

Initiative 25

Capacity building of teachers for utilization of digital resources in conducting Online classes

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The School Context

Govt. Higher Secondary School Bhalra is located in Bhaderwah block of Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. The school is managed by the Department of Education and is situated in a rural area. The school is coeducational with classes up to XII.

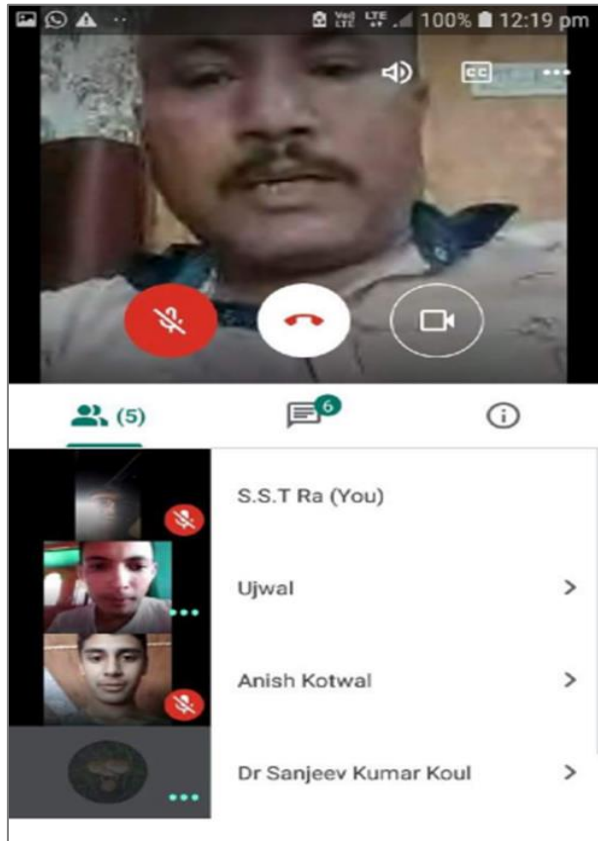
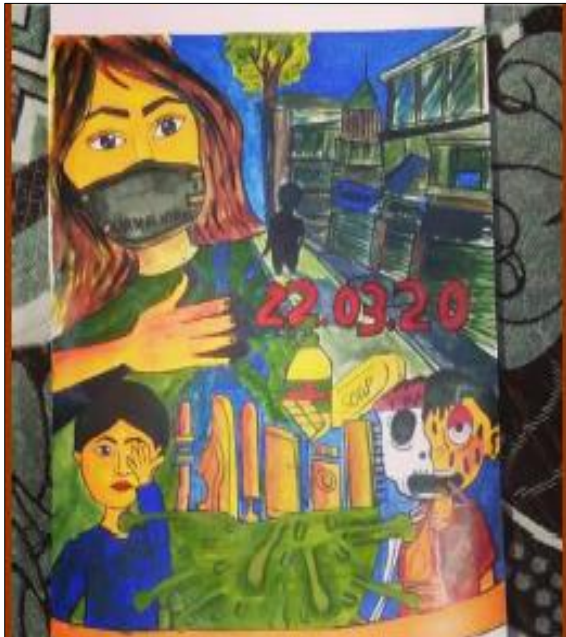
Challenges Faced due to School Closure

During the pandemic across the globe, the whole world is witnessing the ill effects of Covid19 virus. Everything has changed in these two years which affects the studies of students. The school is far-flung and the resources for online learning were not available. Due to this, it was difficult for the students to go for online learning. The majority of students of this institution belong to weaker sections of society. So, it was difficult for each student to own a smartphone/Laptop. The non-availability of smartphones/Laptops makes it very difficult for students to cope with their studies. The poorest internet connection in some areas also added more difficulty to continue their studies. The unfamiliarity of technology among the teachers and students was also one of the problems that the institution faced. A lot of difficulties were faced in delivering study material to every student. Carrying out assessments and evaluations was also a big challenge for the staff.

Innovative Leadership Practices for Mitigating Learning Gaps

Some methodologies/techniques were adopted for the smooth functioning of the school. As the teachers were trained by the initiatives taken by DSE Jammu for online teaching, preparation of PPTS, videos, PDFs, etc. through virtual E-learning workshops held across the district in general and Bhaderwah Zone in particular. Students were taught how to use technology for online classes. All the teachers got familiarised and trained with online tools related to teaching-learning. Even some of the teachers created their videos on social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook pages, etc to impart education to the school students as well as students outside the school. They conducted and hosted an E-Learning workshop initiated by DSE Jammu to train the teachers of this institution as well as a virtual training workshop in training to access various platforms like EPathsala, VidyaDhan, Diksha app, igot.gov.in, Swayam Prabha, etc. All the activities

assigned by the Director of School Education were implemented at ground level online/offline with the coordination of staff and SMCs members. Various lectures on several topics through AIR station (101FM) Bhaderwah were delivered. Even Mid-Meals (Dry rice) have also been distributed among the students at their doorsteps with proper SOPs being followed. Head of the institution looked after every aspect of the institution also. So, in this connection, the whole institution got sanitized from time to time.



Collaboration with Community and Parents to Ensure Student Learning

Timely virtual meetings with parents were conducted to get feedback from parents regarding the studies of their children. Virtual meets were organized with the SMCs and senior citizens to seek their cooperation in carrying out teaching-learning during the pandemic time.



Community Mobilisation Programme with SMCs Members

Way Forward

The focus would be on the guidelines of the Ministries of Health and Education and JKUT to impart education to the students. Besides, some remedies will be taken for the smooth conduct of the teaching-learning process. If the situation permits to take offline or community classes, the SOP will be followed to wear masks, use sanitizer, and classroom sensitization. If the situation worsens due to the Covid-19 variant Omicron, the focus would be on imparting online education by using various tools and technologies. However, the majority of the students belong to poor families and they don't have access to smartphones. Study material will be provided to children belonging to poor families at their doorsteps with proper SOPs. It is submitted to higher authorities for kind consideration for monitoring the online classes.

The cluster head also has the responsibility to monitor the online classes. The teachers must use these tools to make teaching interactive, meaningful and productive. They should encourage the students to use these applications and also tell them how to use these applications through videos. The teachers themselves should adapt to emerging

technologies used for e-learning. The cluster head should depute a monitor/technical team to check the authenticity of online classes/offline/community classes. The technical team member should be added to the WhatsApp group of each class. He should randomly check the online classes and submit the report weekly to higher authorities. In case a teacher finds a network problem, the cluster head is responsible to provide him with an internet facility at the institution. If some students do not have smartphones, the teachers should provide them with peer help and study material with proper SOPs.

Conference Presentation

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_r_zVIGXohUJJ2j_FtyR71dnrzGaDbdz/view?usp=sharing