Initiative 47

Creation and Utilisation of Digital media to Bridge the Learning gap

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The School Context

Mandal Parishad Upper Primary School is a government school situated in the rural area of Adilabad district of state Telangana. Some of the areas of the village in which the school is situated offer low levels of signals.

Challenges faced due to School Closure

As schools closed suddenly due to lockdown, there was a sudden communication break in school with the students. Hence, it was immediately decided in the school to continue delivering lessons online using the Zoom App for the upper primary classes first. But the major challenge faced was the lack of devices for students. Only 50% of the parents had mobile devices and even among them, very few devices were available to the students during day time parents were taking them to their workplaces.
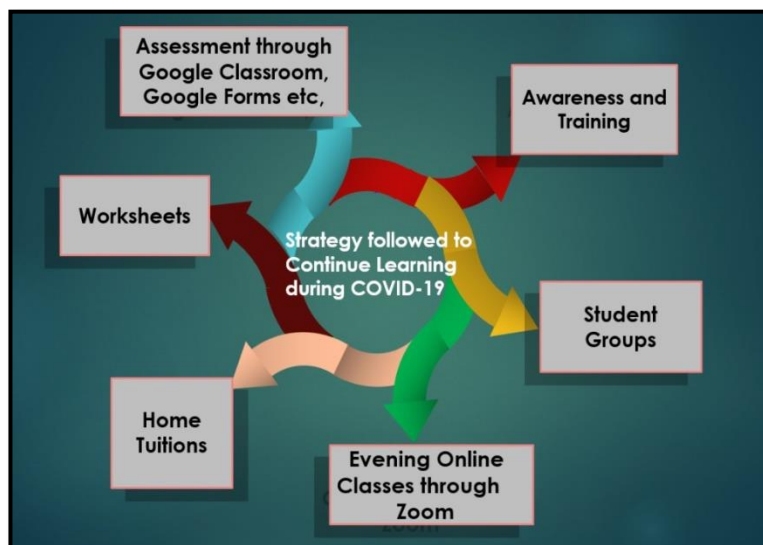
Lack of knowledge in using these devices and applications was another obstacle to run the classes. Though there was no problem with internet connectivity, students faced problems with poor signals in some areas of the village. Besides, the students have encountered the problem of a disturbed environment in their homes to attend online classes.

Innovative Leadership Practices for mitigating learning gaps

The headmaster who is also the Social Studies teacher introduced innovations in school during the pandemic period including:
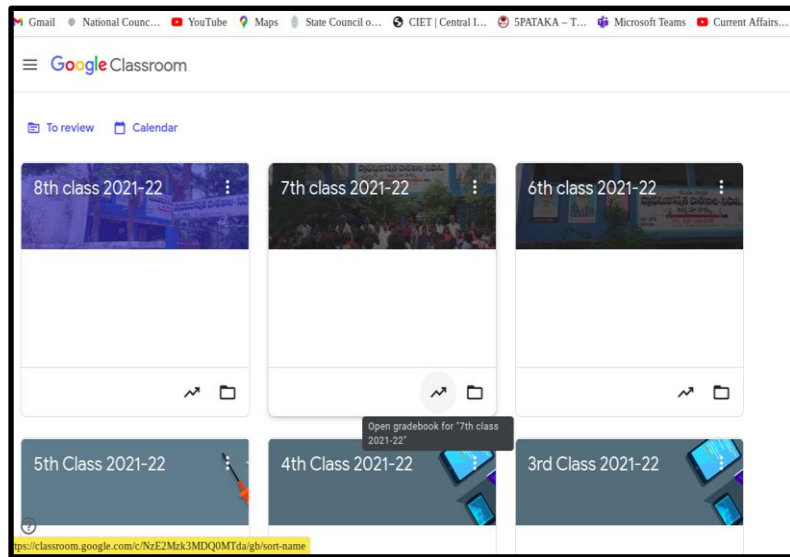
1. Digital Content creation using the Open-Source Software
2. Use of Applications like Zoom, Google Meet for Online Teaching
3. Use of Apps like Google Classroom, Google Forms, Google Maps, Google Earth, etc for online learning activities and online assessment.
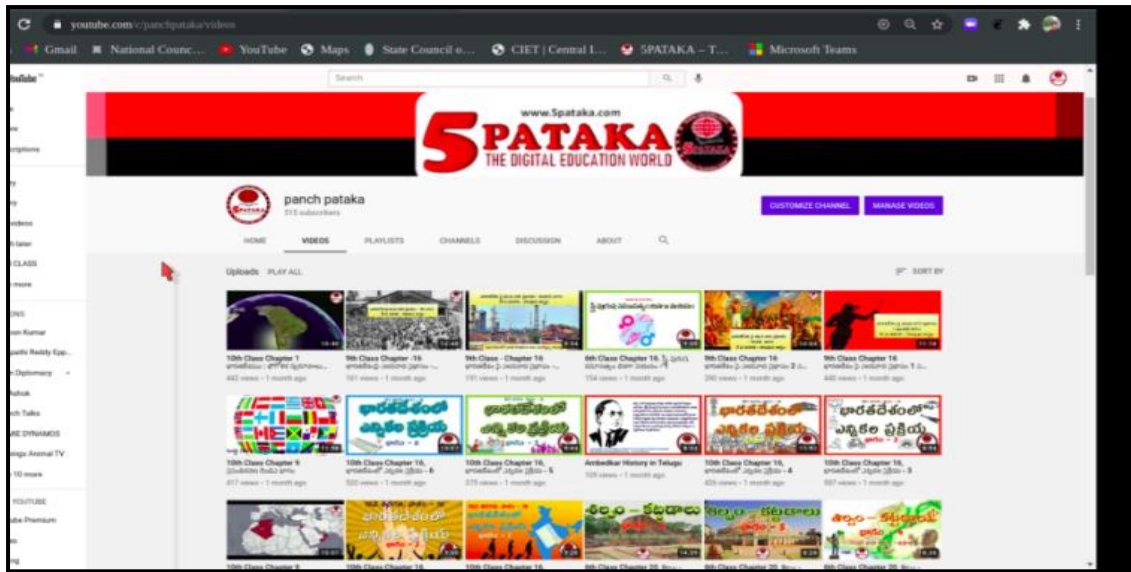4. Launch of Website (www.5pataka.com) and YouTube channel for sharing resources with students.

Digitalized lessons

Open-Source Software like Kdenlive, Audacity, etc. was used in classes 6 to 10th of social studies to deliver some of the lessons and shared them with students through YouTube channels (panchpataka and MPUPS Nipani). The headmaster of the school arranged an online meeting with colleagues and SMC Chairman in the first week of April 2020 and decided to run online classes for students to continue learning. To overcome the challenges mentioned above, two classes were taken in the evenings (from 5 pm to 8 pm) for Social Studies and maths subjects. An awareness class was also conducted for teachers as well as students before beginning the classes on how to use different ICT tools. Online classes were conducted regularly every evening using ZOOM. Apps like Google Maps, Google Earth, Google Arts and

Culture, Settera, Stellarium, Celestia, Kgeography, etc were used to improve mapping skills among the students.

Besides teaching lessons online, different activities and materials were shared with students through WhatsApp groups. But due to problems in using the application like exhaustion of phone memory, data loss, and difficulty in collaborating with students, an alternative application was also used for all these activities. The Google Classroom application was also used to perform all the activities which they were introduced in the webinars of CIET. Classes were delivered and different materials like videos, worksheets, textbooks, assignments, weblinks, etc were shared regularly in a systematic manner. Grades of students were recorded

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for the tests and shared in their emails of the students. Every week, question sets were created and shared with students using Google Forms. Besides adding the extension, CertifyEM, arrangements were made to send certificates to students. A website called www.5pataka.com and YouTube channel "panchpataka" were created and resources like videos, worksheets, weblinks, etc were shared with students. Using plugins like H5P, the headmaster also created activities like quizzes, India and Telangana Maps, etc for students to practice.

Collaboration with community and parents to ensure student learning

The school in collaboration with the School Management Committee and community provided digital equipment to students and performed regular monitoring of students' learning. Students were divided into groups (street Wise) consisting of 3-4 members and SMC members and parents were given charge of monitoring students' learning and attending classes regularly online. A public address system (an amplifier given by GP repaired and A loudspeaker purchased) was arranged through which regular instructions were given to students and parents and the activities of students were monitored.

Way Forward

Besides the continuation of online classes and sharing resources through Google Classroom, plans are made to create e-portfolios of every student using Google Sites so that the student can upload their activities and save them online.

Students are trained on creating quizzes using QR codes on www.Learningapps.org which enables them to self-learn. It is decided to train students on creating quizzes themselves and collaborate using 'Kahooth' and make them aware of cyber-crimes and cyber security as the use of the internet and digital devices increases. The digital infrastructure of the school is planned to be improved with the help of donations from teachers and SMC members. Students and parents are also to be made aware of the safe usage of digital devices and cyber security.

Groups are also created with 10 to 15 students and home tuitions are arranged for students at their homes. It is planned to create interactive videos and learning activities using the H5P tool.

Conference Presentation

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Ra8utCWnkhlRO-QbH9QhWzkRTdun_1cY/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103705547766060522301&rtpof=true&sd=true