

15<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## **Schools that Care**

**A National Conference on the Social and Emotional Environments of our Schools**  
in Collaboration with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi  
**3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008**, National Institute of Advanced Studies, IISc Campus, Bangalore

Dear Principal,

Most of us who are in education are deeply disturbed by the symptoms of an extreme nature that are being reported from schools across India – shootings at school, bullying, suicides, depression amongst students.

However these are symptoms of a far deeper problem. There is a pervasive sternness about most school environments. Authoritarianism and judgement are routine in majority of teacher- student interactions in schools across India. The way teachers interact with students or students amongst themselves is often marked by harshness of tone, insensitivity towards others' feelings and a sense of inadequacy in expressing thoughts, ideas and feelings. To compound the issue we are also a deeply class-ridden society, with many social biases still being perpetuated in our schools.

We at The Teacher Foundation believe that schools need to become gentler places; they need to actively nurture the 'human' side of student growth and development. But schools and teachers need guidance and support to make this a reality.

It therefore gives us great pleasure to bring to you in collaboration with NCERT: **Schools That Care** – a conference that aims to embed students' self-esteem at the heart of all school curricula, especially in the primary years. This conference is for school principals, teachers and department of education officials from all over India.

We are really pleased to have a band of highly reputed teacher educators, academicians and classroom practitioners speaking and conducting workshops at the conference. We invite you and members from your school to become catalysts of this brave movement to bring out the softer side of schools and develop a policy that makes for happier students and staff alike.

I look forward to your early confirmation of participation. The Registration Form and Conference Programme are enclosed.

With warm regards,  
Yours sincerely,

**Maya Menon**  
Director

Encl: as above