

UNLOCKING THE POWER OF AUSTRALIA'S SIKH YOUTH

**Retaining Sikh identity and
contributing to a thriving
inclusive Australia beyond 2020**





Who am I?

- ◆ Born in Bopa Rai Kalan near Nakodar in the Jalandhar District in north west Punjab, India.
- ◆ Migrated to Australia as a baby with my parents.
- ◆ Four children
- ◆ Live in an extended family on the Sunshine Coast in Qld.
- ◆ Science background



Light travels faster than sound,
That is why some people appear very
bright until you hear them speak



IDENTITY and CULTURE



YOU



FAMILY

YOU







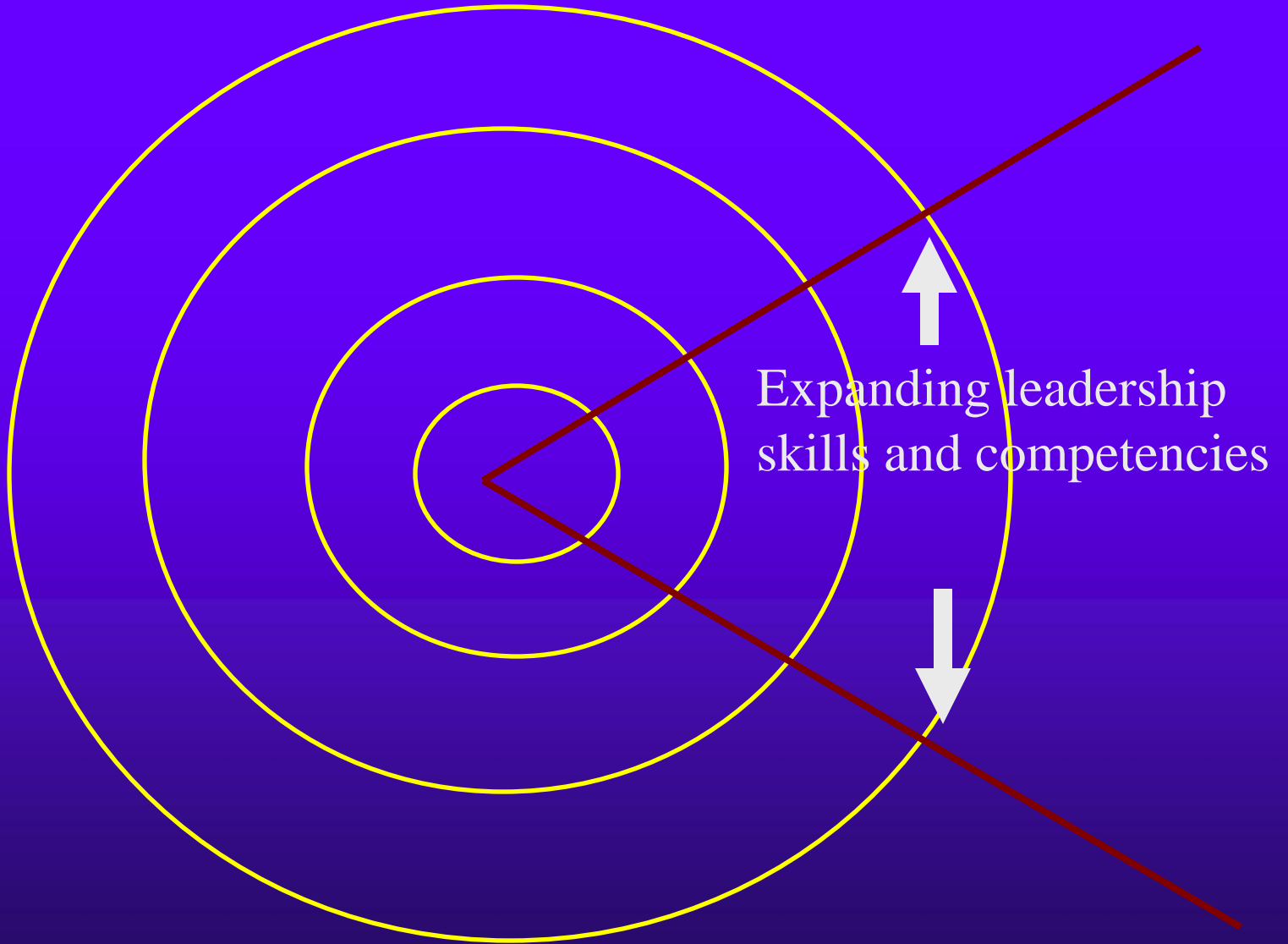
**LOCAL GURDWARA AND
COMMUNITY BROADER SIKH**

PEERS

FAMILY

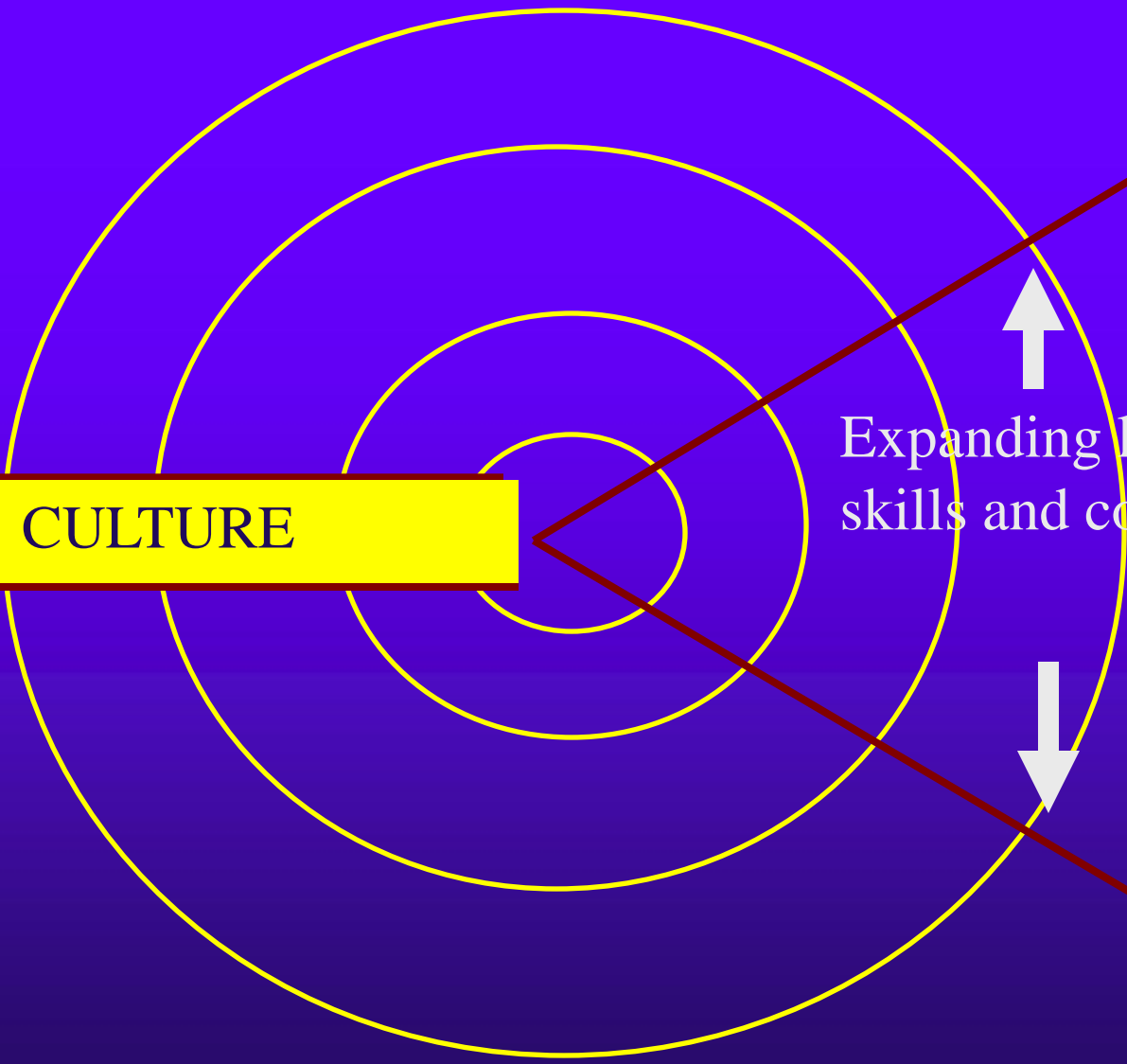
YOU

**BROADER AUSTRALIAN
PUBLIC**





CULTURE



Expanding leadership skills and competencies





CULTURE

- ◆ Culture is sustained through language, artefacts, rituals, stories, sayings,
- ◆ How are you going to ensure that this culture is consistent and the core of SYA
- ◆ Need for core values and beliefs as part of the strategic plan.



CULTURE

- Believe there is one God for all people
- Everyone is equal
- Believe in the teaching of the ten Gurus
- Non-judgemental

Expanding leadership skills and competencies



Key elements of Sikhism

- ◆ Khes (Hair), Kunga (comb), Keshara (shorts), Kara (Bracelet), Kirpan (Sword)
- ◆ Explanations
- ◆ Why have symbols
- ◆ Recognition of other religions and how does Sikhism compare other religions and to Christianity.
- ◆ How do Sikh's explain heaven



RETAINING AND PROMOTING IDENTITY

◆ CONTINUUM



CONTRIBUTION OF SIKH IDENTITY TO NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY



SUGGESTIONS

- ◆ Use a strength-based approach
- ◆ Articulate your view of Sikh identity
- ◆ Develop your plan for a network
- ◆ Define your organisational culture in terms of actions and behaviours
- ◆ Internet cafes at functions and Gurdwara



HOW?

- ◆ Start with developing database of potential members in each state/city
- ◆ Leadership programs to articulate projects in a range of categories – Promotion of the Sikh Identity, Community Engagement Project to profile Sikhs, developing/enhancing network.



Social Entrepreneur

- ◆ Social Entrepreneur

- finding the right kinds of collaboration to accelerate change.




SOCIAL CAPITAL

- ◆ Bonding social capital strengthens ties between similar groups in ways that benefit their members
- ◆ Bridging social capital builds ties between dissimilar groups in ways that have wider social benefits
- ◆ Linking social capital builds connections between groups with different levels of power in society in ways that build social cohesion

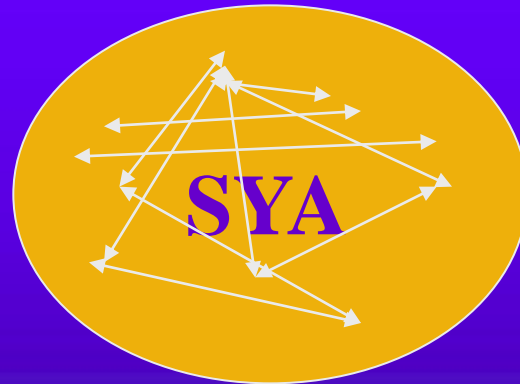
(Putnam)



Building social cohesion through education

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- ◆ Equity in outcomes a key
 - education as ‘social reproduction’ undermines cohesion
 - education that delivers opportunities can build cohesion
 - ◆ Building both forms of social capital
 - bonding is important and easiest to build
 - bridging is essential to social cohesion
 - need to build networks and trust that bridge divisions

BONDING SOCIAL CAPITAL



BRIDGING SOCIAL CAPITAL



LINKING SOCIAL CAPITAL





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