

DELHI

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Abstract

The school aims to provide a congenial teaching-learning environment; students are now highly motivated and take part in all school activities. Students have shown in sports competitions at state, national and international level. Students have proper seating arrangement as modular desks have been introduced in the school. Parents are also participating in the development of school; sending their wards to school regularly with great enthusiasm. Through motivational and capacity building session's teachers now come out with better ideas. The teachers are now highly motivated and their confidence is boosted. They are using latest teaching technology and indulging students in activity based learning creating a sense of belongingness among them.

Socio-Cultural Context of the School

The School is situated in a densely populated rural area which consists of Multi Cultural students which hail from various states of North India. The parents of these students are from financially lower class and many of them cannot afford basic requirements to provide a congenial environment for studies. Some parents are so poor that they prefer to marry off their daughters at a very early age.

The Students are mainly children of laborers, auto drivers, sales men, factory workers etc. and even the students skip their classes and help their parents in their work to support their family financially, because most of the families are unplanned and have many stomachs to feed. Some students are so poor they come to school just to eat **Midday** meal.

The school is a double shift school where girls study in the Morning Shift and boys study in the Evening Shift in the same building. The school had only one stream earlier which is Humanities. Later we introduced Commerce as a second stream.

Challenges for the School Heads

The school premises were very unhygienic, toilets were broken and were rendered unusable and unsanitary for the use of girls, the corridors were dirty mopped floor and the same was with most of the classrooms. This gave a wrong impression about the concept of hygiene to the children.

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The seating arrangement did not meet even the basic requirements, let alone a good standard. Old broken furniture was placed with sharp edges protruding which is a hazard to the pupil's safety and 90 percent of students sat on floor and on dirty corridors.



A very serious and surprising problem was that the school was extremely **over populated**. The total area of the school premises is 4450 sq.mt. Which is extremely less and is not sufficient for 4200 students, let alone enough rooms. There is no area or land left for further construction of rooms.

Since there were **only 41 rooms for 4200 students** with no land left, we devised a solution of dividing the school into two units. A separate building was arranged for students and Buses were arranged for transporting the students and teachers to the new building where they were provided proper facilities and environment of a school.

A school does not feel like one without a ~~MORNING ASSEMBLY~~ and this school never saw a morning assembly. Morning Assembly is where we can pray, where we can develop a feeling of **Nationalism** and **Patriotism** and impart moral values through songs and speeches and induce a sense of belonging to own school among children.

There was a lack of participation of students in co-curricular activities. The students had lots of potential but were never exposed to various opportunities and had knowledge of neither.

Communication is epitome of any species' growth and we as human beings have only succeeded as a species because of communication. But here in the school there was poor connection between students, teachers and Principal as well. The culture of communication was very introverted.

A laid back attitude among teachers regarding school as a system was identified which further affected the teaching, teaching pattern and its seriousness. This in turn negatively affected the overall result and upbringing of the students

Since the pattern of teaching was based on old classical model, there was lack of not only academic development but also moral and ethical values and other various aspects which hinders the effectiveness of a **Complete Education System** as a whole. This resulted in children with lack of academic knowledge as well as a poor personality with bad habits, which in turn affects our whole society

All these problems resulted in another cumulative problem and a serious one. The school's spirit was dead. There was no enthusiasm among students or children for the school. A perpetual dullness was observed by me and everyone seemed to have a passive attitude towards the school.

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Efforts Initiated or the Process of Transformation

The school was extremely over populated because area of the school premises is not sufficient to accommodate 4200 students which is the result of miscalculated number of admissions in the school. There is no area or land left for further construction of new rooms. There was no place left for even a playground let alone a proper morning assembly.

There were only 32 classrooms for 4200 students and 90 percent of students did not have a classroom to sit and the conditions were pathetic and unmanageable. The students even sat on stairs to study. There was no place in the premises where student did not sit to study **e.g. Corridor, stairs, and tanks.** It looked like an open market. There was not even place to walk inside the school. Teaching learning was impossible.

Also there was a pending court case against the school from a parent regarding lack of proper facilities, poor conditions, and no studies as it was over populated.

Even teachers were frustrated in the school as even they could not do what they were getting paid for. Nobody wanted to stay in the school. To add cherry on the cake the toilets were rendered useless as there was too much strain on the toilets.

We devised a solution of dividing the school population into two units including teachers and other employees. Then a separate building was arranged in the school of B-1 Yamuna Vihar. Buses were arranged for transporting the students and teachers to the new building .Every morning all the students and teachers report first in the Sonia Vihar Pushta ,after that the unit is transported to the separate building where they are provided proper facilities and environment of a school.



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Another problem is the Climatic condition and environment of the school.

A school is a place where we take a blank page and turn it into an educated, social human being and a responsible member of our society. A school is where a child spends its most precious time and age of life which includes cognitive learning. School is a learning place where a child learns best of social skills and learns to be a human being first and attains knowledge about its surrounding and the world. But also a place where we are responsible of wellbeing and good development of many future generations of our society in which we live.

And this will only be possible if we are able to provide and show them a congenial, safe and comfortable environment. And this fact must be true for all children regardless of **age, sex, cast, religion or financial status**. They have every right to have a healthy and safe environment and we as teachers must realize the importance of our role in these pupil' life because we are the society makers.

The School of Sonia Vihar had no spirit. It did not feel like a school but instead just a building you call school. The place was depressing and in shambles. The teachers were unmotivated and had a lax attitude towards teaching. Even students were not interested in any kind of study or any activity.

– **So to boost their moral and bring back life to an overpopulated school I took various following steps.**

- Firstly I divided the school into two units with the permission and help of the department. This created some breathing space for everyone and a manageable population of students.
- We refurbished the corridors by painting walls to create a feeling of love towards school among all the teachers and students. Even teachers and students painted beautiful art on the walls so that they belongingness towards the school.
- To bring life in to dead environment in school and bring enthusiasm among children many rallies and drives were organized.
- Introduced Koti in place of dupattas in school uniform for students to make them feel smart.
- Thank You boards have been prepared to thank teachers and other staff for their special contribution in the development of school.
- Etiquette boards to ensure that manners do not fall by the way side when parents are out of sight as child spends a third of their day at school.
- **“Sparsh Yamuna Drive”** was organized to create awareness among people to clean the River Yamuna.
- Created awareness in society to educate the children through **“School Chalo Drive”**.
- Working for Laborers' children (52 children were adopted for inclusion with the regular school)

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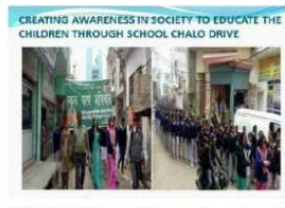
- To connect with community – Every year mother's week is celebrated in the month of Feb. and every day for a week mothers are invited to the school and interacted with teacher and we organized some competition for them and children make thank you cards for their mother.
- To inculcate moral values among children, inspirational words have been painted on the stair-cases so that every step the child climb, child learn a new word with its values.
- Contributed to motivate Evening shift boys to save the school property. First period on Monday and Thursday are taken by lady teachers to motivate boys of evening shift to save property.
- Took an initiative to turn barren playground to green, a mission to spread greenery and encourage students to do the same. Every class has one (plant) flower pot on their name and class teachers along with the children take care of that plant. Since there was lack of space for planting trees, we planted creepers to bring life to school environment.
- Intensive efforts were made to bring the comfort for students by arranging new modular desks.
- Water jugs are kept inside the classes so that better discipline is maintained.
- New Library was developed and projector was installed in library to make it digital.
- Various clubs (Hariyali, Taraana, Indradhanush and Volunteer) are formed to make a difference in the school and make child an achiever
- Organized Dental checkup for 4200 students.
- 15th August is celebrated in different manner and some ex-students are invited and the parents of winning kabbadi team also felicitated and musical chair was organized for (non-teaching staff) as well.
- Teacher's day was also celebrated in different manner- A musical chair game was organized for the teachers as well as for the students those who were in acting as teacher for that day.
- Motivational sessions are taken so that teachers are high spirited and effective teaching can take place in government school classrooms.
- Inclusion of 100 selected boys of evening shift to cascade basic training tips to other students of evening shift.
- Interaction with Principal - Every year 700 students from MCD take admission in the school for their orientation and proper training, there are sessions where principal interacts with students so that these children can be brought into the main stream.
- Arrangement of newspaper cutting in classrooms and toilets and it will be used by student for monthly menstruation problem of girls.
- Time to time monitor's meeting was organized and in monitors meeting some motivational short movies are also shown to them.
- For X and XII Results - children and parents are motivated not to take any kind of tuitions instead fortnightly academic coordinators visit the classes and asked the children about their problems in a

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particular subject and in a particular topic and accordingly classes are arranged for them by changing the teachers. Four academic coordinators have been appointed to check the academic improvements among the children.

- To empower lady teachers, Self Defense Programme was organized so that they can empower girls' students.
- Two new buildings were constructed with proper utilization of space so that students may have more classrooms. All this was under my personal supervision so that no space is wasted Ramp was proposed to be in front of the building and that was changed by me to be constructed by the side of the building to save the stage.
- Traffic Workshop was conducted for 4000 girls' students with the help of Delhi Traffic Police.
- Organizing District Anti-Tobacco Campaign.
- Organized an awareness campaign "Mission Indradhanush" on mother child issues by Ministry of Information and Technology.
- Arrangement of special remedial teaching for children belonging to weaker section of the community also of other children who need remedial teaching

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ANTI CRACKER RALLY



WORKSHOP ON TRAFFIC RULE



MOTIVATIONAL CLASSES
TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



STUDENT AWARDED BY DELHI
TRAFFIC POLICE



MISSION INDRADHANUSH



Mission to Spread Greenery



EDUCATION TOWARDS TRADE



VISIT TO KARKARDOOMA COURT



YOGA SESSION



MINI MARATHON AT INDIA GATE



PARENTS TEACHER MEET



STUDENTS PERFORMED IN INDEPENDENCE
DAY PARADE AT RED FORT



ZONAL MARCH PAST WINNERS



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



WORK APPRECIATED BY EDUCATION
MINISTER



SUPWA ACTIVITY SELECTED AT STATE LEVEL



STUDENTS TRAINED BY PRINCIPAL FOR
MARCH PAST



PADHE BHARAT BADHE BHARAT

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Visible Results after Transformation

- Clean and congenial Teaching-Learning environment has been developed.
- Students are now highly motivated and taking part in all school activities. And also in sports they are participating and winning at State, National and International level competitions.
- They all come to school in proper and smarter uniform and got rid of wearing dupattas which hampered the movement of students.
- Now the students have proper seating arrangement as modular desks have been introduced in the school which gives comfort and students concentrates on their studies with enthusiasm.
- Parents are also participating for the development of school and sending their wards to school regularly with great enthusiasm.
- Now there is connect between the community members and the school which encourages them to participate whole heartedly and voluntarily in all school activities.
- Through motivational and capacity building



session's teachers now come out with better ideas. The teachers are now highly motivated and their confidence is boosted. They are using latest teaching technology and indulging students in activity based learning creating a sense of belongingness among them.

Future Strategies to Improve School

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1. **Helping the children to excel more in the sports** - In our Zonal and District level competitions some good children were spotted and as team they won **Gold Medals in Kabaddi at Zonal and District level** in all three categories (Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior). Some students also got medals in wrestling and Taekwondo at State, National as well as International level. Therefore we are planning to organize proper Kabaddi matches for them and make necessary arrangements for them similarly for the wrestling so that other girls will also get motivated and the school will excel in Kabaddi and Wrestling specifically.
2. **Bring out the talent**- We have decided to bring talents of various fields in the school and initiate connoisseur of the week and to invite successful people from various professions like Lawyers, Doctors, Engineers, Social Workers, Army Officers and Police Officers etc. So every week one persons will be invited to interact with the children so that they get motivated to take up a profession of their choice and concentrate more in academics
3. **Focus on Music**-During this period of time I found that many girls of the school have great talent of music. I planned to invite some good music teachers of reputed Gharanas to train the students in music so that they get rid of stage fear will be able to face the public boldly and courageously and take up music as their profession.
4. **More interaction with students and parents**- Since interactions with students and parents helped a lot to give spark to the school and to break the monotony, many programs will be organized other than PTMs.
5. **Informal and cordial meetings with teachers as motivational sessions**- Through these meetings our teachers will also get motivated to bring out better ideas using latest teaching technologies and indulging in activity based learning for the students. It will also create sense of belongingness among teachers and they will learn to make bond with their students that will help them to make congenial environment for the students in their classes.

School Leader and Transformation

We as school leaders are not just head of school but we are the Nation Builders.

We are creating our future society, the one in which we are living.

Any school needs a head or a leader who can provide the teachers with a driving force for the proper and smooth functioning of the school. Without a good leader the school cannot attain its optimum level of functioning.

During all these years of working I have brought about many changes in various schools, during this process I discovered many aspects about my own self which I never knew existed. I honed many new skills and brushed up skills I had so that I may give the best to the school. I realized the importance of school in a society and what we are responsible of. While teaching to be responsible even I became more aware and responsible than I was before. I worked more sincerely for the education system when I found the prevailing problems of the students while in the school and also outside it.

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After transformation of the school having strength of 4000 students, I realized not only did I change their lives but even the lives of their families. My work and the school have been recognized by parents, and the education department, for which I received the State Award. This appreciation of my work motivated me, and boosted my confidence as an individual. It gave me the motivation to develop new methods of administration and also made me a better troubleshooter.