

Design for change. An educational proposal to change the world



When Joseph Calasanz wrote in the Constitutions of the Pious Schools that education is very necessary, if not essential for the reform of society, he did not imagine that 400 years later, an Indian designer, promoted an educational methodology that is helping millions of children and young people around the world to change the world from school.

Kiran Bir Sethi at the initiator of the Design for Change International network present around the world. DFC is a global initiative that has enabled millions of children and young people around the world to express their ideas about a better world and implement their proposals.

In 2011 he founded *The Riverside School*, in Ahmedabad (India). In the wake of his aspiration to provide a more varied and comprehensive education for his own children, Riverside's gaze is grounded in common sense. Students learn how to apply their learning in the real world through experimental methods of pedagogy, continuously conducting research and documenting their findings, understanding the reality of social and economic differences, working in professional environments, cultivating relationships with the extended community, and maintaining high academic standards, assessed through standardized testing. Today the school ranks among the top four schools in India in performance.

Every project or story of change consists of **four simple steps that lead them to change their personal, social, or environmental reality**:

- **They feel** the needs or problems.
- **They imagine** new solutions.
- **They act** and build change.
- **They share** their story of change to spread and inspire others.

Thus, they realize a global chain of children and young people who transform lives and change the world. To do this, they put into play **the four basic competences (the four Cs)**:

- **Critical thinking**
- **Creativity**
- **Collaboration**
- **Communication**

The OIEC (International Organization of Catholic Education) together with the Congregation for Catholic Education are promoting this methodology because they understand that it responds well to the challenges of the Catholic School and the style that Pope Francis wants to promote: "All educators are called to collaborate with their professionalism and with the wealth of humanity they bring, to help young people be builders of a more united and peaceful world"

In November 2019, 8000 children and young people are scheduled to gather in Rome to tell the world what to do to care for and improve the "common home" and how they are responding to the challenges posed by *Laudato si'* and the Sustainable Development Goals.

From the General Secretariat of the Ministry, we encourage the educators of our schools and non-formal education centers to know this movement for change (DFC) and to dare to develop projects for social change with students.

DFC worldwide: <http://www.dfcworld.com/SITE/Contact>

In most of the countries where the Pious Schools are present there is a DFC contact willing to help you.

