TIDE~ global learning

Learning from Kerala:

quality global learning and reviewing the curriculum

A study visit project to investigate learning through the experiences of Kerala. How does it inspire curriculum creativity and leadership at secondary level?

Tide~ is seeking applications for a 2007/08 study visit project to Kerala in southern India. It offers...

- **a professional development opportunity** responding to the need for fresh thinking and creativity around leadership for learning in the context of the QCA Secondary Curriculum Review.
- **a study visit to Kerala** to engage with the 'Kerala paradox' [see next page]. How does the paradox challenge our understanding of learning and what does it say about the role of education?
- **a critical engagement** with the appropriateness and quality of education for life in a global society. In parallel with England, Kerala is addressing the same challenges through its own curriculum review, providing a valuable opportunity for mutual learning with educational peers in Kerala.
- **a supportive group learning environment** through which to consider how the complexity of an engagement such as Kerala can help us to better understand the possibilities of a holistic curriculum.







Cost: £980 [to be confirmed*]
to be met by individuals or their institutions

The fee is a contribution towards project costs. The project is significantly subsidised by Tide~.

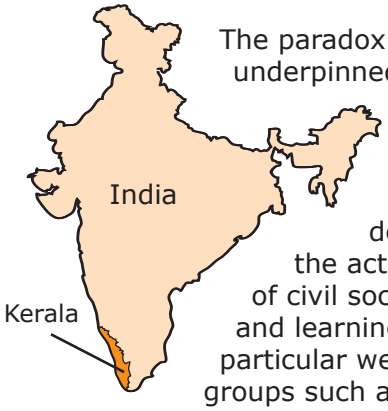
*The fee **includes** flights, accommodation [single room B&B] transport and the main meal of the day.*

*The fee **does not include** additional meals, drinks, travel insurance, medical costs and UK travel costs. Participants or their institutions must take responsibility for meeting these additional costs.*

* Due to fluctuating fuel prices and changes in government tax rulings, all flights are subject to unforeseen surcharges. Tide~ reserve the right to adjust the fee in the event of any surcharges.

Why Kerala?

Kerala is one of the poorest states in India and yet has levels of literacy and life expectancy closer to those of the UK than to the rest of India. This anomaly has become known as the 'Kerala Paradox' and provides a challenge to conventional perspectives of development and education.



The paradox is heavily underpinned by the role of the state and by grassroots political processes that promote decentralisation and the active engagement of civil society. Education and learning have been given particular weight through local groups such as the science writers forum, Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP), the organisation primarily responsible for the huge gains in literacy.

Despite this Kerala remains economically poor and factors such as unemployment are a major problem. With education considered Kerala's greatest commodity, many people (some put this at 90 per cent) gain work beyond Kerala, in India or abroad. This has led to demands to re-evaluate education and learning in Kerala to better meet local needs whilst simultaneously helping Keralan's to better understand their increasingly globalised and interconnected lives.

Kerala enables us to think critically about models and understandings of development, education and learning and raises numerous questions. Some of these are around basic principles such as how experiences in Kerala compare with our own notions of education and learning. Others push the creative boundaries further such as how the complexities of engaging with Kerala can help us to better understand the possibilities of a holistic curriculum.

At a juncture when secondary education in England is undergoing its own curriculum review, the nature and purpose of learning, curriculum and education is under considerable scrutiny. Kerala provides an external stimulus to this process.

Who are we looking for?

Tide~ is seeking a group of 10 people. We invite applicants who demonstrate:

- an interest in leadership of curriculum planning at secondary level;
- an interest in, and commitment to, work on global dimensions and learning in a global context;
- a willingness to think through the purpose and provision of education and learning in the context of current curriculum review processes;
- an interest in creative approaches to teaching and learning;
- a commitment to mutual learning and to sharing ideas and experiences.

How much time will it involve?

The study visit [22 March 2008 - 02 April 2008] takes place during the Easter 2008 school vacation.

In addition the project involves 4 creative Saturday sessions and a day conference:

- Session 1: 19 January 2008
- Session 2: 01 March 2008
- Session 3: 17 May 2008
- Session 4: 28 June 2008
- Conference: Thursday 26 June 2008

All sessions will be held in Birmingham between 10.00-16.00.

If you are interested

To receive an application form contact Tide~

email ~ wmc@tidec.org; phone~ 0121 202 3290

TIDE~ global learning

www.tidegloballearning.net

Applications must be returned by **Monday 26 November 2007**

Interviews to select applicants will take place on Thursday 06 December 2007.

Tide~ has appointed Rob Bowden [Tide~] and Rosie Wilson [Golden Hillock School, Birmingham] as the facilitators for this project.