

UTTARAKHAND

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Abstract

The school was facing challenges such as low attendance and disinterest of students. The school head and his team decided to establish good relations with students. The school worked with students on improving their writing, speaking and calculation skills, encouraged students to ask their doubts and to inculcate scientific temperament.

For all round development of student's different types of activities and contests are organized, such as Science quiz, Mathematics contest, speedy calculation contests, English or Hindi essay contest, drawing, map reading and essay contest.

Socio-Cultural Context of the School

In Uttarakhand GHS Paudhar (established in 2006) is 26 km away from Almora on the way to Lamgara. It is a tiny village where residents could hardly earn their livelihood by agriculture, animal husbandry or mason work. Most of the people come in below poverty line. Every family has at least 5 or 6 members. Most of the parents are illiterate or educated up to class 5th or 6th. People are orthodox and have association with nature. Nearest hospital is 12 kms far from here. They speak Kumauni and Hindi. The basic challenge in their life is to earn education and satisfactory livelihood.

In Sep 2016 when I joined at GHS Paudhar as a Principal, it was suffering from problem of low attendance and students were looking less enthusiastic towards study. Most of the students were in trouble when dealing with simple mathematical operations. Way to school was in broken situation, the roof was dripping in the rain, and a part of prayer ground was dusty. Reducing garbage was also a challenge. After interval students were losing the enjoyment of learning.

Efforts Initiated or the Process of Transformation

I realized that physical development of infrastructure will happen gradually but first we should focus on improving academic environment. So first I decided to establish good relation with my staff then I started to make a good connection with students. I tried to make them fearless and encourage them to ask their general doubts in prayer. I and my staff started to give answers of their queries. It was a wonderful experiment; it helped us to make our closeness with students.

Now I tried to ensure that no time of students in school should go waste. So when teachers were engaged in doing some important work or in leave I try to utilize their time by taking their common class as telling them about Periodic Table or some chapters of science or telling them doing simple mathematical

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operations, or remembering them squares up to 30 or try to increase their vocabulary in English or polishing their essay writing skill in both English and Hindi. It helped us to make an atmosphere to take care of one another.

Here most of the students come from government Primary schools where mostly one teacher takes care of all these children. So naturally their academic achievements are far below than desirable. It requires school to do extra hard work to bring them in required level. For bringing change in students we are working in following plan--:

- 1- To improving their writing, speaking and calculation skill
- 2- To encourage them to ask their doubts and to inculcate scientific temperament on them
- 3- To improve their health by encouraging them to take MDM and ensuring their playing activities
- 4- To encourage them to keep their selves and their class neat and clean.
- 5- To make projects in different subjects based on their own books
- 6- To take part in science exhibition, debate, cultural program and other activities
- 7- To encourage them to help their weaker friends in study
- 8- To ensure their regular attendance
- 9- To empower students with responsibilities
- 10- To manage sweaters or shoes for them

Creativity gives the joy of learning and it is the ultimate education. Creativity comes only after deep understanding of topic. This is the highest order of work which academic institutions should do.

Visible Results of Transformation

Few glimpses of activities done in the school.



Quiz test/debate /essay writing on different subjects



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Morning assembly:-Our morning assembly is little long. In it at least one student of each class tells few word meaning in English, tell formulae of Science and Mathematics, asks few questions related to social science and also asks a doubt. After asking doubt, doubt paper is dropped into doubt box. Later doubts are written in register as a record. After collecting doubts, subject related teacher or I clears the doubts almost every day. It helps us to make students curious.

Professors, engineer, head boy and head girl of school:-Responsibility not restriction helps to make school a safe place. Staff has unanimously chosen few students from all classes who are doing outstandingly well in academics as Professors. Number of professors may increase as students will improve their learning level. These professors help other students when school/teacher feels need of it. School has few engineers also whom technical mind is very sound. They mend things along with teachers when some chair or desk breaks. School has one cleaning head that takes care of cleanliness of premises along with peon and alert students against doing rubbish. Head boy and head girl manage many events in school. Captain takes care of sports.

Contests:- For all round development of the students different type of activities and contests are organized, such as Science quiz, Mathematics contest, speedy calculation contests, English or Hindi essay contest, drawing, map reading and essay contest etc..

Subjects Exhibition--: Every year we organize an exhibition in school. In it each student takes part. They make their projects in Science, Maths, Home Science, Hindi, Social Science and in English. Teacher's and I help them in their work. Projects are mainly related to their course content. This exercise further increases their subject understanding. Some times students come with very innovative ideas which not only enthrall them but we also.



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Learning by doing: - “The greatest education in the world is watching the masters at work.”
Michael Jackson

This quotation is relevant in our school. I as well as all the teachers utilizes their extra time to mending the doors, windows, badminton rackets, repairing the broken chairs and desks etc. After doing work we try to tell students science behind it. When we build a wall, we try to make them understand how cement joins the bricks firmly. Near about all the little repairing work we do ourselves. It prevents our school to get poor. In the same time we teach about force, impulse, momentum, moment potential energy, kinetic energy, pressure etc. to students related to work done. These all activities help students to understand use of science in daily life.

English Speaking: - Our school is a Hindi medium school. We realize that our students are lagging behind because they are lacking in English. So we are providing them an environment of speaking in English. In the assembly one student from each class introduces himself in English and he/she tells what they learned previous day in different subjects. I and other teachers mostly address students in Hinglish (English+Hindi). We speak in English but simultaneously translate content in Hindi so that students could understand what was said in English.

Punishment:- Some time students come late or remain absent in school. We have decided that if any student comes late in school or remains absent, he or she will explain the reason of coming late or being absent in English. It helps us to promote English in school.

Library:- We often guide senior students to take specific books from the library so that they can better understand their subject matter. Junior students take books of their choice.

Computer lab- In our school students is very curious to learn new things and technology. This year our school got 5 computers and one projector from American foundation. Now teacher's use them to teach students. Students love to practice different tools and software in computer lab.

Sports, Games and Yoga --: We have experienced that by playing sports/games the speed of learning and understanding increases tremendously. It also help us to utilize extra energy of students which ultimately keeps students away from destruction and disputes. Keeping these things in mind we value sports/games in school. In spite of very small playground our students play outdoor games as cricket, football, Volley ball, Kabaddi badminton and Kho-Kho. In sports they do race, jump and throws. Our interval runs for half an hour in which most of students eat and play. We have decided to increase interval for further fifteen minutes so that students could play in continuation and our purpose to make them fit in less time is also fulfilled. Yoga is also a part of the assembly. We do it in regular intervals. It makes students internally strong.

Practical Education:- Practicals are the soul of Science. So in school we try to do practicals when deal with Science. From 6th to 10th students see and do practicals with great interest.

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Promoting Creativity:- We often promote students to create some new of their choice from their surroundings. All teachers give them ideas and help them. Many times we get stunned by their creation. It overwhelmed us with joy. In return we praise them and award them with a 'pen' in assembly. This pen is our love and blessings to students.

Awards--: Awards are big motivators in spite of limited resources we manage little award like pen from PTA fund. Our students are getting promotional award almost every day. The awards are given in different disciplines as -: 100% attendance (given per month), most clean class award, most clean students (1 boy + 1 girl) award, Engineer of the day, topper of the class award, sincerity award, winner of different contest award, creativity award etc. When we do quiz or contest we select three best performers and one or two from weakest students who have tried to answer questions or done little good in contest. This helps us to promote weaker students also. We believe that every student is differently able. So we award near about every child by seeing his/her specific abilitytime to time.



Helping students after praising their few attributes



Guest and Teachers Lectures -: Expert of different fields are invited in school time to time, who not only guide the students but we also learn a lot from them. After their address students and teachers ask many questions to them. After going home, all students make a brief note on what they learned. They also list their other few doubts regarding to talk. In next day they present it in the morning assembly. Here their remaining doubts are cleared by topic related teacher or I.

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If anyone like doctor, Lawyer, Engineer, forest officer, officer of department comes to school then we try to take maximum academic benefit of them. Students raise many questions to them and learn some new.

Subject related general lectures by teachers are also organized in school. These lectures are delivered by almost all teachers time to time. All students and rest teachers listen it and raise questions during the lecture. It not only clears many doubts of students but teachers also. This entire process helps to boost students learning level and to keep all teachers alert and update. This exercise ultimately help teaches to teach their subject in association with other subjects.

Educators as learners- Atmosphere of school is very cozy. In which teachers feel no shame to clear their doubts with their fellow teachers and me. I also go to teachers to clear my doubts. So, sharing and mutual co-operation is the culture of school.

Cleanliness- We have tried to sensitize students against dirt. We feel that an ugly environment ultimately adversely effect learning. Our slogan is “If student will be surrounded by rubbish his mind will also become rubbish”. So students in our school are alert against dirt. They help in making their classes and surroundings clean and beautiful.

Cultural programs – School celebrates every national festival with great enthusiasm. Students take part in different cultural activities. Cultural items help to make students crazy and happy. .

Work as a learning tool- Many little work we do ourselves like mending of badminton, doors, windows, chairs and desk, making of cloth balls, making small broken walls, Applying cement to broken patch of class floor, painting of railing, writing important information with paint in walls etc. After doing work, we try to explain science behind the work done to students. This becomes a great learning experience for students. Now every work in school becomes a learning activity to students.

Black board works as teacher- We have prepared few boards in which Periodic Table, General Formulas of Mathematics and Science up to class 10th, Important people of country and state, States and their capitals and Tense chart are written. Whenever school runs short of teachers like during trainings, during election work etc., these boards work as an excellent teacher. Students learn things written in board and class monitors take care of their classes. Sometimes head boy and head girl and professors of school take classes. Periodic Table, squares up to 20 and cubes up to 10 and capitals of states, is learned to most of the students in our school. This silent teacher (board) helps a lot in odd times.

School magazine: - School collects the articles written by students time to time. We select few articles from them and give them place in School magazine. Photographs of few students like class monitors, head boy, head girl, engineer, professors and high achiever in board examination also get place here. Photographs of creative works done by students also get place here. Teacher's articles are also published here. This encourages students to write better and to do better. School has not enough money to print the magazine so we scan the articles and photographs and print about twenty magazines. This all work is done in school. We keep few magazines in school library. Library teacher issue these books to students. Students show great excitement towards magazine.

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Science exhibition in school level



Interval meal– I experienced that students were losing their interest in learning after interval because of depleting energy level. I compelled all students other than 6th, 7th, and 8th to bring atleast two chapattis and vegetable for their interval eating. Few who can not bring vegetable can take it from Mid Day Meal. I personally look after it. This helped us to make them more fit to learn after interval.

Clothing-Though government provide uniform to students but in extreme cold months they are not sufficient. They often lack in sweater and shoes. So we try to provide them these by our efforts so that they could mentally prepare for learning. We do not give them these things as help but first we find out few qualities in them, then in prayer after high lighting their qualities we give these things to them so that their self-esteem could get more strengthen. I feel children are never poor; they look poor because their parents are so and we also not regard their talent.

Infrastructure- To improve the physical infrastructure was a challenge for us. We are continuously writing to department but it takes time to materialize. But time will never come back for any students. If student will see well today they will do well tomorrow. So we have decided to make little efforts to repair the roof, ground and broken walls. For it few outsiders, teachers, office clerk, Peon, SMC adhyaksha and I gave our monetary and other support and we remained success to finalise it.

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Teachers are contributing to shaping school



Further Areas for Change/ Transformation

Plan for Next year- For next year I am thinking to make students more easy with English speaking, doing mathematical calculations and making them more proficient in dealing with computer.

School leader and Transformation

With the change of time new challenges comes and for an educator it is a new work. Purposeful, thoughtful and passionate working is the only way to cope up with challenges. Today each unit of our school is more humble, more ready to learn with deeper understanding, more ready to accept challenges. Students are busy to shaping themselves better with fighting there family constrains. I hope in near future they will prove themselves a humble, curious and alert citizen of country. I feel happy and more energetic when find myself among students and teachers.