

# 16

## Patriotism

# We have a dream

### Preparing for the session

#### SESSION AT A GLANCE

#### Recap

#### Story/Discussion

*Jarnail Singh's Diary*

#### Group work

*The India of my dreams*

#### Painting

*I love my India*

#### Home activity

Worksheet 11  
*Different folks, different strokes*

This session explores the idea of patriotism through a series of enjoyable activities. Through a story and a discussion, children are given an opportunity to explore the idea of what loving one's country really means. The story has no accompanying flipchart, so you will have to read it out from the manual. Do read it in advance in order to be able to convey it effectively. This activity is followed by group work in which the class thinks about some of the major problems facing our country. You may need to guide the groups to think about the problems mentioned, so that the activity becomes meaningful. You will have to make photocopies of the cue cards provided at the end of the session, in advance.

At the end of the session, the whole class together creates a large Indian flag. For this you will need to join together several sheets of chart paper or brown paper or newspaper and put it up on a wall of the classroom. You will also need to mix four colours as mentioned below and put them into large, shallow bowls or plates. Please keep all this ready before the session begins.

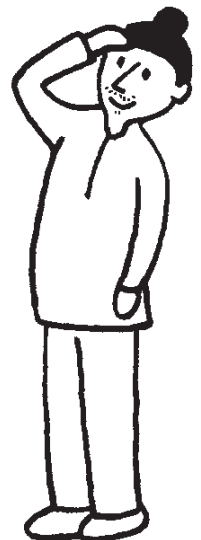
You will have to arrange for materials marked with .

#### Main ideas

- Patriotism is often equated with fighting wars for one's country and killing people of 'enemy' countries. We need to question this idea.
- Loving one's country does not mean hating people belonging to other countries. Instead it means trying to make one's country a better place for the people who live in it.
- As Indians we can express our love for our country by fighting our real enemies - such as poverty, inequality, illiteracy, corruption, pollution, intolerance and violence.

## To conduct the session you will need

- Set of seven cue cards for group work
- ✎ Several sheets of chart paper / brown paper / newspaper joined together with sticking tape or gum
- ✎ Poster colours - orange, white, green and blue
- ✎ Four plates, large enough for a child's palm
- Copies of Worksheet 11 (one copy per child)



## Conducting the session

### Recap

Help the class recall the previous session where we saw how wars continue to happen because they are planned by people for whom profits are more important than human lives. Remind them of the terrible effects of war : the number of people who die or are injured, the number who are left homeless, how it affects our health (both mental and physical) and our environment, how it leaves a country in ruins, and also how it is a huge financial burden on the people of the countries involved in the conflict.

Ask them to recall the Akbar-Birbal story in the previous session where a soldier who kills and loots people from the enemy country is glorified. Point out how, even today we are told that we can bring glory to our nation by killing others or dying ourselves. Then move on to the next activity.

### Activity 1 Story/Discussion

#### Jarnail Singh's Diary

Introduce the activity in the following way.

Let's listen to 17-year-old Jarnail Singh, who has been thinking about some of the problems we talked about. Jarnail is at a crossroads in his life where he has to take a decision about his future. He has been keeping a diary in which he writes about all sorts of things - things that worry him, dreams that he wants to fulfill, secrets he can tell no one else. Although it is a private diary, Jarnail Singh has given us permission to read a few pages because he wants to share his thoughts with you.

Read out the story given below. (You could make the activity more interesting by either holding up the manual and pretending that it is Jarnail Singh's diary or by photocopying these pages and sticking them in a diary and pretending that it belongs to Jarnail Singh.)

**This Diary belongs to Jarnail Singh.  
Warning ! Do not open it without permission.**

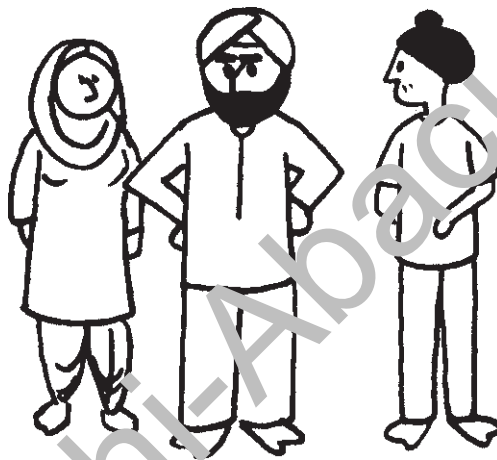
**Wahe Guruji da Khalsa !  
Wahe Guruji di Fateh !**

Page 1 : 20-9-2002

Today is my birthday. I was given this Diary as a present by my teacher. He says I can write in it whenever I want to say something that I can say to no one else. It is my special friend.



But I have a secret that I can tell no one, not even my Diary friend.



My family would kill me if they found out about my secret. You see, most of the men in my family have been connected to the army. They say that there were people from our family who fought in Guru Gobind Singh's army. Just look at our names - I'm Jarnail and my Papaji is called Karnail Singh. Even my Mai's name, Jeeto, indicates victory. Papaji was in the army. He retired as Subedar Major and now works on the family farm. My father's youngest and most favourite sister lost her husband in the Kargil war but I have never seen her cry or complain. In fact she says that her son will also join the forces. They are all really strong, tough people; people who would kill and die for their country. I respect them greatly but I am not like them.

It's very difficult to be different.

## Page 2 : 25-9-02

The XII standard exams are too much on my mind. Everyone says, "Study, study, study! You won't get into the army if you don't get good marks." They all want me to join the army like the rest of the family. The entrance exam will be held in May next year. Only eight months to go. Eight more months of freedom!



Harpreet, my older sister, has come home for her delivery. They have done the test. They say it will be a boy! As if her two daughters aren't good enough. Why do they go on and on about sons? My sister said her in-laws would not let her return if it is a girl again. Mai and Papaji are so worried. This is not the right time to tell them about...

## Page 3 : 7-11-02

Went to Ludhiana for getting Papaji's Living certificate'. In order to collect his pension, every year Papaji has to prove that he is alive by submitting a certificate signed by a government officer.



Every year we have to spend a whole day to get a single signature. To start with you have to haath jodo the clerk - after all, he is the one who will get the officer to sign your certificate. So off we went to see him. First clerk saab was having tea. Then the bada saab called him for some work. So we had to wait until he finished doing that. By now it was time for lunch. Then he disappeared

for one hour - must have gone for a nap. Then it was some meeting for which files were needed. Finally Papaji gave him 50 rupees and our job was done - at 4.30 p.m.

They make you feel like a beggar even though they are supposed to be 'Civil servants'. Why do people have to be bribed to do their jobs? We have to find a way to get rid of the corruption that we see everywhere in our country. There has to be a way. I wish I could become a . . . But what's the use! They want me to join the army.

#### Page 4 : 2-1-03

What a way to start the New Year! I had a terrible argument with my father's older brother, my Tayaji. I should never watch T.V. with him. Yesterday we were watching the news and Tayaji started off about Pakistan - how it was the root of all our troubles.

In his opinion, the only way to solve our problems was to drop the nuclear bomb on it. "That'll teach them a lesson," he said proudly. "Then let us see how they send their ISI agents to create mischief here. Our useless netas just don't have the guts to do the right thing!" On and on he went. Of course Gandhiji and non-violence were drawn into the list of what is wrong with our country and that was the point when I could bear it no longer. I know I should have kept my mouth shut, but . . .



I started politely enough but soon I too was shouting and then came the famous punchline :

"Wait till you join the army. They will wash all this non-violence-*shon*-violence out of your system. They will make a man of you."

Stupid me ! I have made my own life difficult now. Papaji is angry with me for speaking my mind. Children are supposed to be idiots, saying only what the adults want them to say. We are not supposed to think, have opinions; we are not supposed to criticise anything the adults say even if they are talking rubbish; we are just supposed to nod our heads and smile politely and . . .

I am so, so angry . . . that I will stop writing. See you later, Diary friend, when I am calmer.

**Page 5 : 6-1-03**

Feeling much better.

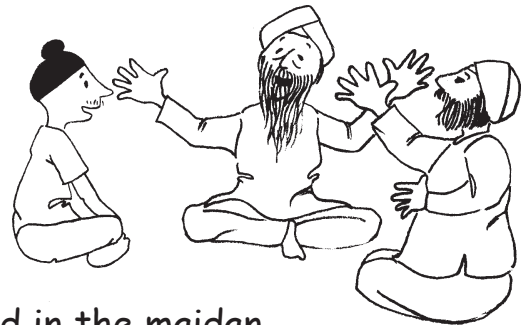
Charan Singh, Toshi came to our village today.

I went to see the play that

his drama troupe performed in the maidan.

It was fantastic; so well acted. It was about this old Muslim who stayed behind after the Partition and was forced to become a Sikh. Now it is time for him to die and all he wants is to be buried, not cremated. How people treat his last request and the tensions that suddenly erupt within his village, is what the play was about. It made me think about my village - the mistrust, the injustice, the hatred towards people of different castes and religions that I see around me.

Then, the whole drama troupe came to our house for dinner after the show. I just sat there and listened to





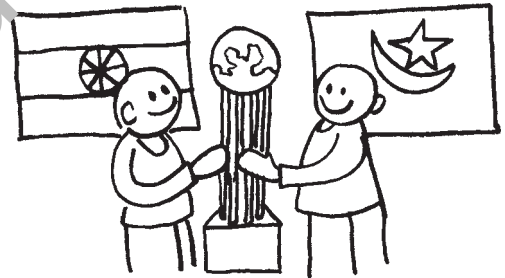
Charan Singh Josh talk. He is so gentle and yet so firm. Great sense of humour too. He managed to make my Tayaji laugh - and that is something no one has been able to do in the last 10 years ! What he says about our country and the needs of the future makes a lot of sense to me. I think I will go and see him by myself tomorrow. Maybe he will be able to suggest a way out for me. I can't think of anyone else in this place that I can talk to.

And I desperately need to talk to someone or I will go mad !

**Page 6 : 1-3-03**

We won ! We won !!  
What a match - one of the best between India and Pakistan ! We played like champions. I wish I could have been there in South

Africa. It must have been fabulous. I can hear the crickers outside - people are going mad, almost as if we had already won the World Cup. But I guess in a way we have.



A thought came to my mind : What if we - India and Pakistan - could have one team. We would be unbeatable. Then we could put these Australians in their place. If only our stupid countries would stop fighting with each other and spend their energies in doing things together. I am sure that if young people were allowed to plan these things we would do a better job of running our countries. I can think of so many things that we could do to make a difference. For example, we could have an



exchange programme with schools there; we could go there for two months in a year and then they could come here . . .

What's the use ? If I have to join the army I will be too busy killing them to worry about such things.

**Page 7 : 6-3-03**

XII standard exams start tomorrow. Wahe Guruji, please help ! I have to do well if I want to convince Papaji that I don't want to . . .

Forget about that now, Jannai!, just study !

**Page 8 : 24-4-03**

The army entrance exam is coming closer and closer. I have to talk to Papaji. Tayaji and the rest of the family will never agree but Papaji and Mai are the ones that I have to convince first.

My dear Diary, I have never told you my secret, na ? Today I will tell you first and then write to them. Ready ?

I don't want to join the army. I don't think that killing others is right, even if it is for the sake of your country.

I love my country and want very much to make it the strongest, the best place in the world, but my idea of strongest and best is different.

Tayaji says that we have to defend our country. Yes that is right, but my country is not just the land and its borders. My country is the people who live here and they

are the ones I want to defend and fight for.

Many years ago our leaders fought to free our nation from the British government that ruled us. Now there are other things that we need to fight against. This fight will need all our strength and efforts, so we must come together and put aside our petty differences.

But what's the use ? Who's going to listen to me in this *fauji* family ?

**Page 9 : 25-04-03**

Dear Diary, I have still not told you what I want to become, have I ? I know that I want to serve my country but there are many ways to do that. What I really, really want to do is to become a politician. Not the greedy, self-serving type, but one who has ideas and the training to make those ideas work. If I wanted to be a doctor I would have to train for that. If I wanted to be a lawyer I would spend many years studying law. Similarly, I have decided that I want to train myself to be a good politician. I don't know as yet how to go about it but I want to study and meet as many people as possible to understand their problems.



I have many plans and dreams. I have a dream that my country will one day be the kind of place we read about in fairy tales. It is a dream that can come true. I know that I can help to make it happen and that is what I have to do. That is why Wahe Guruji gave me life and my parents gave me love and nurtured me. Now I hope that they will give me the chance to make them proud of me.

Remember what Charan Singh Josh said when he came to do the play ? His advice to me was, "If you really believe in something, you have to fight for it. But when you believe in something different then your fight has to be different too." My fight has to be different. I don't want to run away from home, though right now that seems to be the easier thing to do. I want to get my family's blessings and I want to know that what I am doing is good for all of us.

Charan Singh Josh also suggested that I write a letter to Papaji and Mai, giving all my reasons. Let them read it, get over the shock of it, think about it and then I should talk to them.

So what do I say in this letter ?

Do you think dear Diary that my parents will agree ? I will just have to keep trying if they don't.

I will make my dream come true.

Explore the idea of patriotism at the end of the story. You could ask children questions like the following.

- Do you agree with Jarnail Singh's point of view, that there are many ways to serve your country ?
- Why does Jarnail Singh not want to join the army ? Is it because he is afraid ? Would you call him a coward ?
- Will Jarnail Singh need a lot of courage to oppose his family and society and do something different with his life ?
- Who do you think he should listen to ? Tayaji or his own conscience ?
- Do you think Jarnail Singh is a patriot ? Why ?
- And what about you ? Are you a patriot ?
- Should one's patriotism make one hate other countries and fight wars with them ?

Now take the discussion further by asking the following questions. Note the children's responses on the blackboard.

- At one point in the diary, Jarnail Singh said, "Many years ago our leaders fought to free our nation from the British government that ruled us. Now there are other things that we need to fight against." What do you think he is referring to?
- Jarnail Singh was disturbed by the way girls are mistreated and by the corruption that he saw. What are the things that disturb you?

*(To help them reflect further, you may need to ask them additional questions. Help them to think of problems like corruption, pollution, intolerance, illiteracy, inequality and violence and note these on the board.)*

Sum up the discussion by making the following points.

True patriotism means fighting these problems, which are the true enemies of our country. As Jarnail Singh said, **our country is not just the land and its borders - it is the people who live here.** And true patriotism is to do our best towards these people. As long as there are people who go hungry to bed, children who are forced to work, women who are mistreated, as long as there is not enough drinking water or schools for everyone, as true patriots, we have a long way to go, we have many battles to fight.

## **Activity 2**

### **Group work**

*The India of our dreams*

Remind the class of what Jarnail Singh says in his diary - "I have a dream that my country will one day be the kind of place we read about in fairy tales." Tell them that Jarnail Singh has asked young people from all over the country to suggest ways of making India a better place for all of us. In order to do this they must discuss the topics given to them and advise him on how to make the 'India of our Dreams', a reality.

Divide the class into seven groups. Give one cue card to each group. Tell the class that each group has to think about what is written on their card with the help of the questions given. Allow 10 - 15 minutes for this discussion; then ask a representative from each group to read out their cue card and present their suggestions to the class.

Sum up the activity by making the following points.

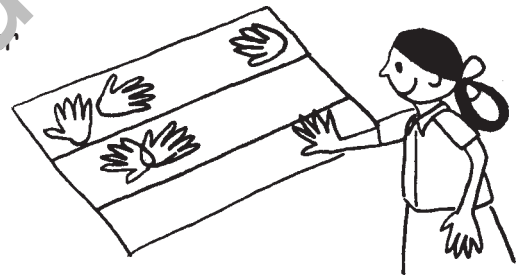
As we have seen, there are many difficult problems that our country faces. If we want to make the India of our dreams a reality, **all of us need to come together to solve these problems.**

We can express our love for our country by working to build such an India. And every Indian who contributes towards this is a patriot. The doctor who works in the villages, the government servant who does his job without taking bribes, the farmer who grows our food, the teacher who prepares young minds for the future - all these people contribute in making India a better place for all of us.

### Activity 3 Painting

*I love my India*

Display the large chart paper or newspaper that you have put together for this activity. Draw three panels on the paper, like the divisions on the Indian flag. Mix each colour separately with water so that you have four large bowls or plates of orange, white, green and blue paint.



Tell the class that a flag is the most easily recognised symbol of a country. It makes one proud to belong to one's country and to respect its institutions. It brings the people of a country together and gives them a common identity. It makes us think of what each one of us can do to make our country proud of us.

Tell the class that they will now draw the Indian flag; they will all come together and create one large, colourful, beautiful flag, just as we hope to come together to create a happy, prosperous, and colourful India. Each individual will contribute to the painting of the flag just as each individual should contribute towards realising the dream of a beautiful India.

Place the plates with the orange, white and green paints on a table. One by one each child should come up to the table, dip her hand into one of

these three colours and make a print on the appropriate panel on the paper. See to it that they cover the entire space. Once all the children have finished making the flag, you can make the Ashoka Chakra by dipping your hand into the blue paint and making prints in the centre of the flag.

### Summing up

**Conclude the session by making the following points.**

In this session we have tried to explore what loving our country really means. India is home to all of us. Just as we keep our own homes clean and beautiful, we should try to make our common home, India, a clean, beautiful and happy place. Just as loving our family does not mean hating other families, loving our country does not mean hating the people of other countries.

True patriotism means **respecting the people of our country**, regardless of the region or religion or caste they belong to. It means being proud of the fact that our country has a rich variety of languages, religions, customs and traditions. It means **trying to make our country a better place and fighting our real enemies** - poverty and unemployment, illiteracy, inequality and corruption, violence and environmental problems. It means **trying to come together to build a better present and a better future for all Indians.**

### Home activity

Worksheet 11

Different folk,  
different strokes

Distribute copies of Worksheet 11. Tell them that it contains some fun activities that they can complete at home and file in their personal folders.

Cue cards for group work

*The India of our dreams*

Group 1

***The India of our dreams will be an India without corruption.***

- In what ways will India be a better place if corruption is removed ?
- What are your suggestions for removing corruption ?
- What kind of punishment should be given to people taking bribes ?
- Do you think people giving bribes should also be punished ? Why ?



Group 2

***The India of our dreams will be a clean and green India.***

- What are the benefits of a clean and green India ?
- Why are many parts of India so dirty ?
- Is deforestation also an enemy ?
- What are the solutions ?
- What can the Government do to reduce pollution ?
- Can we personally do anything to help ?





Group 3

***The India of our dreams will be an India where there is education and work for everyone.***

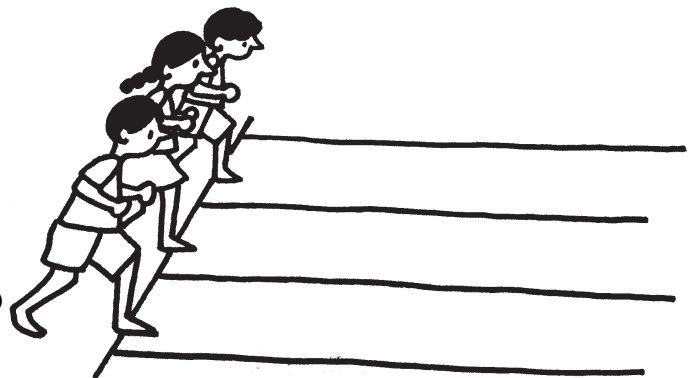
- Why is there so much illiteracy in our country ?
- Do you think everybody should have a chance to be educated ? Why ?
- What kind of education should everyone get ?
- How can the government help?
- Can all of us help in any way ?
- Why is unemployment a problem ?
- Do you have any suggestions on how unemployment can be removed ?



Group 4

***The India of our dreams will be an India where everyone is equal.***

- Do you agree that discrimination on the basis of caste, gender and religion is a big obstacle towards making India a better place ?
- Can you suggest ways in which caste discrimination can be removed ?
- How can inequality between men and women be removed ?
- Can you think of ways to end conflicts between people of different religions ?
- Who do you think can help to solve this problem ?
- What can all of us do ?



## Group 5

***The India of our dreams will be an India where everyone will be able to fulfill their needs.***

- What basic needs does everyone need to fulfill ?
- What should the government do to make sure that our needs are fulfilled ?
- What can we do ?



## Group 6

***The India of our dreams will be an India without violence.***

- We see a lot of violence around us - fights and beatings, riots and terrorism. Why do you think this happens ?
- What can we do to reduce this violence ?
- Is there something the government can do ?
- Is the problem of terrorism widespread in our country ?
- Is there anything the government can do to deal with terrorism ? What ?
- Do you have any other suggestions to stop terrorism ?



## Group 7

***The India of our dreams will be an India where diversity is celebrated.***

*For thousands of years people belonging to different religions, speaking different languages, following different customs, eating different kinds of food and having different traditions have been living together in our country.*

- Do you like this variety ? Why ?
- How can we appreciate each other's customs ?
- How can we learn to accept our differences ?
- What are the things we can do together ?





Name :

Date :

KIT 4

## Different folks, different strokes

India is a huge country where people of different religions, speaking different languages, following different customs, eating different kinds of food and having different traditions, live together.

Here are some fun activities that will help you to find out more about the people of our country.

1. Identify the languages on a 10 Rupee note.

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2. (a) When is the New Year celebrated in your community ?

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(b) Find out when six different Indian communities celebrate the New Year.

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(c) Also find out what special food these six communities eat to celebrate their New Year.

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3. (a) How do you say "I am an Indian" in your mother tongue ?

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(b) Learn to say, "I am an Indian" in five other Indian languages.



(2)

## Different folks, different strokes

- 4 Sarees are worn all over India, but the styles of draping them differ from region to region. Here are some ways in which a saree is worn. Can you find out about any other way of wearing a saree? In which parts of the country are sarees worn this way?



All over India



In Coorg district of Karnataka



In Gujarat

5. *Pagdis* and *topis* are also worn all over our country. Here are pictures of some of them. Can you find out about any other styles of turbans or *topis* and draw them here?

