

PUDUCHERRY

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Abstract

The major challenges of the school were decline in enrolment, lack of community support and unawareness of hygiene among students. Parents showed very less interest towards the school because they did not get a chance to know their children's talents and skills. The community lacked trust on teachers of government school. The school head motivated the teachers to be friendly and lovable so that students feel free to communicate. It believed that the school must be changed in a way where children love to spend their time. The school head approached nearly 40 likeminded teachers to paint school walls with colourful, attractive and informative murals. There was no technical teacher to strengthen the co curricular skills of our students. Emphasis was given on both curricular and extracurricular activities. The school conducts regular PTA and SMC meetings considering their view and involving them in the day today activities for the betterment of school.

Socio-Cultural Context of the School

The students of our school are from economically and socially deprived section of the society (Scheduled Caste and mostly backward community). The parents are economically very poor to meet out the daily needs too. Most of them are uneducated and working as agricultural labour or daily wages. Our school is located in a village and far away from headquarters. Generally the villagers are very much interested in sharing and celebrating festivals. **The school is renowned in the name of famous Tamil poet Pavendhar Bharathidhasan, because he worked in our school as a teacher.**



Challenges

The main challenge prevailed was declined rate of enrolment, Around 10 private schools are located nearby. Lack of community support and poor knowledge of hygiene among students is another major problem. The place around where the school is located was unhealthy and unhygienic. Lack of school infrastructure.

The most important challenges focused

- 1. Declined rate of school enrolment and lack of community support**
- 2. Necessity to improve sanitation.**

Nearly 10 private schools are located nearby our school. Parents showed very less interest towards our school because they didn't get chance to know their children's talents and skills. Additionally the parents were egoistic to not to enroll their children in govt. schools. Particularly they were attracted by grand celebrations and co curricular activities carried out in private schools. The community had an assumption that the students of Govt. schools couldn't attain any kind of achievements. In the view of community the trust on teachers of Govt. school was very less. Communication between the parents and the school was weak and unhealthy. The unhygienic environment prevailed around the school and the students were looking untidy. The school building appeared unattractive and the infrastructure was not up to the need.



Plans to overcome the challenges

- ❖ Teachers must be friendly and lovable as to make the students fear free to communicate.
- ❖ The school must be changed in a way where the children love to spend their time. So we planned to make the school premises colourful, attractive and informative which stimulate the children to learn unknowingly.
- ❖ More attention to be given on curricular and co curricular activities and their achievements.
- ❖ To enhance the pass percentage in Navodaya entrance test which is the rating tool to prove the academic standard in primary schools.
- ❖ Opportunities to be given to our students to compete in all the competitions conducted out of school.
- ❖ Planned to showcase the achievements by celebrations in regular intervals. Particularly the celebration of Annual Day every year in a grand manner.
- ❖ Plan to conduct and participate science exhibition in school, zonal, regional and state level to develop scientific temper among the students.
- ❖ Year wise exposure visit for students.
- ❖ To regulate and streamline the characters of our students CUB and BULBUL units in SCOUT to be functional.
- ❖ To conduct regular PTA meetings.
- ❖ Planned to give preference to make our children neat and hygiene.
- ❖ In order to not to receive any negative criticism from the community, we teachers focused on punctuality, and to utilize the working hours for the welfare of the students. Apart from the school hours decided to spare our own time for the betterment of school.
- ❖ Focus on improvement in infrastructure such as classrooms to be print rich, conversion of smart classrooms, children's library, computer room, play ground, dining hall, and good sanitation.

Efforts Initiated or the Process of Transformation

Being friendly and lovable we teachers focused on the teaching learning processes to be child centered. We gave more importance in joyful learning and creative work. Opportunities were given to students to experience the experienced learning out of classroom. Though we imparted the quality education to our students, I failed to enhance the enrolment. The reason I realized for the failure was lack of attraction towards school among the parents. The failure led me to realize, unless the community was not attracted towards the school, the expected changes wouldn't be possible. I was in a push to change my strategy. Even I was threatened by my fellowships that it

might lead to the opposition while the entire school building was changed with attractive colours. On the contrary I involved myself to the change. On seeing my consistent involvement, my friends and the old students from the community joined their supporting hands. There, the change was initiated!

I approached nearly 40 likeminded teachers to paint our school walls with colourful attractive and informative murals. There was no technical teacher to strengthen the co curricular skills of our students. So I united technical teachers from various schools and some old students to develop co curricular skills during holidays. This innovative practice doubled the success in a way, our students as well as our teachers to enhance their skills up to their level. It gave our own school teachers a great chance, to enhance their professional development too. Comparing the previous years our students achieved many prizes in co curricular competitions outside the school. As we decided, we gave the opportunity to the community to visualize the drastic growth of our achievements by conducting 5 days **Children's Joy Fest** in a grand manner. Usually villagers are anxious to take part in the competitions such as singing, cooking and art work. In those five days we captured their presence in our school premises through various shows (Magic, Puppetry, Film show, Drama and Cultural) and competitions for public. So I had a great opportunity to showcase our students' achievements easily in those 5 days.

This event made a turning point in our transformation because the parents of our school students were satisfied and started sharing the school's progress. On the other hand parents of other school students showed keen interest to know the happenings of our school. The whole community started to develop the trust on our school. But still we didn't achieve the expected level of enrolment. When I questioned myself, what would be the reason for less enrolment I realized there should be some more desirable changes to satisfy the community. When I enquired I came to know parents of our students were satisfied but others hesitated to enroll their children comparing the 10 private schools nearby and listing out the demerits of our school such as lack of smart classrooms, playground, library, good sanitation of school and students and grand celebrations.

Unless it's teamwork an institution cannot succeed. So I tried up to my level best to identify and utilize the feasible resources from the community. As a team we worked together to make all the classrooms print rich and entire school premises too, not only to attract but also to stimulate a positive vibration to learn. It is the basic duty of the school to pave way to the growth of physical development. In the circumstance of unavailability of playground, I tried for the solution. I came to know about the encroachment of Govt. land near the school by the private party and I cleared it with community support. To make the ground safer for our students, I approached the MLA of our constituency. He allotted nearly 7 lakhs from his fund to level the ground and constructing compound wall all the sides. Now our students have playground to enjoy!

Since the kitchen has been functioning in our school, I changed the gloomy kitchen into a glowing one by renovating with tiles. Though we provided healthy and hygienic food students used to have their lunch in the open area because there was no place for dining. My repeated

request to the concerned section brought a dining hall to our students. Now our students have their lunch under safe roof!

The active PTA and SMC are the main keys for the successful functioning. So we used to conduct, regular PTA and SMC meetings considering their view and involving them in the day today activities for the betterment of school. We started to celebrate all the national functions with the presence of community. Particularly we are celebrating Annual day function every year in a grand manner in which involving all of our students to expose their talents. Visualizing our achievements the parents of other school students started to enroll their children.

It was a great challenge to me to tune our students very neat and tidy. Even the students didn't know how to use the toilets. They were trained to use the toilets in a hygienic way and also our students were tuned to be clean. We set up a child cabinet to monitor the cleanliness of school and themselves under the guidance of the teacher. To maintain the sustainable cleanliness in and around our school, I utilized the community support in regular intervals.

The effective teaching learning processes can produce successful students. It was necessary to bring changes in teaching methods. We started with audio visual aids, now modifying as smart classrooms through sponsors. I supported and guided our teachers to collect e learning materials and using them in the smart classroom. Now they are well known to collect the e resources. I set up a children's library in our school premises to develop reading habit. This drastic change made our students to have experienced learning. Every year we organize the exposure visits and science exhibitions in our school and scout camp in our school premises integrating other schools.

Being the stakeholder's students, teachers, parents, SMC, PTA, old students, NGO, Rotary clubs, Department officials and MLA of the constituency are actively taking part in the progress of our school.

Visible Results of transformation

Students enthusiastically engaged themselves in all the school activities and began to feel that the school is their pride and asset. They cooperated with the teachers in curricular and co curricular activities and resulted in their achievements. Even now they love to spend their time in school with their teachers during holidays too. So they propagate their pride to their friends, neighbours and the society. By proceeding child cabinet, all the students willingly involved to maintain cleanliness in and around the school. Not only that, they developed discipline in such a way being a role model to others. It created self confidence and leadership quality. Now our students are ready to address the public and also the college students too. The feel of belongingness made them to protect the school as of their own.



The above said desirable changes hiked our school's esteem. **Around 50 students were selected in Navodaya entrance test in last few years. Nearly 250 of our students explicit their talents by achieving many awards** in curricular and co curricular activities at zonal and state level. With the period of 3 to 4 years, by satisfying all the expectations of the community our school enrolment is increased from 180 to around 500.

All these changes led our school to win **National Award for two times continuously in Swatchh Vidyalaya Puraskar** and bagged No. 1 position in the country with 100% score in 2018!

It is unbelievable but true; **OUR SCHOOL** received nearly 312 applications to fill 100 seats this year! Became a place of visit even from other states to adopt our constructive changes!

Further Areas for Change/ Transformation

The learning capability of the students and the teaching ability of the teachers differ one to another. So there is a need to prepare e learning material according to the level of our students. We teachers planned to setup the library of e learning materials. Since we are using smart classrooms for teaching learning process, we plan to train our students to use smart boards themselves. We try to develop the level of confidence among our students even to teach their peers.

Since it is a primary school, it is essential to teach mathematics in a concrete way. So I wish to setup a Maths lab which should promote the self learning of our students. In present situation each and every child should develop their reasoning ability to study the happenings around them. There is a plan to establish a science lab at primary level to satisfy our students need.

School Leader and Transformation

Though I am the school leader, basically I should be a teacher to involve myself in all the school activities. Unless earning the trust of the fellow teachers it wouldn't be possible for this school transformation. So I earned the trust and support from our teachers being a role model to them. First I engaged myself after the school hours to promote the academic standard of our school children. Though I faced many obstacles to bring out the talents of our students in the competitions, I was stern and stubborn and I didn't step back at any cost. I am one of the **Master Resource Person** appointed by our Department in teaching methodologies. I set myself as an example to involve in activities like preparing TLMs, not only participating in science exhibitions but **bagged many awards at zonal, regional, state and national level**. To create innovative thoughts among the teachers I worked as a role model by achieving **national award ranking No. 1 in the country in the competition on Innovative practice to improve sanitation in schools** organized by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Especially making our school to win **2 National awards in consecutive years**. I feel proud to be the key person and the initiator to our team in the path of transformation.

After the school transformation my level of confidence is raised as to tackle the new challenges too. I learnt that in spite of criticism, sustainable hard work and focused vision lead to success. Incorporative work of the stake holders can divert the decline into raise. Constructive progress of each year is essential to sustain the success of the school. Now I am guiding other schools for their desirable changes and that gives me the self confidence to be a successful school leader.



**In spite of criticism,
sustainable hard
work and focused
vision lead me to
success**

THANK YOU



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