our students"*.



<http://livingvalues.net/egypt>

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