

# Mentor's Energizer

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### Picture gallery:

Inaugural Function of a new study group of B.Pharm II students at SMBT COP



International Interns Karla and Joanna head back for home. All the best!



Please send your photos for inclusion in the Energizer.

The Bahá'í Academy wishes to thank our mentor of the month, Dr. P. P. Dahivelkar, for sharing his insights.

Using the model at right, please send your comments and pictures to:  
[energizer@bahaiacademy.org](mailto:energizer@bahaiacademy.org)

## A Flourishing Future Begins Now

**As nations and civil society** take the next steps toward sustainable development, we realize, as mentors, that we are an integral part of this process, because we strive to demonstrate high-mindedness and resolve in the classroom as well as stimulate thinking about a new value-based sustainable paradigm that leads to human flourishing. The desired future -- where individuals, families and communities work together to create a sustainable life-- does not have to be set off in the distance. Day after day we see students and mentors carry out plans for positive change. We have all become human resources for our growing communities. Each step that we take toward addressing the challenges facing our families, communities or institutions brings us closer to sustainable solutions. Each dialogue initiated by someone who is inspired by universal human values builds trust, strengthens capacity and encourages a broader perspective. The methods students apply foster respect for the knowledge and experiences possessed by individuals and the communities. As mentors, we operate with the conviction that all people not only have the right to benefit from a materially and spiritually flourishing society, but also have an obligation to participate in its reconstruction for the benefit of the present and future generations. Whether our students are analyzing specific problems, participating with local people to determine the challenges facing their communities or exploring possible courses of action, they are making a difference and bringing the future into focus NOW.

## Meet the Mentors

Meet Dr. P. P. Dahivelkar, Associate Professor, SMBT COP, Dhamangaon, Nasik



### How has the experience of taking the training affected you?

The training was very interesting and informative! The training made me aware of my inherent potential as a mentor/ teacher/ guide. Also, it helps me identify exact social problems and to ascertain my roles in achieving a social goal. The various study techniques were novel and quite fascinating. I strongly recommend that every teacher should undergo the mentorship-training whole-heartedly!

### What are some of your positive experiences about being a mentor?

The mentorship has evolved me into a better teacher! For myself I got a better and deeper understanding of human values. Normally teaching is seen just as a homologous way of delivering knowledge of a particular subject. Unfortunately we don't have human values as a part of our curriculum. I have made some positive changes in teaching methodology, particularly use of 'Quite Signal' and 'more involvement of students in the form of group discussions on various difficult topics, even in subjects like chemistry and analysis'.

### What kinds of transformations have you seen in your students?

Students are seen more focused and attentive now! The aforementioned changes in teaching style have made students keener in studying and work hard. It's a pleasure to share that students have understood my role in shaping their lives and now, we altogether can bring desired changes in the thinking, career and overall lives of my students! In service learning activity we visited and worked in slum areas of Pandurli Village. Students interacted with economically and socially backward class of villagers, and that's how they (the students) got a better insight of the difficulties faced by those villagers. This experience would come handy for them throughout their life. They have started to believe in more meaningful contributions towards our society. I am sure these students would emerge as better citizen for tomorrow!

### Do you have any advice for other mentors?

Mentors must look this activity as opportunity to understand students and their social needs. Also, mentors must take mentorship as a moral responsibility because this activity would create a more peaceful world around us! Finally, I thank Dr A. S. Dhake sir (Principal, SMBT COP) for giving me the opportunity to work as a mentor and coordinator for this outstanding activity in the interest of all the students!

## Resourceful Role Models



Live Mint & Wall Street Journal:  
<http://www.livemint.com/Leisure/XSvFqzDWvZiQo6r5Wlrc7K/New-Year-Ideas--Time-you-became-tech-savvy.html>, accessed 5.9.2014

Some say that it's a technological world, but some of us are not as technologically savvy as others. Maybe everything you need to know to be a better mentor can be found on the internet, but how do you find it, how do you use it and how do you determine what is important?

### How do you find it?

Online Educational Resources (OERs) can be found if you use specific questions. For instance, if you want to learn some ICT skills, you have to type in the skill you need to learn. "How do I make a PowerPoint presentation?" rather than, "How can I use the computer for presentations?" "What are the benefits of social networking?" rather than "Do social networks work?"

### How do you use it?

As a mentor, you'll need to have different methods of communication with students as not everyone uses the internet well. The tried and true postal service, phone calls and text messaging continue to be effective. For those who have bridged the gap, however, you could keep students interested with a weekly blog, a social networking group or an online chat to discuss their progress in their Service Learning Activities or in writing their research papers. Sending out a newsletter like this goes a long way to keep your students motivated and eager to complete their assigned tasks.

### What is important?

On the internet many people appear to be experts, but everything online isn't necessarily true or advisable, so you have to use your own judgment and compare any idea you find up against your standards of universal human values. Many ideas and information can be found for free and teachers are very good about sharing classroom tips, techniques and curriculum, but if it looks like it was "borrowed" illegally or if you have to use a questionable site or pay money to someone to help you download things for "free" that you probably should pay for, find another, more reputable site.

### OERs for ICT Skills

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/csa6ictskills.php>

[http://wikieducator.org/Digital\\_Citizenship/Primary/Basic ICT\\_skills](http://wikieducator.org/Digital_Citizenship/Primary/Basic ICT_skills)

**Go to:** [www.bahaiacademy.org](http://www.bahaiacademy.org) for OERs on creating presentations, social networking, blogging, combating plagiarism, free publications, digital citizenship, research sites and more.

*Back issues of the Mentor Energizer are available on the Academy website. If you've missed an issue, please feel free to download it.*

## How can we create social networks with our students?

**What is a social network?** Social networks have been around forever. Your family is the basic social unit. Beyond that, the workplace, the village, the greater community, the nation and humanity at large form ever increasing circles of social networks. Within them, people with similar beliefs, values, interests and goals may form smaller, more specific networks. Your network, as a mentor in Universal Human Values, includes the Bahá'í Academy, your university or college, your fellow teachers and mentors, your students, and beyond them, the village or community where you reside.

**How do we connect?** Connections are personal ways in which we join together with like-minded souls to set goals, solve difficulties, make decisions and encourage each other. We might join together in person or virtually. In class, we're networking, because we support each other in our endeavors to improve ourselves and foster initiative in our extended families and communities. We give each other ideas to improve and celebrate the successes of others. To some extent, we can do the same thing through mailings, phone calls, text messages, emails, blogs, etc.

**Evaluate the needs of your network:** What is the purpose of your network? You can frame this purpose with a question such as: How can I continually encourage my students in their home activities? Or: How can we work together to support the target village? Or: How can I provide a forum for my students to ask questions and share information with each other? Once you've decided your purpose, you can make a plan for achieving it.

**Be specific:** Make a SMART plan (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound). For example: I will connect with my students once per week through a forum to share their concerns and ideas about home activities. I will encourage them to connect with each other in an online dialogue about the difficulties they're facing. Each month we'll gather the suggestions and have a class discussion about the progress we're all making.

Next month: How can we build students' confidence through drama and role play?