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### **Abstract**

This is small school which faced problems of poor infrastructure and low faith from the public. After improving school infrastructure which provided lots of positivity in the school, the school head and her team innovated teaching-learning pedagogies. With proper guidance of education officers, teachers and the head started carried out activity-based teaching. The teachers also visited Kumthe block to study the practices of schools on activity-based teaching. The students found it exciting to learn in this fashion. Students started assimilating and understanding various concepts quickly. Within no time school started to change in its own unique way. With this, school started its journey towards being an Aadarsha School.

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### **Socio-Cultural Context of the School**

In order to decrease the travelling distance and time to the school which was 3 kms away from the Niwali Kodarewadi locality, it was decided to construct the school in the same locality. The hunger towards getting educated prompted people to construct the school in the same locality. Thus, the doors of education were opened. By constructing the school in the locality itself,



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### **Earlier School Building and it's Development**

The school started in the year 1984 with the help of villagers. Taking into consideration the age group of the students, it was decided that the school should not be far away from the locality. The villagers contributed both financially and labour work and helped construct the school building successfully. Then, taking into consideration the demand for starting the class fifth in the same school, it was decided to ask for the permission from Zilla Parishad regarding the same. Zilla Parishad agreed to give the permission and it was given in due time. Thus a new class fifth was started. The earlier building was on the verge of collapsing. So with the help of villagers, parents and Gram Panchayat, the renovation work of the school was taken up. In order to protect the trees and small plants in the garden, it was decided to construct a compound around the school premises. Thus, with the help of villagers and parents a protection wall was constructed. Our school comes under the ownership of Gram Panchayat and not Zilla Parishad. It has 2 classrooms along with other necessary facilities.





### Infrastructural Features:



#### 1. Drinking Water

A water tank of 1000 litres has been installed in the school premises with the help of villagers, parents and all the school management committee members. The tank is filled through the village water supply system.

Total Number of tap connections: 10



#### 2. Toilets

According to the criteria set by the government, two toilets are available with a separate water tap connection for each of them.

Along with this a separate commode chair is also available.



#### 3. Latrines

3 latrines are available in the school premises. Out of the three, 2 are for boys and 1 is for girls. Thus, boys and girls are provided with separate latrines.

Water connection has been provided in each of these latrines.



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#### 4. Kitchen Room

Our school has an independent kitchen room built inside the premises of the school. The mid-day meal food is prepared inside this kitchen room.

The cook has been given the responsibility of keeping the kitchen room clean and hygienic. The cook prepares and serves hot fresh food to the children.

#### 5. Sewage Water System

Students have prepared a small garden inside the school premises. Some of the sewage water is given to the trees and small plants in this garden. The small pit has been made with the help of parents and the excess sewage water is let off into this pit.

#### 6. Playground and Protection Wall (Compound):



A playground for the students is available inside the school premises. Wall fencing i.e, pukka compound has been constructed with the help of villagers and parents.

#### 7. Gate and Ramp



The school has a small iron gate along with a ramp.

#### 8. School Premises- With the help of villagers, parents and some respected personalities different types of trees are planted inside the school premises.

The garden looks beautiful because of different coloured flowers. The school premises are kept neat and clean every day. Proper care of plants is taken.



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Students enjoy learning in such beautiful environment.

Once Extension officer (विस्तार अधिकारी) Respected Mrs. Desai Madam happened to visit our Z.P. School Niwali Kodare No.3. She was pretty pleased by seeing talkative students and their talent and their preparation.

She advised the teachers to undertake Activity-based Teaching. We teachers were quite confused about how to do this Activity-based teaching because till then we were unknown about this concept of Activity-based teaching.

After few days our centre head Respected Mr. Manik Mahadev Kamble visited our school. He guided us a little bit about Activity-based teaching on asking him about it. We somehow started to teach in such fashion. We ourselves found it exciting but we knew little about it.



Image: Centre head Mr. Kamble sir guiding the students.

After few days Mrs. Desai Madam arranged our visit to the Kumthe centre. All the schools in this centre undertook Activity-based teaching to the students.

In the academic year 2015-16 it was decided that teachers from all schools in wahal centre who taught to 1<sup>st</sup> standard students were to visit this Kumthe centre. Mrs. Desai Madam did the necessary arrangements. At that particular time Mrs. Pangale Madam used to teach 1<sup>st</sup> standard students in our Zillah parishad school Nivali kodare No.3. So, she visited the Kumthe centre along with other teachers from Wahal centre.

The teachers were shown those schools from Kumthe centre where Activity-Based teaching is used. They were shown various projects undertaken in schools, various designs on floors and the way students talked

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and learned through this Activity-based learning. The teachers got overall idea about what Activity-based teaching was all about and how it is to be done.

After returning back from the visit, Mrs. Pangale Madam informed Mrs. Surve Madam- the Principal of ZP Nivali Kodare No.3 School about what Activity-based teaching is all about. Both ladies then sat together, undertook a brain-storming session, planned about the projects to be undertaken and the way in which floor designs and all other necessary arrangements that were required for Activity-based teaching to be done.

Within next 8 days, Principal Mrs. Surve madam called a meeting of villagers, parents and School Management Committee and carried on a fruitful discussion about Activity-based teaching and learning. Parents and villagers were also excited about this unique concept of teaching and they too found it very interesting.

Immediately with the help of parents and alumni of school floor designs were made and coloured. Parents also helped in cleaning the school premises.

After the preparation work of Activity-based teaching was completed, actual teaching was started by the two teachers. Students learned through action and inaction. They found it exciting and interesting. They developed a liking towards such type of learning method.

### Following actions were carried out-

- 1) **Dramatization** : Students enact the topic or story like a drama. Students happily act in this play. Students enact a particular story, context as told.



- 2) **Story from 3 words** : In this theme based experiments, students are given 3 words from which students prepare a story. Students are given a chance to express themselves in these experiments. Students prepare a story from their own imagination. It develops the thinking capacity of students. They get to express themselves.
- 3) **To prepare a Poem**: Students according to their age groups prepare a poem by using some rhyming words.



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- 4) **Mountain of words:** Students are given one word and then students by their own imagination write a mountain of words. This experiment helps students build a strong vocabulary.
- 5) **My Glossary:** Everyday by using one Marathi letter (अ to क) students write many words starting from the respected letter. They themselves write and prepare their own glossary. Students develop their vocabulary through this experiment.
- 6) **Square of 100 ( of numbers) :** In this experiment
  - Students prepare numbers from given digits.
  - They read and write those numbers.
  - Arrange those numbers in ascending and descending numbers.
  - Expansion of numbers.
  - Identify even and odd numbers.
  - Tell value of places.
  - They add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers.
  - Throw dices on numbers and read them.
- 7) **English:** Students enact the drama and recite and sing poems in English.
- 8) Students prepare various paper crafts, mud craft, etc. **Rangoli and floral decoration competitions** are arranged in school. Everyday a floral rangoli is prepared in the verandah.



**Images: Floral Rangoli**

Exhibition of student's craftwork is arranged. Students' gathering and meeting is arranged and they are given chance to speak on certain topics.

Parents were pleased to see improvements in their children after this new Activity-based teaching experiment was undertaken. Parents regularly started visiting the school and started having discussions of various teaching ideas and different programmes that can be undertaken. It was the 1<sup>st</sup> time that parents

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were involved in school matters. Because of this teaching method, students became talkative and they overcame their fear of talking as they found it easy to learn and understand.

Students welcome every guest by giving them a small bouquet prepared from flowers from the school garden. They themselves prepare the small bouquet.

Students give answers to the asked questions. They also give answers to some questions by performing or by dramatization.

One day without any prior information, Mrs. Desai Madam along with Respected Education Officer Mr. Ambokar Sir and Respected Extension Officer Mr. Kadav Sir visited our school. She was very satisfied to see all the projects undertaken and also the improvement in students. She congratulated both the teachers for their excellent work.

After this visit Deputy Education Officer Respected Mr. Mahesh Joshi Sir visited our school on 2/02/2016. This was surprise visit without any official prior information. He was also happily satisfied to see all the projects undertaken and these talented and talkative bunches of students. He congratulated and appreciated teachers and students and also gave best wishes for the future.

All the members and officers of Education Committee of Zilla Parishad Solapur along with all group officials (गटशिक्षणाधिकारी) and Extension officer happened to visit our school on 1/03/2016. After seeing the preparation of students, they all were pretty pleased and happy. They all congratulated students, teachers, centre head and our Extension officer.

After this, Mr. Rajendra B. Aandale – Repected Education Extension officer of DIET (District Institute of Education and Training) visited our school for verification. He congratulated both the teachers, centres head and centres Extension officer Mrs. Desai Madam and also said about recommending the school for Aadarsh School Award. He gave best wishes to students, parents and teachers.

Our school was visited by teachers from almost all schools from Maharashtra. Some of them include Mumbai, Chandrapur, Thane, Yavatmal, Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Solapur, etc. Approximately 5000 teachers from all schools from Maharashtra visited our school. Proofs regarding the same are available in our school record books. They all appreciated the students after seeing all the projects undertaken and the outcomes of Activity-based teaching. Teachers from SPM English Medium School Chiplun and many other English Medium schools visited our school and expressed satisfaction on seeing the preparation of students.

In the presentation that was done at the Education Conference held at Mahad, our Centre Head Mr. Manik Mahadev Kamble showed the video clip of our Aadarsh School and showed what Activity-based teaching was all about to entire Maharashtra and convinced them the importance of Activity-based teaching.



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### **Changes in Teaching and Studying Technique**

Earlier the concepts from textbooks were taught to the students on blackboard. The students found it difficult to understand in the first attempt. Therefore teachers taught it over and over again to help them understand.

But because of this unique concept of Activity-based teaching, the students find it easy to grasp the concepts very easily.

While teaching the numbers, teachers, with the help of various educational equipments demonstrated the numbers on the floor.

For example- While teaching the number 29- two bundles of ten sticks each and 9 individual sticks are arranged and in such a fashion the number 29 is prepared and taught.



After teacher's demonstration is over, students themselves understand the numbers in such fashion. They develop and understand various numbers by this method. Teachers only play the role of guide by just guiding them.

Because of this Activity-based teaching, students are left with no doubts in their mind about the particular concept.

**Image: Students learning numbers.**

### **Empowering School Management**

Our school Z.P. School Niwali Kodare No.3 is not an e-learning school. The use of technology for learning is not yet available in the school.

In the year 2018 one single computer was provided to the school. Students are given the basic knowledge about the computer.

Due to unavailability of the required machinery, school has not yet been regarded as e-learning school. There is no financial help from villagers and parents.

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### School Leader and Transformation

Two teachers carry out the job of teaching in Z.P. School Niwali Kodare No.3.

Mrs. Ragini Ramchandra Surve works as the Principal of the school. Mrs. Varsha Vijay Pangale works as the under graduate assistant teacher.

Mrs. Pangale Madam on behalf of Z.P. School Niwali Kodare No.3. visited the Kumthe centre in order to understand the Activity-based Teaching process and on returning informed Mrs. Surve Madam regarding the same. After listening this, Mrs. Surve Madam too found this concept of Activity-based teaching very unique and interesting. So Mrs. Surve madam happily declared that this Activity-based teaching concept will be implemented in the school.

In order to put this idea and this unique concept in front of villagers, Principal Mrs. Surve madam first called for a meeting of School Management Committee, Teacher-Parent union and Mother Parent committee. She informed the committee members and parents about this unique concept of Activity-based Teaching. After carrying out a lengthy discussion on the same, it was unanimously decided to implement this unique concept of Activity-based Teaching in Z.P. School Niwali Kodare No.3.

Mrs. Surve madam first carried out the colouring work of the school with the help of villagers, parents and committee members. Necessary designs were made on the floor of the school and colours were filled in them.

Thus, started the process of Activity-based Teaching. The students found it very exciting to learn in this fashion. Students started assimilating and understanding various concepts quickly and within no time school started to change in unique way. With this, school started its **journey towards being a Aadarsha School**. In this period our school Z.P. School Niwali Kodare No.3. became advanced. It took almost 3 months to carry on the initial preparatory work for Activity-based Teaching.

After few days Respected Education officer Mr. Ambekar Sir visited our school and was impressed to see the development of students and the outcomes of Activity-based Teaching. On seeing this, he declared Z.P. School Niwali Kodare No.3. As a '**MODEL**' or '**AADARSHA**' School.

From that day teachers from all over Maharashtra visited our school.



'AADARSHA SCHOOL AWARD' being presented to the school.



Felicitatation of both the school teachers.



Both teachers being felicitated for their tireless efforts.



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Due to the irresistible and tireless efforts of Principal Mrs. Ragini Ramchandra Surve Madam School was able to establish its own identity with its stand-out performance.

Mr. Ambekar Sir expressed his best wishes to the students. He gave a congratulatory letter to both the teachers for their excellent work. He also gave a congratulatory letter to the Principal and School Management Committee.

With all these efforts, Z.P. School Niwali Kodare No.3. got the ‘**AADARSHA SCHOOL AWARD**’ without any reference but purely due to the output it produced with its **stand-out performance** on every parameter. Today teaching is carried in such a fashion only. Both the teachers are striving hard to improve the school in every aspect day by day. Students, who were earlier finding a way to not come to school, are today eagerly coming to school on daily basis.