

Initiative 39

Using Multimedia Platforms for ensuring effective learning of students

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The School Context

Zillah Parishad School is located in Adivali village of Kalyan Tehsil in Thane district of Maharashtra. The school is situated in a rural area and is managed by the local body. It is a co-educational school.

Challenges faced due to School Closure

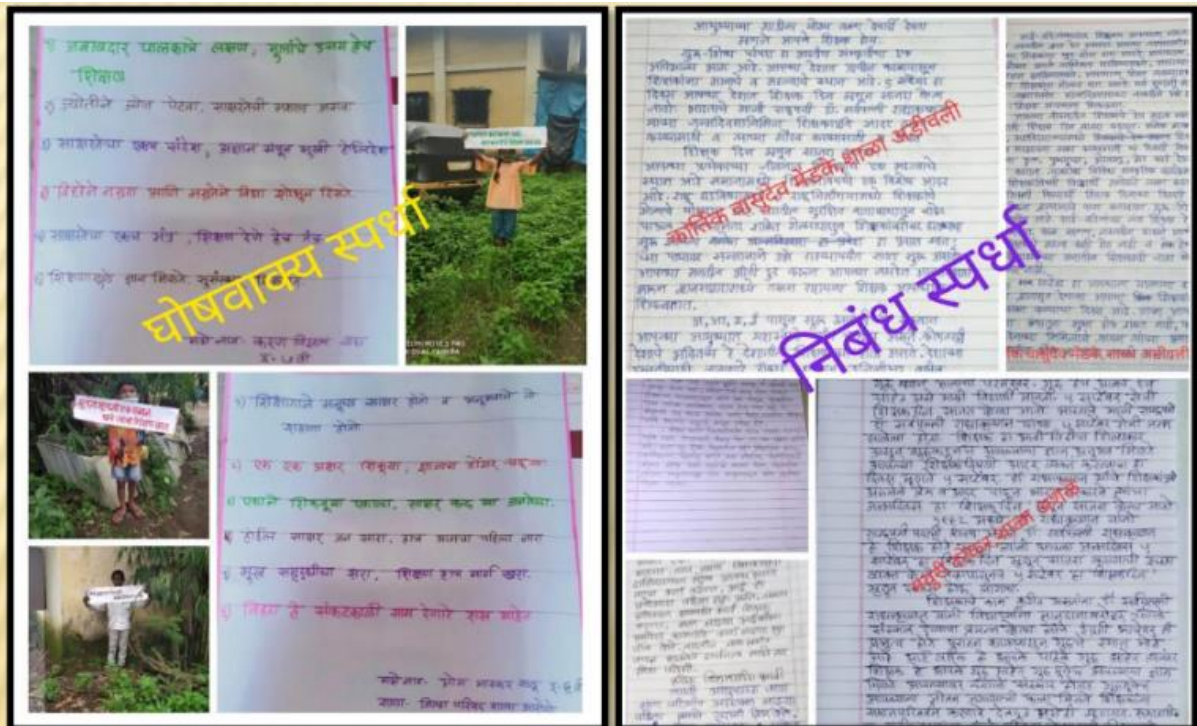
Every crisis comes with deep challenges and opportunities for transformation. So six female teachers at Zilha parishad school Adivali decided to involve students in the teaching-learning process without the additional burden of study with various online - offline joyful activities.

They had many challenges to face during the lockdown (Covid-19) in the year 2020-2021 such as students' accessibility to information technology, to engage the students in remote learning, to support students to complete assessments and tests and to ensure high standards of hygiene through regular hand sanitising, deep cleaning and avoiding students sharing study material and promote social distancing as far as possible by splitting into smaller groups and keeping these separate from one other at the time of offline teaching. They found that students made no progress while learning at home. That was learning loss due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Innovative Leadership Practices for Mitigating Learning Gaps

The Covid crisis is an opportunity to reimagine the role of school leaders as true drivers of learning and change in their schools and communities. School head's relationship with the parents of students has become stronger and healthier after talking with them about their well-being and studies. Parents are showing more responsibility in their student's education. Relations between parents and teachers have become stronger. School leader decided to fill the gap between parents-teachers and students, through promoting communications, forming a school WhatsApp group named "Shikshak palak samuh Adivali." School head also form each class wise Whats App groups of standard first to standard eight. Class teacher of each standard shared content and assignment through her class WhatsApp group to engage students in active learning. When Students completed their

homework they sent a photocopy of his/her assignment through class WhatsApp group. School head's vision to unify stakeholder teachers around a clear direction, purpose, and rationale for teaching learning process. All teachers are consistently involved in that visioning, selection processes and implementation. As a school leader always encourages teachers when implementing online and offline teaching-learning processes with current initiatives and documenting evidence of impact on target outcomes. Mastery-based learning helps students, teachers, and families better understand students' individual learning progress. Wellness sessions were conducted and opportunities for students were created to have "real talk" about what's going on in the world, talks were scheduled for mental health support by phone calls and on online platforms using virtual meetings to ensure students are familiar and comfortable.



In this pandemic situation we kept students in the flow of education and to get them excellent teaching learning resources. Our cluster Bhal organised an innovative program 'have Tyala Shikshan' i.e. Online Education to All. This project emphasizes scholarship lectures, demonstrations of experiments in updated laboratories. During the lockdown period where some of our prime concerns, daily online lectures were taken with a fixed schedule, students joined these



lectures on Google meet. Those students who could not join online, class recording of online lectures were sent to them to watch and learn from the given resources. This innovative project motivated students as well as teachers. In this way the school is trying to keep all the students in the flow of education in a pandemic situation.



Collaboration with Community and Parents to ensure Student Learning

“Consistency is more important than perfection and lack of consistency can bring a lack of interest”! The covid-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide leading to the near total closure of schools, colleges and universities. In this current situation the Maharashtra government executed the “Shala Band Pan Shikshan Suru” project which helped a lot of students. School also did their best with the help of all pillars of society. Major help was taken from SMC members to tackle the problem faced by school and students also. Arrangement was made for a meeting of SMC members and reputed village people Mrs. Manohar Bhane, Mrs. Vijay Bhane and others. They have agreed to help in many ways like counselling of parents giving free Wi-Fi connection to poor students having android mobiles. A lot of students don't have access to personal laptops or computers, and phone screens are not conducive to long learning hours. Some students don't have smart phones and internet data packs. Authorities provided aid in the form of providing stationary to them. Parents also cooperated by making available their mobiles for study purposes. Parents having smart phones help their children and their classmates to use their mobiles. Parents played vital role during this pandemic.

Parent meetings of each class were taken inform them about learning and explain how all can help students with proper coordination and cooperation. Parents

helped students to make mobile phones available during the time of lectures. WhatsApp groups were formed by each class and shared all study material and video links to understand concepts of particular topics. Parents also give positive feedback and interesting responses during and after the lecture. Parents were also satisfied with the guidance imparted by all the teachers. In this way all came together in the time and did our best imparting education to all students. Alone we can do so little, together we do so much.



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Online platforms were used by teachers for real-time lessons on virtual meetings, Zoom meeting, and google meet etc. Teachers' prepared to support digital learning and online support services for parents and students. Staff culture can support collaboration when it is driven by trust, social capital, communication and equity. Sometimes there are real risks because many students sit and quietly watch videos, playing online games. But our teachers engaged families in taking on increased responsibilities for student learning at home.

During the pandemic, remote learning became a lifeline for education but the opportunities that digital technologies offer go well beyond a stopgap solution during a crisis. Teachers and students to access specialised materials. The teacher thought about the most recent learning activity they had set for students. Teachers provided a variety of learning activities. They provided self-educational videos by YouTube links, to access content supplied by external providers, to complete a worksheet, to read from textbooks, storybook or to conduct project work, research or independent study. Consolidate previous learning or revision including completing past test/exam papers, personal guidance through home visits and via an online conversation.

School closures have a real impact on all students, especially on the most vulnerable students to face additional barriers. Children from low-income and single-parent families and those with special education needs suffer by being deprived of physical learning opportunities, social, economic and emotional support available in schools and extra services such as mid-day meals.

Way Forward

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact all aspects of lives. In this situation the school executive has many joyful activities to keep each child in the learning process. The school teachers imparted education through E- learning like Google meet, online lectures, practical experiments, various online competitions like allocation, essay writing, drawing, poster making on social issues such as "Maze Kutumb Mazi Jababdari". In order to face the Covid-19 challenges in the year 2021-22. One of the biggest challenges for us right now is enrolment and the attendance of out of school children due to various reasons associated with COVID impact. School took help from SMC committee members and communities. Main approach to school reopening must be prepared in ways that the needs or the impact on well-being of students and teachers, social, emotional, physical, mental health is taken care of. Reengaging students and providing access to a safe and inclusive learning environment is the aim.

Following are some measures focussed upon by school and will be taken care of in future. Communication with students and parents can increase enrolment and attendance. For this purpose, reminders were sent via SMS of banners, information campaigns, and personal visits to student's houses. Parents meeting and their counselling regarding school teaching and

learning process online and offline classes has been done by our teachers. Cleaning, disinfecting & hygiene support the safe reopening of schools. To keep social distance we called 50% students offline and 50% to online learning resources and vice versa.

Schools have been sanitized through the KDMC health department. Hand wash stations and hand sanitizer are made available to students. As per government guidelines Schools should follow proper disinfecting and sanitizing classrooms and common areas. Students and staff should be encouraged to wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer regularly. Everyone would be told to wear face masks that cover the nose and mouth. Face masks are effective and safe to wear for long periods of time such as during the school day.

Through online and offline resources, the flow of education will be continued. Students and parents also gave a positive response to school and followed all instructions given by school and took care of the health of their students. Teachers are also using innovative ideas and activities throughout the online and offline solution to keep a healthy and cheerful atmosphere and make students comfortable. Health workers at the village should take the temperature of anyone who feels ill during the school day but families should also monitor students' health and keep them home if they have a fever of 100.4 degrees F or greater or any signs of illness. During the pandemic many underserved students rely on school based mental health services. To provide mental health support students were encouraged to speak openly about life, school, and the future. Let students know they are not alone and that others are going through similar situations and provide them the time needed to heal.

Effective implementation of safe school opening with coordination and appropriate support is important to the whole school community, and every member of the community has a role in it. For the purpose of preventing dropouts and ensuring continuity of learning with the help of banners, information campaign using print, electronic, social media campaigns etc were organised.

Conference Presentation

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1puqb_3cxLKzl68wiWsINOA3BN5vgeewp/view?usp=sharing

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