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UOPEOPLE



Educating the many not the few: A model for change

Shai Reshef

Founder & President, University of the People



"Higher education shall be made
equally accessible to all,
on the basis of capacity,
by every appropriate means,
and in particular by
the progressive introduction
of free education."

The United Nations, 1966



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Access to higher education - a global challenge

- Financial constraints - low income/rising costs
- Limited Capacity - despite growth demand outstrips supply
- Geographical Constraints - campus-based approach excludes large areas
- Social restrictions - families, work, mobility





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The world's first non-profit, tuition-free, online academic institution dedicated to the global advancement and democratization of higher education.



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Our aims

- Improving ability to create increased income
- Raising social status
- Reachable by all, whether they live in a village, town or city
- Providing equal opportunity for access for men and women alike
- Positively impacting the individual, their family, community, country & the world



The platform

- Open-source technology
 - A proven online learning environment
- OpenCourseWare
 - Providing high quality program materials
- Combining academic staff and volunteers
 - More than 800 academic & mentoring volunteers



Approach

- 2 Program tracks
 - Business Administration
 - Computer Science
- Social networking
 - Peer 2 peer learning - classes, forums, networks
 - Volunteers active in classroom & forums
- Close academic supervision
 - In the classes
 - In the forums
 - In the evaluation of student portfolios



A vision becomes reality

January 2009: Concept unveiled

March 2009: UN-GAID & University of the People join forces

April 2009: Admissions open

September 2009: First term opens

- **180 students**
- **49 countries**

Indonesia, Bangladesh, United States, Ivory Coast, Benin, Spain, Kazakhstan, Germany, Brazil, Costa Rica, Australia, Vietnam...



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Our Message

A model for delivering change:

- Universities: break through physical boundaries to take quality education to the masses
- Governments: spending a fraction of budget on this model increases reach exponentially - educating the many for the cost of a few

A global education platform for economic and social growth



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Passion & Determination

“I need not the titles but the information, the training, the connectedness of peers who believe in universal education. Therefore please consider me for the University of the People.”

Michael, Australia

“Having finished my application, I didn’t dare to think about the result. I would never be accepted. What a surprise when I was told I had been accepted. I shouted so loudly my colleagues wondered what on earth had happened !”

Trang, Vietnam

“This is a wonderful opportunity – a chance to see a dream come true. The University of the People gives me the opportunity to build myself, my family and my community into something better – I know I am capable of more.”

Ali Patrik, Jordan



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