

**TAMILNADU – REPUBLIC OF
KOREA**

**OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
CO-OPERATION IN EDUCATION**

Close Friendship

- **“It is not a simple coincidence that majority of Korean companies are based in Tamil Nadu.**
- **The Korean people’s way of thinking matches well with the Tamil ethos.**
- **Like the Koreans, Tamils are well-educated, hard-working, and very friendly.”**

H.E Mr. Kyungsoo Kim, CG

Korean Business Relations

- **There are actually over 300 Korean companies within a 30 km radius of Chennai.**
- **“There are over 4,000 Korean expatriates in Chennai alone (the largest in India), and**
- **“We feel very much at home here,”**

H.E Mr. Kyungsoo Kim. CG, South Korea

The world looks to India and South Korea for bright students

- its students rank among the best in achieving spectacular scores on the Program for International Student Assessment. They succeed (90%P, 10%I)
- Dominated by Tiger Moms, cram schools and highly authoritarian teachers, education system produces ranks of overachieving students
- parental yearning to see their children succeed at all costs

MOTHER- THE FIRST TEACHER

The first words a child learns

APPA, AMMA

It happens in Tamilnadu and Korea, not in China or Japan

A **Gireogi Appa** is a Korean man who works in Korea while his wife and children stay in an English-speaking country. Families, who stay separate also have a name: Kirogi Kajok, or Goose Families, because their reunions require a migration

Mothers Pray for Children's Success at Exams



Kirogi Appa



CULTURAL SIMILARITIES

Special focus on the family unit

Many parents believe that their right to decide their children's future is sacrosanct

View that the family is an economic unit perpetuates tight control over children

Marriage still functions as a transaction between two families to ensure social standards and financial stability.

To Be A Student in India or Korea

- **Is not about freedom, personal choice or happiness; it is about production, performance and obedience**
- **Obedience to authority is enforced both at home and school**

Students are under enormous, unrelenting pressure to perform. Talent is not a consideration — because the culture believes in hard work and diligence above all, there is no excuse for failure. Children study year-round, both in-school and with tutors. If you study hard enough, you can be smart enough.

Parents Dream and willingness to sacrifice

They want to realize their dreams through their children

Societal Pressure - It's not just the parents pressuring their kids, culture traditionally celebrates conformity and order, pressure from other students can also heighten performance expectations.

Students are made to believe they can achieve anything they want – A small child will tell you she will become a doctor. In the West they know what they don't want to become.

Our Belief System

- Higher education is an overwhelmingly serious issue in our societies - one of the fundamental cornerstones of our life.
- Success in education holds a cultural status and a necessity to improve one's socioeconomic position in our society
- Academic success is often a source of pride for families

Higher Education

Education is viewed as the main propeller of social mobility for themselves and a gateway to their family to join the middle class

Graduating from a top university is the ultimate marker of prestige, high socioeconomic status, promising marriage prospects, and a respectable career path.

Education- Vital element of life

An average child's life revolves around education. Pressure to succeed academically is deeply ingrained in children from an early age.

Not having a university degree carries a major cultural stigma as those without university degrees face social prejudice and are often looked down upon by others.

The SKY

It is a common saying in Korea that 'If you sleep three hours a night, you may get into a top 'SKY* university;' If you sleep four hours each night, you may get into another university; if you sleep five or more hours each night, especially in your last year of high school, forget about getting into any university.'

*"SKY", are Seoul National University, Korea University and Yonsei University

All These success comes with A Price

- Student day's were Golden Days – Not for these Children
- Tremendous stress, often Low esteem leading to Suicide
- Parents are stressed, family suffers

What could be Done?

The world has changed !!

- Traditional Engineering, Medicine are not the only professions that ensure prestige and riches
- Just a decade back no one expected that I.T, Cloud, Big Data would change our lives so much and provide millions of Jobs.
- Skill development is respectable, make money and rise to higher levels.

Co-Operation is the Key

- English has emerged as the hegemonistic language in the world. Koreans spend billions of dollars to learn English.
- Tamilnadu has tremendous resources to teach English at a fraction of the cost.
- Tamilnadu also has excellent resources to teach Maths and science.

What are Feasible

- Strengthening Student exchange programs
- Strengthening Teachers exchange programs
- Each year translate 10 books (Tamil and Korean) to each others language and English
- Summer camps – English immersion programs
- Online English Teaching
- All Korean entrepreneurs coming to Tamilnadu are given Free English training at Tamilnadu Education institutes.
- All Korean companies in Tamilnadu to sponsor their employees to visit Korea.

Impediments

- Cultural – inclined towards Industrialized Countries
- Emotional – Prefer to stay in their group
- Employment Opportunities

Tamilnadu and Korea not only have legendary historical bonds but more importantly have a great FUTURE strengthening mutual benefits