

Case Studies Presented in the Conference

ANDHRA PRADESH

K.R.M. Prathista

Model School Pedakomera (V)

Gampalagudem (M), Krishna District

Email- apms.gampalagudem@gmail.com

Abstract

The school has well equipped and well maintained science laboratories, English laboratory, Atal Tinkering laboratory, IT lab, Library, sixteen class rooms along with an administrative building. The major challenges faced by the school are- preparing students for board examination, improving transportation for children, making students understand and speak in English and to reduce dropout rate. Board class students are given remedial teaching from the month of August before school hours. The school received generous donation of forty Laptops and forty tabs by Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation for establishing of English lab. Students have achieved 100 percent result in Board Examination for three consecutive years. The example of a student, Gosu Sai (physically challenged) deserves a mention – he was a drop out student who ran away from his home but passed Board Examination with 6.7 GPA, completed intermediate education and is now working as a Processing Operator at Vijayawada. The school has achieved 100% in SSC Public Examination for subsequent years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Socio-Cultural Context of the School

The Andhra Pradesh Model Schools are the dream realizes of our great leader of our nation Dr. Abdul Kalam who said in his own words

“Great dreams of Great dreamers are always to pass
beyond to reach the lights in the heaven.”

Andhra Pradesh Model schools are established to reach the lives of poor, under privileged Brainiac children of the rural society to take them to pinnacle of their careers like the lights in the heaven. AP Model School is a flagship scheme of the Department of School Education which aimed to impart quality English medium education from 6th class to Intermediate. These schools are considered to be the benchmark of excellence and resourceful to the neighbouring schools.

[DRAFT]

OUR SCHOOL



AP Model School is taking its 21st century teaching learning practices to 166 schools across the state with invigorating campuses and luxurious infrastructure having child-friendly ambience which make learning truly enjoyable. The school is located in very remote and backward area (Educationally Backward Block -EBB). Our school has well equipped and well maintained science laboratories, English laboratory, Atal Tinkering laboratory, IT lab, Library; sixteen class rooms, along with an Administrative building. The total strength of the school is Five hundred and Thirty (530) students. There are fifteen regular Teachers and four Guest faculty teachers, two vocational educational teachers, a librarian, a physical education teacher, a Data entry operator and a Junior Assistant, two watchmen and two office subordinates. Sixty percent of the population was scheduled caste and forty percent comprises of all other castes. Most of them were below poverty line and are agricultural labourers. The community to which school caters consists of Hindus, Muslims and Christians. The people are illiterates and now sending their children to schools and colleges.

ATAL LAB



ENGLISH LAB



IT LAB



Some of the students belong to Lambadi tribe where there is a custom of selling girl child even for Rs.5000 to Rs.10000/-. My children have tough lives that are no secret; they have health issues, financial issues and relational issues. Their fathers waste their hard earned money on drinking alcohol and they even physically abuse their wives and girl children.

[DRAFT]

OUR STUDENT'S HOME



- Our school is located in Pedakomera village of Gampalagudem Mandal in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh. Krishna along with Guntur district is the Administrative Capital of our state

PRAKASAM BARRAGE ON KRISHNA RIVER



- Our district got its name, Krishna, as India's third largest river Krishna flows across our district
- Krishna is considered, the Kernel of Telugu Culture and is the birthplace of the famous Indian classical dance form-Kuchipudi. The dialect of Telugu spoken in Krishna is widely considered to be the standard form of Telugu

PINGALI VENKAYYA GARU, OUR FLAG DESIGN



- The designer of Indian flag Pingali Venkayya is also from Krishna district.

KONDAPALLI TOYS



- Kondapalli toys are very famous all over the country. This 400 year –Old-tradition has passed on from generation to generation with every member taking part in the toy-making activity in “toy colony of Kondapalli in Vijayawada”.

KUCHIPUDI DANCE



[DRAFT]

Challenges for the School

- **The problem situation is preparing students for Board Examination as they come from Telugu medium schools and from very poor economical and educational background. Children do not come regularly and on time due to lack of transportation. Most of the children come from 25-30 km to the school. Children arrive at the school -**
- **Making the students to understand and speak in English fluently. Most of them do not know English alphabets when they join 6th class in our school.**
- **Bringing the drop out students back to school merrily and happily.**

We have started our journey in A. P. Model School, Gampalagudem with only three PGT'S and a regular Principal. We had many teething problems, mainly lack of teachers. At times, we felt that the school system might collapse. Many mile-stones we have crossed to fulfill our responsibilities and to sustain the institution and to get best result.

Efforts initiated or the process of Transformation

1. Remedial Teaching

Tenth class students were given remedial teaching from the month of August before and school hours.

2. Adoption

We inspire students to pursue meaningful lives based on Self respect and intellectual curiosity. Each student is challenged to discover their best self and master with confidence to think independently and act ethically. So for this, we have divided X class students for adoption to each teacher (5-6 students for each teacher) for intensive personal need based care.

3. Routine Tests

Every day a test is being conducted from the month of January, in each subject and evaluated on the same day.

4. Peer Mentoring

Our school is successful in achieving 100 percent results. At this juncture, we feel privileged to bring to your kind notice that a renowned Child Psychologist and Scientist Mr. Sydney Strauss from Israel has come to study the value of peer learning during skill development workshops, conducted in our school in September 2016. He stressed the importance of peer learning.

5. English Laboratory

An English lab is being made - by the generous donation of forty Laptops and forty tabs by Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation in appreciation of our support given to them during the seven workshops conducted during the summer holidays (April, May and June 2016). We are the pioneers in the

[DRAFT]

State Government Sector to establish an English Laboratory. This is a very important skill development which many schools are ignoring. Children started learning English with ease and interest.

Parent's counseling and Parents meeting:



The crucial point is to establish relationship with their parents. We chose the interactive mode of feedback between parents and teachers rather than unidirectional approach which is normally done by the teachers to parents for a child. These helped to bring in the change in attitude of the parents with regard to their children's education and discipline.

Parent Budding System:



We are more accountable to student's parents than our State and District Officials. During parent's meet the parents can be in the school campus right from morning till evening. We during parents meet focus on some selected students and their performance and their learning capabilities. We make sure that every student's parents will get their turn on rotational basis. This system increases the accountability and transparency of all the stake holders. This has given us tremendous result.

Parents observing Study hours after school:



- Showing appreciation and kindness will make teachers feel more valued and respected which will be more productive and they will be more contented, happier in their jobs, which ultimately trickles down to bring more effective teaching learning – which of course leads to better teachings to students.

[DRAFT]

- By promoting positive traditions from our culture, we are encouraging the teachers to do the same; you'll be building trust, improving staff morale and creating a fun and supportive team environment. I supported teachers and used many sweet treat ideas. So they can teach in a positive and safe environment where students can learn and teachers can teach.
- By motivating and encouraging students appearing for Board Examinations from time to time.

Visible Results of Transformation

Results of transformation:

- Students achieved 100 percent result in Board Examination for three consecutive years, i.e. from first batch onwards to the recent batch. We received an appreciation letter from our Chief Minister for securing 100 percent.

Chief Minister's Appreciation Letter



- Our student Gosu Sai (Physically Challenged) who was a drop out and ran away from home and on whom the parents has also given up, passed Board Examination with 6.7 Grade points, completed Intermediate Education and is now working as Processing Operator at Vijayawada.

GOSU.SAI



- Children are improving their English proficiency with ease and interest in the English Lab.

CITATIONS

- These Citations were given by Deputy Educational Officer about the Principal
- School has achieved 100% in SSC Public Examination for subsequent years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and appreciation letter was received from our Hon'ble Chief Minister.
- The Principal donated Rs.27,000/- for poor children's uniforms in the year 2013, the beginning year 2013, the beginning year for Model School (Government did not sanctioned uniforms that year).

[DRAFT]

Uniform worn by the students is donated by the Principal



- Raised a lawn of Worth Rs.70,000/- making the school clean and green by raising the donation from local people.

LAWN RAISED IN SCHOOL



- Submitted a proposal to Niti Aayog for which an amount of Rs.20 Lacks was sanctioned and the Atal Lab was established.
- APSSDC closely worked with the school and has trained the children in such a way that they could talk with our Honorable Chief Minister during the Robotics Workshops conducted in 2016 May and June. A renowned Child Scientist Mr. Sydney Strauss from Israel have come during this workshops to find out the value of peer learning, then on words peer learning was promoted.

Meeting with Sydney Strauss



- Every year children have been selected for NMMS (National Means Merit Scholarship) Last academic year (2017-18) ten of them have been selected. Students were getting selected for IIIT and State level Prathibha Awards.
- She has authored the books “Mind Tools and Stress management” and written many articles for National Journals.
- B. Vinny Tressa received an award from union IT Minister Sri. V. V. Chowdhary garu in the International Conference on Robotics and Automation for Human Application.

[DRAFT]

VINNY TRESSA RECEIVING AN AWARD FROM CENTRAL IT MINISTER



- Rare opportunity for students and teachers to interact with Noble Prize Laureates at Nobel Prize Series Conference at Goa in the month of February 2018.

Students with Nobel Prize Laureates at Goa



Further Strategies to Improve School

Empowerment Programs:

A Safe Haven (or) a Family Friendly Empire: Many children exposed to gang's violence. In areas of high deprivation, isolation and limited resources, teenagers often turn to drinking and smoking, even drugs and self harm as forms— of escape and release. The whole approach should be about turning students from “problems to solutions, challenges to opportunities through initiatives such as acts of kindness which will dramatically improve school attendance. The school physical and psychological environment should be in a way that, the students should run to come to school. It should be like coming to their happy haven. Besides, friendly school ambiance, teacher should be loving and kind to take them to their fold. In this regard we achieved a large extent and little more has to be achieved. It is also very important, what the child is doing outside the school and this has to be checked thoroughly by the teachers.

And further, I want to strengthen by delegating the responsibility and conferring authority to children also which is a crucial step to cultivate in them lifelong skills of being responsible and caring. This environment can be made more pleasant by being transparent in finances relations and duties (all stakeholders including heed teacher).

- Community Centre for Learning: To make my school as Community Centre for learning where in parents understand that it is not just the students who are getting benefitted but even for them. E.g.: Experts can come and teach parents about effective and right way of using fertilizers, ongoing Government schemes Banking facilities, etc. People should be connected to our school.

[DRAFT]

- To teach children how they can become a channel of blessing: By taking them to hospitals for distribution of fruits mentoring the government primary school kids in English language, cleaning the Government offices, helping the old age people in the colony where the school is located, etc.
- Children should get qualified at National Level Tests like NEET, NIT etc.

School Leader and Transformation

“A Leader is the One who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way”.

To see myself as a School Leader, I trust and believe that we can make a difference in children's lives and further see myself as their Mother, always tries to bring out their best and full potential that has been endowed in their lives. I see myself as a Channel of blessing for them. I am ready to be an initiator in problem solving rather than becoming critical and judgmental about children's behaviour.

Most importantly my children must feel unconditional love and great strength in the bond of love, so that even in hard and difficult times, they feel free to discuss any problem or communicate their thoughts. I know it is difficult to match our level, to that of the younger generation, but it's not an impossible task. So I should still have patience and perseverance to show that selfless love.

At last, I would like to speak up for the brilliance of teachers, the need for /to transform again, so that it is viewed as intellectual opportunity because its right now it's not there and Great responsibility comes with these kind of opportunity to make my students as a Global Citizens and the People of destiny.

I have undergone a lot of change within me after my School transformation. I started to visualise that delicate buds transforming into full bloomed flowers, twilight in their eyes, blush on their cheeks radiance on their faces with a great hope and confidence in their every step. I look forward that these gestures should be the signature of my school which taught me to be still patient and patient to witness these children grows into whole some personalities as nation builders.