



We want an education by which character is formed, the strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet.

Swami Vivekananda

संकल्प पत्र

A Resolution Paper on Rishihood

#EducationForImpact

THE UNIFYING OBJECTIVE

Do our institutions offer the education that Swami ji asked for?

We, the founding community of Rishihood, are fortunate to have an opportunity to build an educational institution that can fulfil the dreams and aspirations of our Rishis. But such an institution cannot be created just by tinkering with the ideas of today. We need to build an academic institution that works for civilizational renewal, synthesizes tradition with modernity, gives ideas that will inspire subsequent generations for nation-building, solves the most pressing problems of our times, and shapes the future.

Rishihood University is not just the need of India or her people, it is what the world needs today more than ever before. An opportunity that comes once in several generations and has come at the right time.

This paper is a note on the ideas that animate us at Rishihood.



**समानी व आकृतिः समाना हृदयानि वः ।
समानमस्तु वो मनो यथा वः सुसहासति ॥**

May our intentions and aspirations be alike,
so that a common objective unifies us.

Rig Veda

THE GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

Every organization that endures carries a vision and strategy document that coalesces the team around it for several generations. This differentiates the organization, gives it a purpose to exist, and serves as the lighthouse in times of confusion. Below we present the philosophy behind Rishihood University.

WHO ARE THE RISHIS?



A Rishi is:
a leader of men,
an architect of a civilization,
and a discoverer of knowledge



has three foundational attributes:
Jigyasa (Desire to know),
Chikirsha (Will to act),
Ananda (Joy of being)



additionally endowed with:
Dhristi (an inner vision of truth),
Shruti (the ability to go beyond the obvious),
Viveka (an intuitive power of discernment)

Rishis are not ascetics in forests and mountains. They are active in societal life as public leaders, visionaries, philosophers, scientists, institution builders, teachers, social workers, etc.

Rishis create impact.

WHAT IS RISHIHOOD?

The state of being a rishi

The word Rishihood was coined by Swami Vivekananda, India's modern rishi. We have adapted it as our name and vision.



Rishihood is the state of being a rishi, the ultimate step in human evolution. Consciously or unconsciously, we are all at different stages on the journey to Rishihood.

Dynamic leaders of character

Contrary to the common perception, rishis are not ascetics. Rishis have always lived along with their families within the society, as teachers and scientists, and solving the most pressing challenges of their times, while shaping the future.



Hence, 'Rishi' is both a noun and an adjective. As an adjective, it qualifies and refers to rishi-leaders, rishi-teachers, rishi-doctors, rishi-scientists, etc, people who have acquired a high Rishi quotient.

Creating impact in the nation and the world

India and the world are suffering from many challenges-ranging from poverty, environmental degradation, social fractures, and acute loneliness and unhappiness. Our leaders are unable to solve these challenges because most of them have a low Rishi quotient.

India and the world needs Rishi-leaders.

Rishi Quotient

How far we have progressed in our evolution



WHAT IS RISHIHOOD UNIVERSITY?

Rishihood University is an impact university.



A community devoted to teaching, practicing, and enabling human development in a sustainable and balanced way - to create Rishi-leaders who will shape the future of human civilization.

As an impact university, we have started our first phase with carefully chosen academic areas that play a key role in the India of today and the future. These are entrepreneurship, healthcare, creativity, public leadership, and education.

Rishihood Community

Founders, team, learners, alumni, collaborators - a community of people united in purpose.

WHAT IS IMPACT FOR RISHIHOOD

A triple-layered impact that builds at three levels:

Vyakti Nirmaan (create people who will lead the change)

Vichar Nirmaan (create thought to shape ideas for the future)

Vyavastha Nirmaan (create systems to scale and sustain the change).

व्यक्ति

PEOPLE

Build leadership capacity

With a curriculum anchored on self-leadership, mentorship, experience, and multidisciplinary learning.

विचार

THOUGHT

Create thought on problems and solutions

Through bringing the best minds together in a culture of problem-solving, disruption, and impact

व्यवस्था

SYSTEMS

Scale the impact by reinventing institutions, policy, and systems

By building an ecosystem of partners such as government, non-profits, media, corporates, and academia.

Dharmic Futures

An alternate vision for our very existence

In this future, humans live in harmony with nature and with each other, and find meaning in developing themselves to their ultimate potential.



FOUNDATIONAL ATTRIBUTES OF A RISHI

Our learning environment is an endeavor to immerse in the deepest quest. It needs honing of meta-skills that lead one to develop the rishi-attributes.



JIGYASA - Desire To know

- 1.The quest to discover knowledge
- 2.Humility and respect for others
- 3.A sense of wonder towards the creation



CHIKIRSHA - Will to Act

- 1.A mindset to create. An ability to take calibrated risks without the fear of failure
- 2.Be fully involved in the action but remain detached from the fruits of the action
- 3.Pursue excellence in every action and make it an act of worship



ANANDA - Joy of Being

- 1.Personal Integrity regardless of outcomes
- 2.Purity of body, mind, and environment
- 3.Internal and external peace and harmony

Meta Skills

Skills that remain relevant in a changing world



A RISHI-LEADER

All Rishis are leaders, but not all leaders are rishis.

We use the expression Rishi-leader (even though the word leader is redundant) only to remove the common perception that a Rishi is an ascetic meditating in the forest. Rishi is much more and always has been. Rishi-leaders have been and should be in all sections of society, and actively involved in solving present challenges and shaping the future.

We do not have enough leaders in politics, governance, business, academia, medicine, media, police, judiciary, defense etc. whom we can call Rishi-leaders. We need an education that inculcates such a mindset in the learners so that they can develop into rishi-leaders.

WHAT PROBLEMS ARE WE TRYING TO SOLVE? THE AGE OF PARADOXES

The world is grappling with issues of a grand scale. These are paradoxical challenges for which we need an impact at three levels - people, thought, and systems. Through Rishihood University, we aim to provide solutions as well as solvers for these problems. Some of them are:



ECOLOGY

Better living standards
but poorer planet



ECONOMY

Rising wealth but
less satisfaction



SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGY

More population yet
more loneliness



TECHNOLOGY

Highest innovation yet
endangered humans

Global Grand Challenges

Phenomena that require deep attention and action

HOW WILL WE CREATE RISHI LEADERS?

- 1** **FACULTY:** Reinvent the Guru Shishya Parampara for the 21st century
- 2** **LEARNER:** Attract youth with character, commitment, and expertise
- 3** **NATION BUILDING.** Education must be imbued with a higher purpose
- 4** **PERSONALIZED LEARNING:** Give an environment of self-awareness and purposeful learning
- 5** **JOY:** Create a celebration environment at work and in learning
- 6** **INNOVATION IN CURRICULUM:** Design a confluence of timeless wisdom, contemporary thinking, and future changes
- 7** **MULTI-LAYERED CURRICULUM:** Teach not just the subject but how to lead life as a whole
- 8** **LIFELONG LEARNING:** Develop a habit of learning and provide short-courses to all ages
- 9** **RESEARCH:** Conduct impactful research
- 10** **CULTURE:** Evolve a culture of learning, rootedness and impact
- 11** **PARTNERSHIPS & ADVOCACY:** Build an ecosystem for impact
- 12** **RISHIHOOD INSIDE:** Go to K12 schools and nurture learners from a younger age
- 13** **CAREERS:** Work closely with the industry and society for meaningful careers
- 14** **ACCESS & SUSTAINABILITY:** Provide quality education and create a sustainable institution
- 15** **CAMPUS AS AN ASHRAM:** A physical space to experience joy

Rishihood Way

Ingredients of an impactful education

**WHY SHOULD A LEARNER WANT TO BE A RISHI-LEADER?
WHAT IS OUR PROMISE TO LEARNERS?**

1. Professional Success
2. Social Impact
3. Personal joy

WHAT IS OUR PROMISE TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF?

1. An enterprising work culture to fulfil your dreams
2. A platform to conduct research that matters
3. Support and mentorship to lead a meaningful career

WHAT IS OUR PROMISE TO THE EMPLOYERS AND SOCIETY?

1. We will understand your people needs and align our curriculum
2. We will provide balanced and professionally competent graduates
3. We will create alumni who are responsible and contribute to the society

Rishihood Promise

A human ideal and the ideal human



WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS FOR RISHIHOOD UNIVERSITY?

Here are the five building blocks for the success of Rishihood University:



**Outstanding
learning experience**



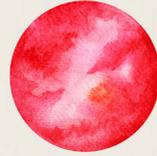
**Quality learner
cohorts**



**Core faculty &
leadership**



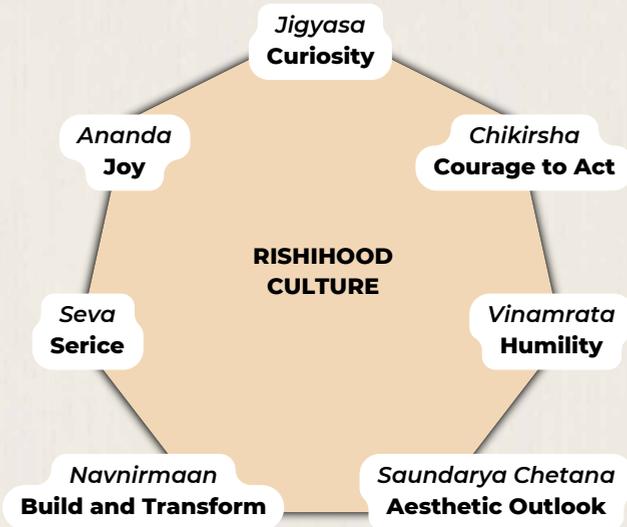
**Financial
sustainability**



**A power
brand**

WHAT IS THE ENABLING CULTURE TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

The seven elements we want to imbibe in the Rishihood culture to lead it towards its intended objectives:





A Note on the Rishhood Paper

Just like the university, this paper is an organically evolving document. It articulates our commitment to the mission of Rishhood. It talks of our purpose and method. It endears to get into the hands of like-minded seekers who want to build something that we can cherish as a civilization.

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