

Waldorf Education for the 21st Century

To prepare the children
for the world of tomorrow
- What can Waldorf do?

Presentation by Lajja Mandal,

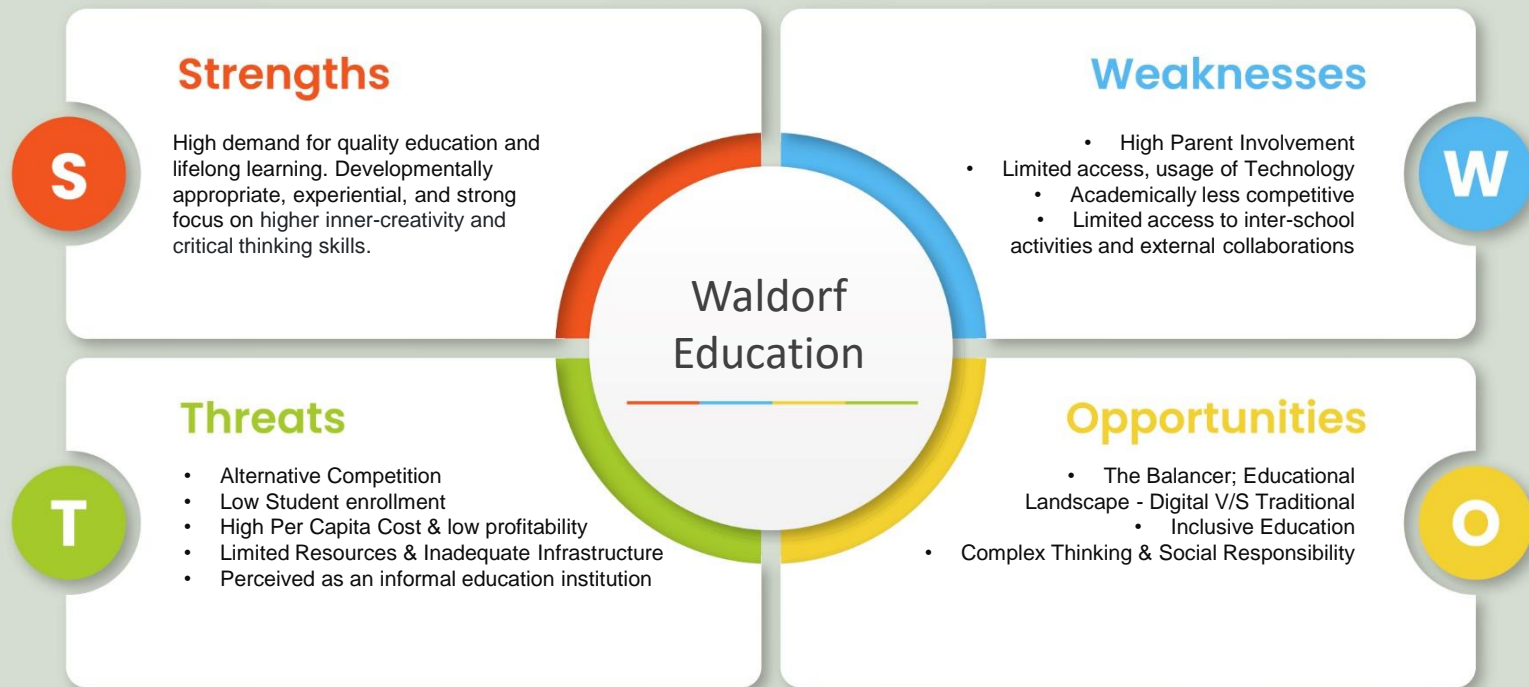
Forest House Waldorf School, Hong Kong.



Waldorf Education for the 21st Century

- A. Where are we today, as a Waldorf movement?
- B. The World of the 21st century
- C. Adapting in an Ever-Evolving World [Challenges to Opportunities]
- D. What will that Transformation look like?

A. Where are we today, as a Waldorf movement?



Leveraging on **Strengths**, Addressing **Weaknesses**, Capitalizing on **Opportunities**, and Mitigating **Threats**.

B. The World of the 21st century

The 21st century is often referred to as the 'Digital Age' or 'Information Age'. Digital technologies are an integral part of children's lives in the 21st century. Children spend more time in the digital environment than ever before and at younger ages.

Children's Wellbeing in a Digital World - Report 2024 - InternetMatters.Org

75% of children now view technology and the internet as important to their independence.

65% 2/3 of children say spending time online makes them feel mostly happy.

12% of children say they often stop sports or exercise in favour of playing video games, watching TV, or using social media.

67% 2/3 of children report experiencing online harms.

63% of parents believe time online negatively impacts their children's health.

31% of parents place themselves at between 8 and 10 on a scale in terms of finding themselves engaged with their own devices, rather than participating in collective family activities.

C. Adapting in an Ever-Evolving World [Challenges to Opportunities]

The turning point: Why we must transform education now...

“Accelerated digital revolution, Growing inequalities, Environmental concerns, Devastating pandemics are just some of the most pressing challenges that we are facing today in our interconnected world.

The diagnosis is clear: Our current global education system is lagging in addressing these alarming challenges and providing quality learning for everyone.” - UNESCO

**Professional Development,
Upgrades for Educators**

**Technology Integration
in the age of A.I.**

Inclusivity and Diversity

**Active Community
Engagement & Effective
Communication**

Sustainability Initiatives

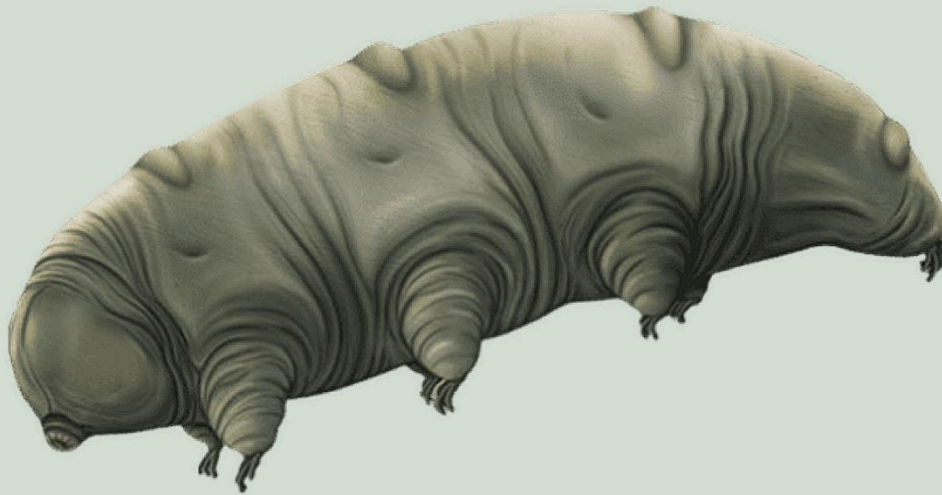
Globalisation

C. Adapting in an Ever-Evolving World [Challenges to Opportunities]

I would like to quote **Martyn Rawson** here, from 'THE EDUCATIONAL TASKS AND CONTENT OF THE STEINER WALDORF CURRICULUM', Pg. 5

One thing of course that distinguishes the Waldorf form from the National curriculum is that the former justifies itself from an educational point of view and attempts to explain the development of each subject from the point of view of child development. The National Curriculum offers no such justification. Indeed, it seems oblivious to the concept that any educational approach must be based on some philosophy of education, some understanding of the nature of human being that underpins, justifies and explains the steps that have to be taken.

C. Adapting in an Ever-Evolving World [Challenges to Opportunities]



The '**Tardigrade**, often called the '**Water Bear**', is a microscopic creature renowned for its incredible resilience, able to sustain extreme temperatures, radiation, and even the vacuum of space.

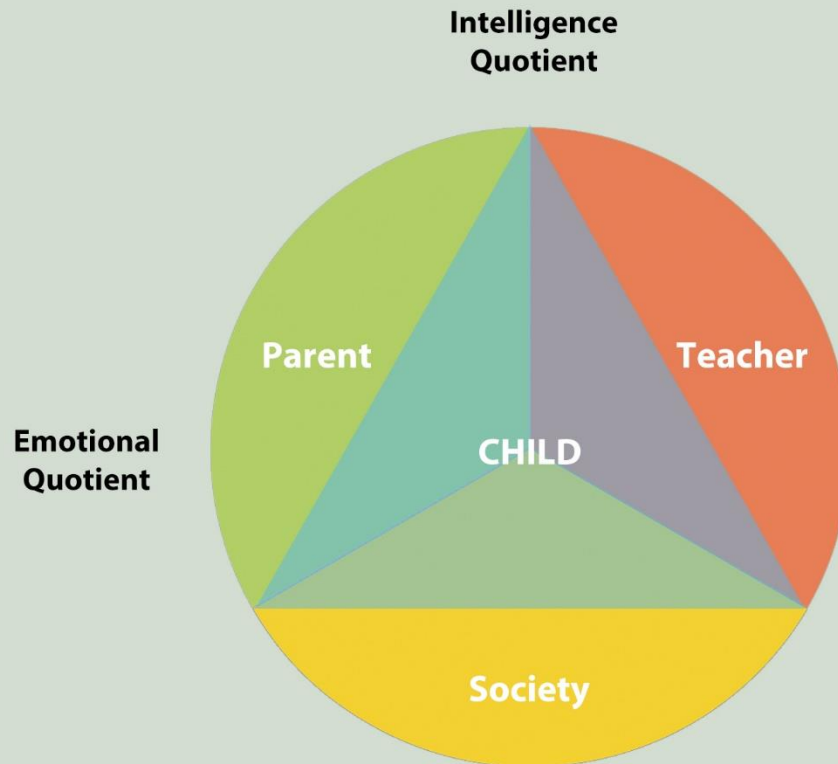
D. What will that Transformation look like?

I'd like to throw this discussion open to our participants, to weigh in on 'Challenges V/S Opportunities' & provide their valuable, insightful feedback.

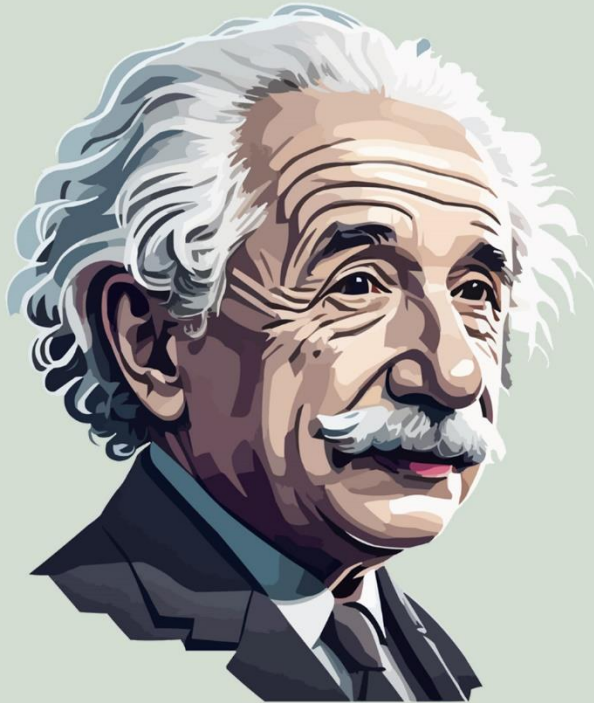
When should this integration take place?

What are those potential collaborations that'll facilitate this transformation?

Challenges in terms of Resources to undertake this transformation?



Anthroposophy offers a unique lens through which to explore technology by emphasizing the need for human-centered innovation that nurtures spiritual development and ecological harmony.



One day, a young boy approached **Einstein** and asked, “If you’re so smart, why can’t you solve every problem in the world?”

Einstein smiled and replied, “Ah, my young friend, if I could solve every problem, I would have to find a new one to keep me busy!”

The boy, curious, asked, “But don’t you ever get frustrated?”

Einstein chuckled, “Frustration is just the universe’s way of reminding us that we’re not meant to have all the answers. Besides, life is much more interesting with a few mysteries left unsolved.”