

Initiative 23

Utilising multiple mediums to mitigate Learning gaps during the pandemic

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The School Context

HSS Chursoo is located in Awantipora block of Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir. The school is managed by the Department of Education and is situated in a rural area. The school is co-educational with classes up to XII.

Challenges Faced due to School Closure

The pandemic caused schools forced to shut down during the lockdown period and the transition of students and teachers to online teaching-learning. Thinking constructively about students learning in such a situation, the school head discussed with staff and other stakeholders to frame strategies for a realistic exercise. The key areas of consideration were owning students and reaching them in Covid-19, assembling students to impart knowledge during Covid-19, monitoring and recognizing the performance of teachers in virtual classes, establishing duties and responsibilities of teachers/ parents/SMC and other stakeholders in the spike of Covid 19 cases, monitoring and preserving privacy during online classes, duties of appropriate persons for the transaction of quality material, duties of the appropriate person to ensure



attendance of students in online and community classes.



Innovative Leadership Practices for Mitigating Learning Gaps

Each teacher in the school was advised to adopt at least 20 students from the institution during Covid-19. The teachers showed great interest and attended the assigned students in online classes. Besides, the teachers discussed with parents to ensure their interest in the learning of their wards. This resulted in the accountability of parents as well as students and accordingly the attendance of the students increased progressively. The parents were personally contacted to reach the students and ensure the transaction of quality education to students. All these efforts resulted in assembling students to impart knowledge during Covid-19. Another effort to ensure the timely distribution of study materials by entrusting the duties and responsibilities to teachers, parents, SMC members, and other stakeholders in the spike of Covid- 19. Apart from the above efforts, principles were framed for enhancing attendance and quality learning in online classes. The principles are listed below –

- Timetable of audio video and online classes
- Watching audio and video programmes
- Enhancing student capabilities and work-related skills
- Using student experience as a learning source
- Encouraging active and cooperative learning
- Promoting responsibility in leaning
- Evaluation of teaching and learning
- Establishing congruence between learning and teaching activities

To ensure uninterrupted education during covid the staff and community were sensitized. For this, the school head organized meetings and discussions with staff, parents, and community members to seek suggestions to move ahead with education transactions in covid -19. The following steps were considered-

1. Owing students and community irrespective of school category, religion, caste, etc.
2. Ensuring possibilities in reaching every student of the community, by motivating and inspiring the teachers and human resources of the community.
3. Conduct weekly and fortnightly virtual meetings with staff, students, parents, and community members to ensure the sustainability of learning activities and the transaction of study materials.
4. Segregating boys and girls students of Secondary and Higher Secondary classes to ensure privacy during going to the virtual class.
5. Establishing community class in the communities having no or poor internet connectivity and no android phones.
6. Dispatching study materials, assignments, and assessment papers to the doorsteps of students.
7. Organising online painting, music competitions and essay competitions, and debates in the online mode of learning.



Collaboration with Community and Parents to Ensure Student Learning

The role of teachers was extraordinary in lockdown to ensure the learning of students as the local teachers of the community were divided into small groups for attending habitation with few students to keep them busy with learning activities. The past practices reflect that community classes proved better results as compared to online classes and accordingly this initiative is possible only by real-time involvement of the community. To ensure this the school leader has created a strong bond with the community as s/he personally entered the virtual class as well as attended the community schooling physically. A meeting with parents and community members was also held during normal schooling and informed them about their role in lockdown for imparting learning to the students. They have been made aware of what role they must play to get maximum benefit for their children out of the teachers in lock down situations. They were sensitized to ensure the perfect attendance of students and SMC members for the education of their wards.

Way Forward

As a past practice, the school head made definite preparations to face Covid -19 challenges in the year 2021-2022 as the whole staff got vaccinated and ensure the availability of materials like masks, sanitizers, and devices like oximeters, and thermal scanning devices. Besides, the school campus stands sanitized on a need basis. More staff ensuring the presence of books etc. of their own as well as students prohibited in sharing of materials. Besides, the community is taken into consideration to provide a helping hand in parting uninterrupted education. Sensitize SMC, community, and parents to ensure student learning in Covid 19.

Conference Presentation

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1GAdQijgLakCeKWFjevVHJtEStqkKvjL/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103705547766060522301&rtpof=true&sd=true>