

Beyond Tolerance: Citizenship, Diversity, Constructive Conflict



Vikas Pota,
Chief Executive, Varkey Foundation

Vikas Pota is Chief Executive of the **Varkey Foundation**, a registered charity seeking to improve global teacher capacity and promote universal access to quality education. He has embarked on a programme to train 250,000 teachers in classroom pedagogy and is responsible for the development of the Global Teacher Status Index, which has resulted in launch of the Global Teacher Prize, which seeks to celebrate the achievement of classroom teachers.

He is also the convenor of the Global Education & Skills Forum, which has been dubbed as the 'Davos of Education', where he has launched, in partnership with the UN, a global advocacy campaign called 'Business Backs Education' to rally the private sector to deepen its engagement with global education initiatives.

Vikas serves on a number of international education panels and advisory boards, including the Girls & Female Education Panel, the Teachers Task Force and the Global Alliance of Corporate Partners for Education - all for UNESCO. Vikas received a Honorary Degree for his achievements in education, and was appointed as a Visiting Practitioner in Education by Harvard University in 2016.

Commercially, Vikas is also a Board Member for Arc Skills, which has set itself the mission to skill and train a million people into jobs in Africa. He is a member of the Global Agenda Council on The Future of Jobs.

As a result of his achievements, Vikas was selected by the World Economic Forum as a 'Young Global Leader' in 2013. This honour is

bestowed each year to recognise the most distinguished leaders under the age of 40, nominated from around the world. Previous members of the Forum of Young Global Leaders include Larry Page, Founder of Google, Mark Zuckerberg, Founder of Facebook, and David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. In 2014, he was elected to the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce.

Vikas is the author of 'India Inc: How India's Top Ten Entrepreneurs Are Winning Globally'. He is regularly asked to provide commentary to the media, and has appeared in all major news outlets.

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