



campus

Educating for Gross National Happiness

The Ministry of Education plans to inculcate GNH in the curriculum

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Gross National Happiness (GNH) will have a place in the books for students. That is what the education ministry is planning to do—inculcate GNH in the curriculum.

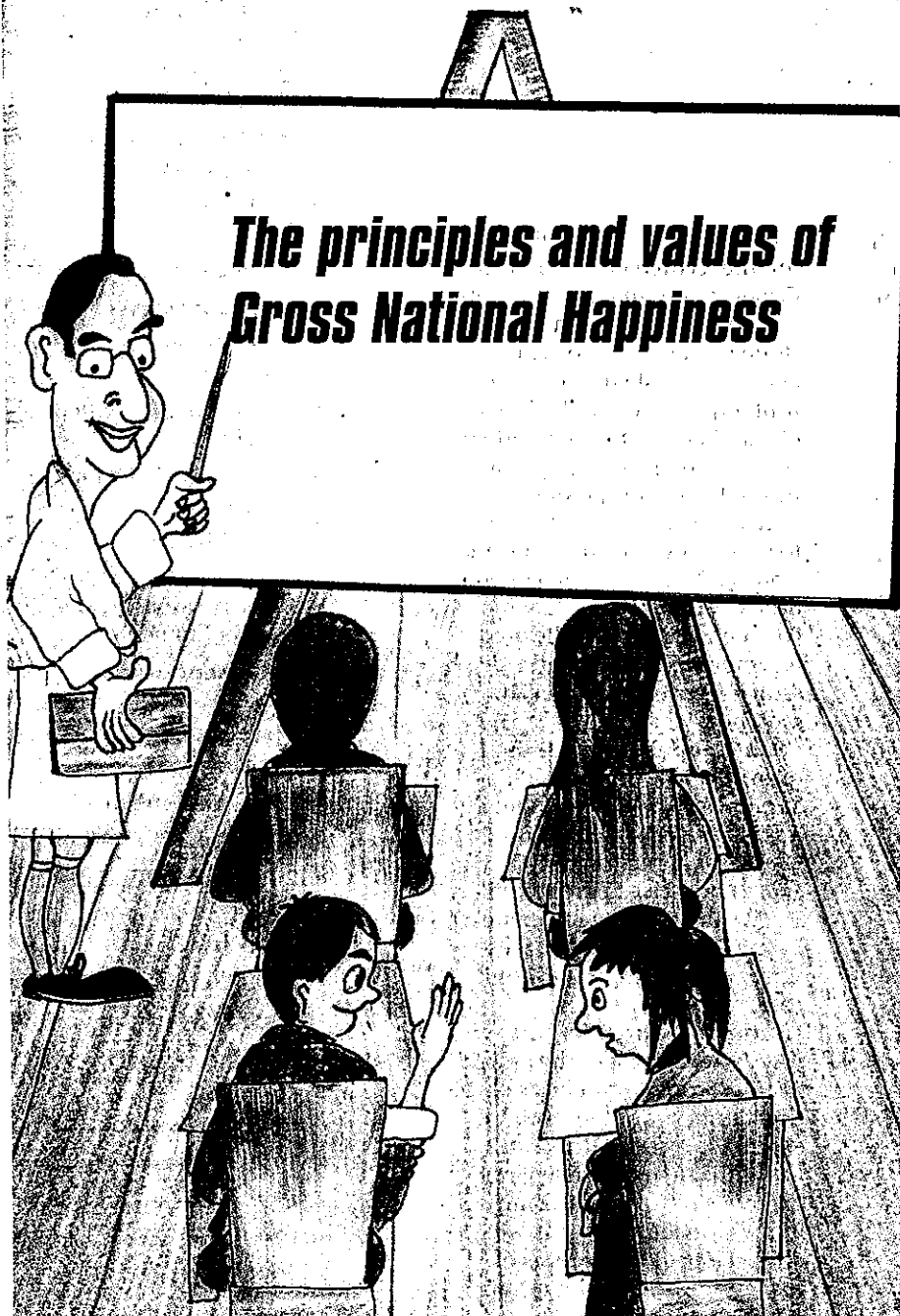
The cabinet secretariat has instructed the ministry to launch a major multi-year long endeavor to transform the educational system in the country to embody and reflect the profound values and principles of GNH.

Toward this, the education ministry is organizing a week-long workshop aimed at integrating GNH values into the curriculum from December 7-12 under theme *educating for gross national happiness*.

About 50 Bhutanese, 25 world's top educators and 50 international observers are expected to participate in the workshop.

Bringing GNH and values deeply and fully into Bhutan's education system is a matter of utmost urgency and priority, said Lyonchen Jigmi Y Thinley, in a press statement from the education ministry.

"Unless our young people grow up with a deeply felt concern, care and respect for nature, for each other, and for the profound wisdom of our ancient culture and traditions, our development path will quickly



falter," the Prime Minister wrote in a letter to the educators.

The educators from

abroad and Bhutan will discuss means to inculcate GNH values into science, math, history,

language and extracurricular activities at every age level from kindergarten through post-

secondary education.

The education minister, Lyonpo Thakur S Powdyel said, hesitation in this endeavor is no longer an option because our young people and citizens in general are subject to a bombardment of materialist and consumerist messages as never before.

"If we are to preserve our unique and balanced development philosophy, as enunciated by our beloved Fourth Druk Gyalpo, it is essential that GNH Values and principles are deeply embedded in the consciousness of our youth," said the Lyonpo. "They, after all, are the citizens and leaders of the future, and the country's future rests in their hands."

The opening sessions of the workshop will be addressed by the Prime Minister, the education minister and by the world renowned scientist, author and environmental activist, Dr Vandana Shiva, recipient of Right Livelihood Award, the UN Global 500 Award and Earth Day International Award.

The press release states that while individual schools in different places have brought holistic, contemplative and environmental approaches into their own curricula, no country has ever tried to do this on a national scale.