

Dear All, Hello! Here is a version of the brief talk I gave [this morning](#) at the KG Graduation Ceremony:

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Vanakkam!

It is a wonderful to see the young ones growing up!

I like to see the child in each adult. I also like to see the adult in each child.

More and more, you young ones will be telling stories, giving talks, and participating in discussions and debates, in the classroom and beyond.

This is part of becoming a citizen, a citizen of Rojavanam School, of Nagarcoil, of Kanyakumari District, of Tamil Nadu, of India, and finally, a citizen of the world.

What does it mean to be a good citizen?

Becoming a good citizen includes developing one's Emotional Intelligence, which involves becoming increasingly aware of one's emotions, and being able to manage one's emotions.

It also includes developing one's Social Intelligence, one's ability to cooperate with others.

I am from the USA. When I first came to India, over 30 years ago, I heard the term, the "Spirit of Cooperation". This is an Indian expression. I never heard this expression in the USA.

Anyway, in the old days, when many people lived in large extended intergenerational family groups, it seems people generally developed Emotional and Social Intelligence automatically. But now, with many of us living in nuclear families it seems it is also good to help the young people develop their Emotional and Social Intelligences at school, and we do this at Rojavanam School.

Sometimes in schools, students are taught what to think. But here at Rojavanam School we especially seek to teach students how to think, that is, ways to think. Whenever a new topic is raised, we encourage the students to activate their senses of curiosity, and consider such questions as,

"What is happening?"

"How is it happening?"

"Why is it happening?"

"How could I learn more about this topic?"

"Why is this topic important?"

"In what ways is this topic important?"

"In what ways might thinking about this topic be useful?"

"Could it happen in a better way?"

"If yes, how could we help it happen in a better way?"

Well, congratulations to all of you who are graduating Kindergarten today! I am hoping you graduate 1st Standard here at Rojavanam School next year, and then 2nd Standard, and then 3rd, and all the way up!

Thank you very much!

Edited 2:05 PM ✓