

## **Critical elements for educational leadership**

United States, May 2012:

In the spirit of continued improvement and exposure to global best practice, Edvance Pre-Schools co founder and Director Anshul Arora recently participated in the program ‘Implementing a Comprehensive PreK-3rd Grade Approach’ at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

The four day-long professional course on early childhood education, was led by professors from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, the College of Education at University of Washington and the Center for Evaluation Innovation. A number of leading practitioners also shared their insights including Lisa Guernsey, Director, Early Education Initiative, New American Foundation; Bridget Hamre, Associate Director, Center of Advanced Study of Teaching & Learning (CASTL), University of Virginia and Sherri Killins, Commissioner of Early Education and Care, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The outcome of the course was a comprehensive coverage of key levers that positively impact early childhood education, “among these was a need to have a clear strategic framework for continuous and consistent program improvement,” said Arora. He added, “The program had a particular focus on critical elements for educational leadership - the imperative of combining cognitive and social, emotional development in designing curriculum and the importance of continuous program improvement backed by data.”

Outside of the program, Mr. Arora spent time with Gillian Najarian, MD of the Center on the Developing Child, a cross functional effort by Harvard University to apply knowledge in the service of improving life outcomes for children. “The Center has done a tremendous job of bringing together educationists, pediatricians, development psychologists and neuro-scientists, to research and share their insights on how the brain develops and implications for policy and programs,” said Arora.

The work of the Center on the Developing Child was shared in training programs held at Bangalore and Mumbai, with Pune and Delhi to follow in the near future.