Initiative 38

Shikshak Mitra Initiative: Mitigating the Learning Gaps

Gajanan W. Chaudhari

Zilla Parishad Primary School, Post Dapori, Tq. Morshi
Dist. Amravati, Maharashtra

zpdapori@gmail.com

The School Context

Zilla Parishad Primary School is located in Dapori village, Morshi Taluka of Amravati district of Maharashtra. The school is managed by the Local authority and is situated in a rural area. School consists of Grades from 1 to 7. It is co-educational school.

Challenges faced due to School Closure

Schools were closed during the Corona period but teachers had to face many difficulties to continue the teaching-learning process. With such a large number of students, the problem of space required for teaching and learning was created. In order to continue the education of the students, the headmaster of the school called a meeting of the teachers, educationists, chairman of the school management committee, members, sarpanch of the gram panchayat, following the rules of Covid 19. Various issues were discussed in the meeting to continue the education of the students.

Innovative Leadership Practices for Mitigating Learning Gaps

As a result of the meetings held, the highly educated youth of the village agreed to teach the students of the village. All the youth of the village took initiative to keep the students in the stream of education and provide quality education. Those who have a good grasp of mathematics, science, English, taught that subject. Alumni of the school were appointed as 'study guard' and 'search light'. With such a large number of students, the problem of space required for teaching and learning was created. To solve this problem, the village sarpanch, school management committee chairman and members made arrangements to teach at community temples, other temples in the village, prayer temples, etc. through shikshak-Mitra. Some youth of the village called students to their home and taught them. Each shikshak-Mitra was given the responsibility of forming a group of five to seven students and continuing the teaching-learning process. This created a good bond between the students of the village and the villagers and shikshak-Mitra and helped to create affection for the school and the teachers. All the villagers came forward to help the students in their education during the covid-19 period.

The Gram Panchayat of the village and the school management committee of the school provided invaluable assistance and help from time to time to continue the education during the Corona period and both these factors were in line with the school. The school is still functioning in the villages. The highly educated youth of the village took the initiative to teach as shikshak-Mitra so as not to harm the education of the children in the village. Ms. Masane is a young engineer. This girl played an invaluable role in teaching the students. Some young people have BSc, MSC, M.A., M.COM, education. They showed their interest in teaching and helped to keep the students in the stream of education.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m27N6dBMu9U&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1 J xSjbU p zQ&index=46

Collaboration with Community and Parents to ensure Student Learning

School should go to the village! And the village should come to school! 'A total of Rs. 1,27,000 / - was received through community participation in the school. Kumari Kadambari Chaudhary, a second-class girl, set an example by raising her birthday money for school. A computer set, a Xerox machine, a colour printer, and a printer were purchased at the school through community participation. All of the above made it easy to develop homework, design, draw a weekly paper. In this way all the villagers helped the school directly and indirectly. The Gram Panchayat of the village and the school management committee of the school provided invaluable assistance and help from time to time to continue the education during the Corona period and both these factors were in line with the school. The school committee and the sarpanch have done a great job to continue the education during the Corona period. The school is still functioning in the villages. School teacher stood behind the Shikshak Mitra. The role of village women is important in the overall quality management of the school. Women of the village were involved in education process to continue their education because they are called 'Ideal managers.' The women of the village helped their children in learning and worked with the teachers and Shikshak Mitra of the village.











Way Forward

Youth of the village has played important role of teaching as shikshak-Mitra during these times of crisis. Just like Ms. Masane the school plans to motivate and welcome youth to come forward and share their learning with them. Similarly, women of the village will be encouraged to come up and monitor and help their children's education at home. This way, villagers can develop together and help each other.