

Initiative 44

Engaging students in Extra Curricular activities to impart Life Skills

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The School Context

GHS Mangmetong is located in the Khensa block of Mokokchung district of Nagaland. It is situated in a rural area. The school is Co-educational and managed by the Department of Education.

Challenges faced due to School Closure

All over the world, the education system during the pandemic has faced plenty of challenges. Due to poor connectivity in almost all the hilly regions of Nagaland. Limited technological resources were also a limitation in front of teachers and school heads. Teachers were also caught unprepared during this pandemic because the normal way of classroom interaction with students came to a standstill.

While the online method of teaching has been effective for most teachers and students alike, most rural areas are still struggling to manage real-time online classes due to internet connectivity and Mangmetong village is no exception. The school faced a lot of challenges while trying to adopt online teaching. Digital Divide is one of the key challenges faced while adopting online teaching methods. Especially in rural areas, as is the case here, internet connectivity is a major obstacle for both teachers and students. Most of the time due to power snags, and network connectivity issues, teachers could not keep in touch with children on time. Also, since it was the first time to conduct online classes, the teachers as well as the students faced difficulties in using various applications or other platforms. As a result of which it caused hindrances to the smooth flow of the teaching-learning process initially. Again, not every student is fortunate to have access to smartphones at all times, due to which they could not attend online classes or submit their homework/assignments on the stipulated time.

Innovative Leadership Practices for mitigating learning gaps

During pandemic times, the only alternative way to physical classes was the introduction of a virtual/online method of teaching. Thus, the school adhered to this mode to ensure learning. The school management, after taking into consideration all the

factors, decided to start WhatsApp groups for specific classes. Using this platform, manageable video lessons, assignments, activities, relevant materials from the internet, worksheets, and so forth are sent to the students. This enabled the students to download, view and work, in a lenient time frame without the added pressure of network issues or bad connectivity. As a result, the positive aspect of all of this is that a major part of the responsibility of learning is shifted to the students themselves. This aspect is thus in line with the 'constructivist approach' of teaching and learning and is often not possible in real classroom situations. The school management also decided to allow a limited number of students to physically meet their subject-specific teachers at the school during school hours (8:30 am – 1:30 pm). This way the students can approach their subject teachers with any problems/clarifications related to the subject.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUpTIJc_s&list=PLSiPjXQ11pfac7VJn9ya1_IxSjbU_p_zQ&index=27

School activities during pandemic

The school provides a range of extracurricular activities through the various clubs present. This case study will focus particularly on the activities conducted in the year 2021 under the Youth and Eco Club. With due approval from the authority, the club members led by the teachers in charge of the club have undertaken various activities. The club members agreed to undertake the sanitizations of classrooms and cleaning of the school compound.

To mark World Environment Day, the club organized a plantation drive under the Theme "Ecosystem Restoration" on 5th June 2021. Various fruits and flower saplings were planted in and around the school campus. With the active cooperation of life skill teachers the club members undertook life skill activity lessons. The club members were actively engaged and experienced first-hand knowledge in skills like knitting and cooking classes for the girls, woodwork classes for the boys, and various art and craft lessons.

The club members, led by the teachers in-charge with special assistance from the



agriculture teacher, conducted a short program on sensitization on rainwater harvesting and conservation of water. The club members have imparted knowledge about the importance of harvesting rainwater and its conservation. That is how harvesting rainwater helps in recharging the groundwater, eradicating the scarcity of water during dry season, and the help it provides to the farmers to grow crops even in the dry season. The members were given practical knowledge on how to set up a simple rain harvesting system at home with locally available materials.



SMDC members of Mangmetong village



An SMDC meeting in progress



Distributing Mid-day meals during pandemic



GHS Mangmetong 2020-21 batch temporary Hostel residents with mentor Hostel residents



Hostel residents with mentor

Plantation drives during the pandemic by the members of Youth and Eco club on 5th June 2021 under the theme "Ecosystem Restoration" bearing fruits.

Collaboration with community and parents to ensure student learning

The robustness of SMDC constantly monitors the teaching-learning practices and develops a conducive teaching environment. Thereafter, the SMDC can be viewed as the mediating force that is transforming the teaching-learning processes by being sympathetic to the students' receptiveness to diverse teaching approaches to ensure an inclusive learning atmosphere. To this effect, several meetings were conducted throughout the year with the inclusion of not just the teachers and the school management but also parents and other stakeholders that contribute to the school.

Conference Presentation

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17GWLR5vvpN0-d_70QuhZzj0KjEeK1Cr1/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103705547766060522301&rtpof=true&sd=true