

Initiative 12

Multimodal strategies for mitigating Learning Gaps

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The School Context

Dadara Higher Secondary School is co-educational located in Hajo block of Kamrup district of Assam. It is managed by the Department of Education. It is situated in a rural area.

Challenges Faced due to School Closure

During the pandemic, due to school closure, Dadara Higher Secondary School faced challenges with students in the primary section. They were most affected by the school closure. Many students at the primary level even forgot the alphabets. It was also difficult to coordinate with parents who were not aware of the pandemic. Many students did not have mobile phones/internet connections for effective online classes. The issue of misuse of mobile phones by students was also raised. Students became lazy & lethargic. The School campus was overgrown and deserted.

Innovative Leadership Practices for mitigating learning gaps

Innovative practices adopted by the school that Mid-Day- Meals (foodstuff) were distributed with the help of the teachers and community members. Sometimes it was handed over to guardians to distribute MDM on fixed dates and following strict COVID19 protocol. Assignments were given up to class VIII. Guardians had to collect the assignments from school and then on fixed dates they had to submit that in school; which was later checked by the teachers and feedback was given. In this way, guardians became involved with the teaching- learning process. Class-wise groups were formed and regular online classes were started through WhatsApp and Google Meet. As online classes were a new concept, teachers were trained through webinars. Most of the students did not have mobile phones. So, whenever it was possible, teachers of the locality visited some students personally. For giving teaching inputs, the school had a call center. The phone numbers of all students /guardians (class-wise) were available with a particular teacher, and whenever it was necessary we could contact students accordingly. This facility came to use during the lockdown to facilitate the learning process.

Collaboration with Community and Parents to Ensure Student Learning

Books were distributed among students at the beginning of the session with the collaboration of SMC, the community, and teachers.

Way Forward

The school management committee plans to conduct guardian meetings in advance so that in the future they can cooperate in the teaching-learning process. Lessons of the primary classes are to be prepared in such a way that guardians can carry on the process in case of a lockdown. For the senior classes wherever, possible basic concepts and explanations have been completed in advance and the notes will be given later so that in case of lockdown students do not suffer. School plans to start a community learning center in the catchment area where local resource persons will deliver lessons following COVID protocol. A community awareness program will be organized with the help of SMC, the Community & parents/families. The school also develop some creative activity to make the students involve in the class after the lockdown.