



India is a land of startling contrasts and inequality. Dr. Prabhavati Dwabha came to India to find herself; instead, she found people in need and a new purpose in life. At Ramana's Garden, Dr. Dwabha is working to give a future to children who would otherwise be without one

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Grades 9 – 12

Civics, Geography, World History

Civics - Standard 27. Understand how certain character traits enhance citizens' ability to fulfill personal and civic responsibilities

- Understand the importance for individuals and society of commonly held personal responsibilities such as taking care of one's self, supporting one's family, accepting responsibility for the consequences of one's actions, adhering to moral principles, considering the rights and interests of others, and behaving in a civil manner
- Understand the importance of dispositions that foster respect for individual worth and human dignity such as compassion and respect for the rights and choices of individuals

Geography - Standard 10. Understand the nature and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics

- Understand how human characteristics make specific regions of the world distinctive
- Know how cultures influence the characteristics of regions (e.g., level of technological achievement, cultural traditions, social institutions)

World History - Standard 44. Understand the search for community, stability, and peace in an interdependent world

- Understand efforts to improve political and social conditions around the world
- Understand the causes and effects of population growth and urbanization
- Understand the importance or meaning of the natural environment for societies around the world
- Understand rates of economic development and the emergence of different economic systems around the globe
- Understand how specific countries have implemented social and cultural changes

Resource - [McREL Content Knowledge – Standards & Benchmarks](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 🗣️ *In Ramana's Garden, Dr. Prabhavati Dwabha, takes care of the "untouchables". Who are these children?*
- 🗣️ *Dr. Dwabha describes how the caste system was originally created to make India work. Can you describe the caste system in India?*
- 🗣️ *Why does the caste system still exist? Does something like it exist in your country?*
- 🗣️ *Why do you think it is religiously acceptable to deny "the untouchables" food, clothing and shelter?*
- 🗣️ *Describe the how life will be different for the children who attend Ramana's Garden? What would life be like for them if they didn't attend this school? What do they learn in Ramana's Garden?*
- 🗣️ *What are some of the successes of the school?*
- 🗣️ *Dr. Dwabha almost left India. What made her stay? What role did the Ganges River play?*
- 🗣️ *"Every moment will be new, embrace it. If you hang on to anything you'll suffer."*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Excerpts from interview **explore.org**

Dr. Prabhavati Dwabha is the founder of [Ramana's Garden](#), a home for children in India that provides education, food, and healthcare to those in lower castes, whom might otherwise be neglected in society.

Why did you start Ramana's Garden?

In 1994 — after I'd been living in India for 20 years — there were a number of children living at risk of death, starvation, abuse, child labor, and child prostitution was increasing daily. I felt that the only solution to the vicious cycle of poverty and abuse that was entrapping thousands of women and children was to provide them with a loving home, proper nutrition, quality education, and vocational training. My first attempts to help were made through governmental agencies and I found it was impossible to get the funds directly to the people in need. It was then that I started my own NGO.

What is Ramana's Garden's vision?

Ramana's Seva Samiti vision is that every child regardless of caste, creed, or social-economic background has the right to quality education, proper nutrition, and primary healthcare. It is our primary intention of help in the abolishment of the caste system though providing the highest levels of education possible in India free of cost to the lowest castes in India. It is our further intention to empower women through literacy and vocational training so that they can generate their own income and thereby gain power in their own households and communities.

Do you think the caste system will one day cease to exist?

That is my dream. That is the reason for all our efforts in education. I know if it is to be destroyed it can only happen by equal educational possibilities for all castes.

