India, the country we are located in, is a land of diversity. It has about 1600 different languages, more than 20 different religious practices, 645 tribes, more than 2000 ethnicities, and 1.5 billion people.

Character and leadership education in our country is not so much about a rigid curricular structure as about creating an environment conducive to the holistic development of students. In a country which boasts of as diverse a pallet of culture, language and ethnicity, as India, helping boys grow into simply ‘good men’ is often not good enough.

The challenge instead is to build good human beings beyond the boundaries of caste, creed, ethnicity and gender, and to create an environment where individuals come to care for shared humanity and make an effort to pave the path to humanhood.

The education system in the Indian subcontinent dates back to 1500 BCE with higher seats of learning such as universities coming into existence as early as 10th century BCE at Taxila and 5th century BCE at Nalanda.

The ancient education system provided guidelines about the education which, in modern times has been rediscovered by the rest of the world, and also, by a section of our own country, as modern pedagogical practices. Methods such as experiential and differentiated learning, and residential schooling prevalent during those ages, guided and encouraged the development of human values.

We, at MCKV, draw inspiration from our past, and deriving knowledge from this ancient wisdom, synergise the age-old concept of character and leadership education in the modern school framework following the four simple steps of Lokasamparka, Lokasangraha, Lokasanskara and Lokaniyoga.

According to our ancient wisdom, character development cannot be bound within a structure, values cannot be printed in a rule book, nor can these be forced onto people. They need to be developed by exposing young minds to environments where the desirable traits themselves take root and flourish in the individuals.

Wednesday, June 29: 8:30 AM, St Mark’s School of Texas, Centennial Hall 142

Image Courtesy: Unsplash, Google doodle and The Times of India