

## **Initiative 33**

### **Leading School in times of Crises: Initiative of Voice Calls**

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#### **The School Context**

Z.P. Marathi School Bodwad is located in Muktainagar block of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. It is managed by the local body and is situated in rural area. The school consists of Grades from 1 to 5. It is a co-educational school. Marathi medium is used for instructions in the school.

#### **Challenges faced due to School Closure**

Initially, there were no tools available for online teaching, parents and students had problems using various devices, no recharge in mobiles, going to every street in the village to handle mobiles on loudspeakers as well as how to use various apps, how to open test link, how to find videos on YouTube. The children did not have proper masks, sanitizers, network problems, had to keep exercise books at grocery stores, had to walk through the village, and had to walk through the temple loudspeakers to observe the social distance. March, April, and May were very difficult for students, parents, and teachers. After the government ordered the closure of schools in March due to the outbreak of corona, a major problem arose in the education of the students. At that time, the lockdown was very severe and it was difficult to meet the actual students. There was a WhatsApp group of only 45 out of 185 parents. Suggestions were posted on the group regarding studies and corona awareness. They started discussing their condition, how to take care of parents about corona disease, and the symptoms of the disease through voice calls. At the beginning, the emphasis was more on counselling rather than studies. Gradually mobile numbers were collected, considered the available tools, and started the work by planning accordingly.

#### **Innovative Leadership Practices for Mitigating Learning Gaps**

There were many difficulties at the beginning but the school head successfully used the following means to overcome the problem and reach 100% of the students in my school during the lock down period. Creation of WhatsApp group was one way to reach students. In school, school head created a WhatsApp group for parents three years ago, this is very useful in the lock-down period. It took 15 days for the coordination to come

but gradually the students started sending the study photos to the group. School staff checked and started posting again to class group.

Following were some of the innovative practices followed in school:

1. Voice calling- Guided the students who have a simple mobile by making group calls through Geo Voice Calling. Guided the elements on the call. Counselling of parents and students through voice calls 3 days a week.
2. Use of TV and Radio: - Guided the parents to listen to the audio of Tillimili on TV, Gyan Ganga on Geo TV and we Learn English on the radio channel Geo Sawan. About 30% of the students are benefiting from this series.
3. Abhyasamitra- In order to guide the students in each street, a well-educated person from home or in the neighbourhood was selected as the study friend and he called the study friend every day and asked about the problems of the students and guided them accordingly.
4. Use of project learning- For offline teaching, students were allowed to project according to the class-wise subject, such as make a list of plants in the area, which of them are suitable for medicinal plants.
5. Use of audio trolley- Going to every street in the village with the help of audio trolley cordless mic guided the parents and students and informed them about various educational apps, and how to study online and offline.
6. Use of Educational Apps- Students have benefited a lot from the educational apps for self-study - Diksha App, Read Along, Home Study, LOs smart Q, Game Mathematics, and Puzzle Game, students have started self-study using these Apps. Created a pdf of this app and sent it to parents
7. Distribution of exercise books- Students from all classes who do not have any kind of device were allotted exercise books based on the component-wise first session syllabus. Students are checking the teachers by releasing the exercise books.
8. Basic Address Magazine- Worksheets on Marathi, English and Mathematics have been prepared and given to the students for the practice of verbal skills on the number of students, so the students started practicing reading, writing, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, addition.
9. Use of self-generated QR code- The school has created a self-generated QR code for the 1st to 5th grade subject component, including QR codes of effective lessons of 6 lessons on one page, and digital study of the entire first session on 2 pages, saving students' time to search for videos.
10. The school on the temple for the last two months, the students have been invited to the temple in stages and taught in groups. Some of the students went home and were guided.
11. During the Corona period, educational materials were also distributed to the disabled students of the school and they were educated at the homes of the students. The financial status of the families who migrated to the village was very low. Educational materials were made available to the students from such families at their own cost.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68wPUm3ExbA&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1\\_IxSjU\\_p\\_zQ&index=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68wPUm3ExbA&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1_IxSjU_p_zQ&index=5)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqOhe3mfx24&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1\\_IxSjU\\_p\\_zQ&index=13](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqOhe3mfx24&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1_IxSjU_p_zQ&index=13)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68wPUm3ExbA&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1\\_IxSjU\\_p\\_zQ&index=35](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68wPUm3ExbA&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1_IxSjU_p_zQ&index=35)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqOhe3mfx24&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1\\_IxSjU\\_p\\_zQ&index=43](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqOhe3mfx24&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1_IxSjU_p_zQ&index=43)



## Collaboration with Community and Parents to ensure Student Learning

The SMC meeting was held on 15th June 2019 after the commencement of this year's academic session as it has a lot of experience of last year's covid-19 period at the beginning of the academic year 2021-22. The following planning was done on how to educate 100 per cent students in this academic session

1. Out of 187 students in the school, 65 students have



Android mobiles available and they decided to take daily class online from school

through zoom and Google meet as well as daily component wise study on WhatsApp group.

2. It was decided to teach the students who do not have a mobile phone under the trees in the school premises as well as in the assembly hall of the temple by following the corona rules. All students received masks and sanitizers from the school fund.
3. Plan to give Xerox to all the students by preparing the workbook as per the monthly syllabus.
4. SMC provided free educational materials to the students whose financial status is poor.
5. Teachers should keep in touch with the students through voice calls and inquire about the study.
6. SMC, teachers and parents helped to reach 100% of the students, selected educated youth from the village as study friends.

During the academic year 2021-22, the School Management Committee met on 15th June 2021 to discuss the online and offline teaching of students and also to use the available materials online and directly following the Corona rules as per the instructions of the government. It was unanimously decided in the meeting to teach the boys and girls in stages for at least 2 hours in a day. SMC has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing



masks and sanitizers to the students for strict adherence to the Corona Rules. Proceedings were initiated. Excellent response was given by the children through WhatsApp, the students are taught by making a direct voice call. The 45-day Setu syllabus given by the government from 1st July was taken as per the above plan. It was distributed by making a print of the Setu syllabus. Parents, SMCs, Teacher Friend School Headmasters made valuable contribution in this regard. SMC members themselves went to the homes of the students to create awareness about Corona. The teachers and the headmaster visited each parent and counselled the students about Corona. For the last one and a half months, the children have benefited a lot by going to the homes of the actual children and teaching them in groups at the temple as well as in the school premises.

# Conference Presentation

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UgRDof5Bt1GrRCe96sfM-RKY3I\\_g1DcF/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103705547766060522301&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UgRDof5Bt1GrRCe96sfM-RKY3I_g1DcF/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103705547766060522301&rtpof=true&sd=true)