

Initiative 17

Creation of e-content by Teachers to mitigate learning gaps

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The School Context

Aarohi Model Senior Secondary School is located in Ramgarh Pandwa is a Village in Kalayat Tehsil in Kaithal District of Haryana. The school is managed by the Department of Education. It is situated in a rural area. The school is co-educational. The school has been awarded with National Swachh Vidyalaya Puruskar twice in a row (2016-17 & 2017-18).

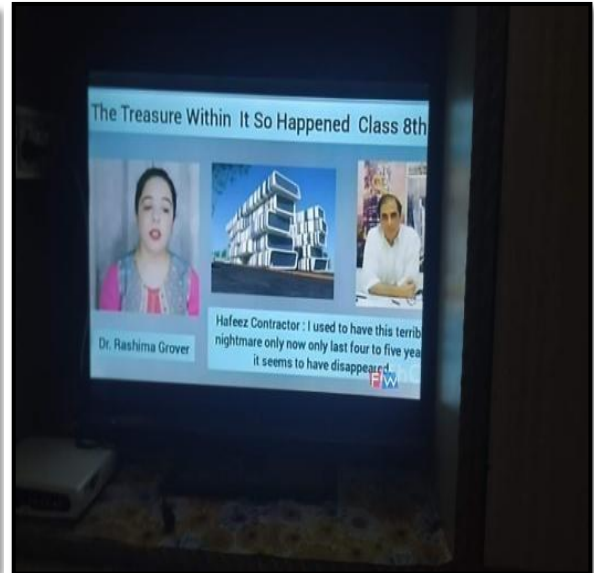


Challenges faced due to School Closure

The Covid-19 pandemic created a lot of challenges in the Indian education system. At such a time, understanding these challenges is key to solving them for better crisis management in education. E-learning has been on the rise during the pandemic and is being heralded as the future of education. However, while online pedagogy does a great job of supplementing offline education, it does not serve as the latter's replacement. This holds



especially true in a developing economy such as India for several reasons. The government and educational institutions do want to facilitate a return to offline pedagogy. There were enormous key challenges that the school faced during lockdown (Covid 19) in the year 2020- 2021.



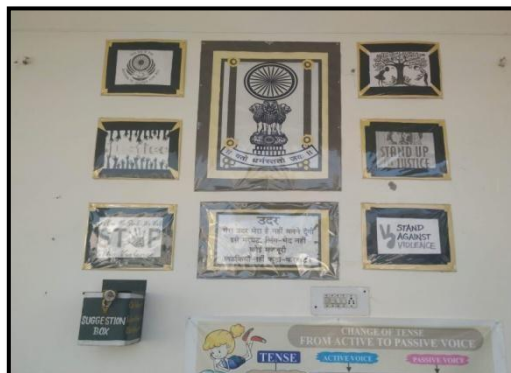
1. **Online studies:** To begin with, the digital medium can't replicate the interpersonal interactions that schools facilitate by bringing together young children from different backgrounds and cultures.
2. **Access to digital facilities:** A significant percentage of learners do not have the same access to digital facilities. This disparity leads to issues with consistency and quality of learning.
3. **Deferred Learning:** Interacting with their peers between classes also help students develop their social skills essential to their holistic growth and development.
4. **Lack of concentration & Motivation to Learn:** In the long run, distance learning has led to a decline in children's motivation to learn and concentration in studies.
5. **Increased Difficulty level on Digital Platform:** Online teaching is much more difficult. It is easier for us to understand in this way when we come to school, because in this way, when something is not clear to us, we can ask, we can go up to the board to complete
6. **Pandemic Challenges faced by pupils:** The vast range of experiences that children and young people have amplified due to pandemic such as; challenging home environments, hunger and lack of nutrition, lack of confidence, lack of vital source of support in managing the stresses and loneliness. They may feel apprehensive about returning to school and reconnecting with their peers.
7. **Behavioral Problems:** In the dearth of face-to-face education, students severely suffered from serious behavior problems such as anxiety manifested as restlessness, fatigue, trouble concentrating, irritability, muscle tension, trouble sleeping (insomnia), being easily upset or agitated, irritable or over-reactive, depression /anger during digital learning, lack of interest or involvement, and impatient.
8. **Transitions of Students:** As pupils' education continues to be affected by the pandemic, with various restrictions in place, the usual preparation that would be done with pupils

transitioning to the next session will be lacking. This will be particularly challenging for those moving from primary to secondary and secondary to senior secondary levels.

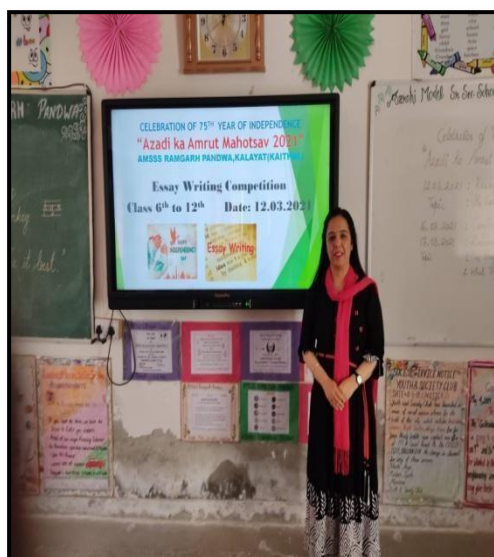
Innovative Leadership Practices for Mitigating Learning Gaps

Innovations (along with teachers and community) brought about to ensure school functioning and student learning as a school leader

Schools have to handle multiple roles due to COVID19. Updating the subject to new demands, correcting materials, content presentations, managing field trips as well as bringing in new creative approaches to meet the present educational trends are a few among them.



1. **Class What's App Groups:** Every class in-charge created an online What's App group of his respective class along with principal and subject teachers as members for sharing necessary information.
2. **Creation of e-content:** Almost all subject teachers created their own e-content in audio-visual mode. School provided every kind of support and resources available.
3. **Google Classroom:** Google classrooms were arranged on a regular basis to clarify doubts and revising syllabus of all subjects. Monitoring was done by the principal in virtual classrooms to interact with students as well as teachers.
4. **Online Activities:** School encouraged students in participating in online activities like; Quizzes, Essay writing, Solving Grid Puzzles, via Google forms and other media conducted at school, district, state and national levels organized by the Education Department and Ministry of Human Resource Department.
5. **Recreational Activities:** During pandemic, school played a vital role in channelizing the energy of students by arranging several recreational activities through online mode on different occasions. Taking selfie with a newly planted sapling on Environment Day, Selfie with Mom on Mother's Day, Yoga Day



Celebration, Photography Contest, best out of Waste, Clay Modelling, Toys making, Celebration of National days and Festivals and many more.

6. **Appreciation Certificates:** Students were appreciated for their efforts by awarding them with Online Appreciation Certificates.
7. **Remedial Classes:** Remedial classes were arranged for students in the school keeping in view the official directions, guidelines and precaution ones of COVID.



Collaboration with Community and Parents to Ensure Student Learning

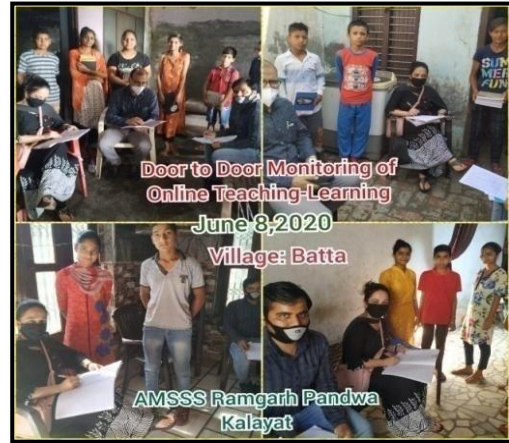
School and teachers collaborated with SMC, community members and parents/families to facilitate learning of students during lockdown. As a school leader, several innovations in combating unheard educational ordeals were taken up along with teachers, SMC, community members and parents.

1. **Distribution of Masks, Gloves, sanitizers & Food:** School Management Committee (SMC) and health workers played crucial role during pandemic as they joined hands with school in distributing free masks, gloves, sanitizers and free food to corona victims.
2. **Online Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM):** School organized online PTMs to ensure



connectivity with parents in order to discuss the status and pursuance of studies of their wards. Online PTMs proved boon to those parents also who could not attend physical meetings in the past due to some unavoidable circumstances.

3. **Visits to Homes:** All the teachers were divided into groups to visit different villages to pay visits to all students' houses in order to check their notebooks, providing them library books and exchanging books.
4. **Health and Hygiene:** Our teaching and non-teaching staff went out to spread awareness regarding pandemic, social distancing, wearing of masks, sanitizing, and cleanliness, healthy life-style, eating habits, vaccination and other precautions.
5. **Shiksha Mitr:** In case of non-availability of internet and smart phones at home, neighbors and relatives were assigned as **'Shiksha Mitr'** of students to keep a track of their studies.





Way Forward

There are various challenges and prospective solutions for a return to physical classrooms. However, going back to school will not be plain sailing. As a school head, it was needed to ensure that the return to physical learning does not jeopardise the health and safety of the students. A phase-wise repopulation of the classrooms, with staggered and rotational rosters, could be a prospective solution; only a given number of students, in keeping with social distancing norms, would be present in the classroom on any given day, with the remaining students attending via live



chat rooms. This would help with a safer transition to an offline-led learning module without increasing the number of daily classes assigned to educators.

Plan to collaborate with SMC, community and parents/families to facilitate continuous learning of students in the year 2021-2022

SMC, community and parents/families have been motivated to collaborate to facilitate continuous learning of the students after going through two waves of the pandemic, two lock-downs, coming back to school and preparing for future endeavors. As the new variant of Corona is still expected in the near future, educational institutions have to make essential arrangements to face every situation. The need for proper planning is as essential for the conduct of successful face-to-face teaching



learning sessions as for online ones.

1. Planning has been done to take adequate measures to facilitate ICT infrastructure and Orientation for teachers (laptops/tablets, connectivity etc.), encourage and lead them in using different ICT tools in teaching-learning and assessment.
2. Class-wise instant messaging groups may be formed for smooth communication with teachers, parents and students. For lower classes, the parents may communicate on behalf of students.
3. Adoption of digital learning for making it less burdensome for students and their parents. Avoiding setting unrealistic goals for students.
4. A systematic timetable (with detailed online and offline activities) for each class may be planned in consultation with all the teachers.
5. Children exposed to digital technologies/gadgets for a longer time are prone to severe health issues. Hence seating with digital gadgets for longer hours or their excess use can be avoided by designing age-appropriate schedules of digital education.
6. If possible, parents and guardians may also be involved in selection of appropriate resources for e-resources and ICT tools for their children.
7. Use Instant Messaging/Chat groups/emails involving parents (wherever required) for sharing important information, resources, suggestions and follow up activities.
8. Teachers may share e-content with students and parents and guide them how to use those contents using available gadgets at home.
9. Provide time to time feedback on the responses and performance of students in the assigned tasks.
10. Students, Teachers, and Parents may be oriented on Do's and Don'ts of cyber safety and security.



Conference Presentation

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ZaV-gOckl_b_vTM0kaUskf2KNBkngfdA/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103705547766060522301&rtpof=true&sd=true