

## Theme: Leading Community Partnership for School Transformation

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### A Case Study of “Leading Community Partnerships for School Transformation”

#### ABSTRACT

Leading Transformational leadership approaches help schools to reform and move toward a new horizon and at the same time add new bricks for the betterment in a competitive world. The principal who is guided and followed by transformational leadership approaches, is able to lead an institution in an effective way. Moreover, leader who embraced transformational leadership know how to engaged its stakeholders for the betterment of the institution. The research question "How has the school principal been a case for exemplary transformational leader?" is used as a guideline for the research process. In the area of transformational leadership practice at community school of Punjab, there has been only a few research studies. Its purpose is to explore transformational leadership practice in a school with partnership of community. Single case study method is used to explore the strength and challenges experienced by the principal who embraced transformational leadership. One principal from better performance of school of Punjab (Sanour) District Patiala was taken as research participant and school as a model of transformation. The result of the study is based on the principal's experience regarding the betterment of the school in an complex and ever changing educational environment. The transformational leadership theory supports this study. The result shows that those school leaders who practice transformational leadership approach got succeed in transforming the school and are able to modify all the challenges and problems into opportunities for the school.

#### Introduction:

According to Willems and Gonzalez – De Hass (2012)- School community partnerships as a meaningful relationship with community members, organization that are committed to Working cooperatively for the betterment of student's social, intellectual, physical, emotional or over all development in Society.

Community involvement in schools is a critical component for student's achievements. Researches show that those schools which develop strong community partnerships have higher educational achievements, higher grades academically, excels in co-curricular activities, exceptional achievements in sports and academics. Volunteer participation of parents and better opportunities at higher level or outside the school for students. Community participation for schools is a gateway to success not only this it widen their horizon in the best way. Education is a process of learning and gaining knowledge that helps people understand the world and develop skills for life. It can be defined as:

**A lifelong process**

Education can be seen as a process that starts at birth and continues throughout life. It includes all knowledge, experiences, skills, and attitudes that people gain.

**A purposeful activity**

Education is a purposeful activity that can take place in many different settings, not just in schools. It's concerned with developing knowledge, understanding, values, skills, and sensibilities.

**A teleological concept**

Education has a purpose or aim, and it aims to provide knowledge, skills, and understanding. It also integrates people into societal norms and fosters personal growth.

**A way to differentiate from indoctrination**

Education can be distinguished from indoctrination by its emphasis on critical thinking. Critical thinking is a form of thinking that's reasonable, reflective, and careful.

The word "education" comes from the Latin word *educare*, which means "to bring up" or "to nourish".

Community education is a field that aims to improve education and social development through programs that connect individuals and communities:

***Community-based learning:*** A teaching and learning strategy that integrates community engagement with academic study. It aims to teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.

***Community education resource centers:*** Provide services to connect rural communities to the outside world, such as internet access, talks, and seminars.

***Lifelong learning:*** A term used interchangeably with community education.

Community education can help individuals and communities in many ways, including:

***Improving education***

Community education can improve education at the local, national, and international levels.

***Building relationships***

Community education can help build relationships between home, school, and community.

Developing problem-solving skills

Community education can help citizens develop problem-solving skills to address societal challenges.

***Empowering individuals***

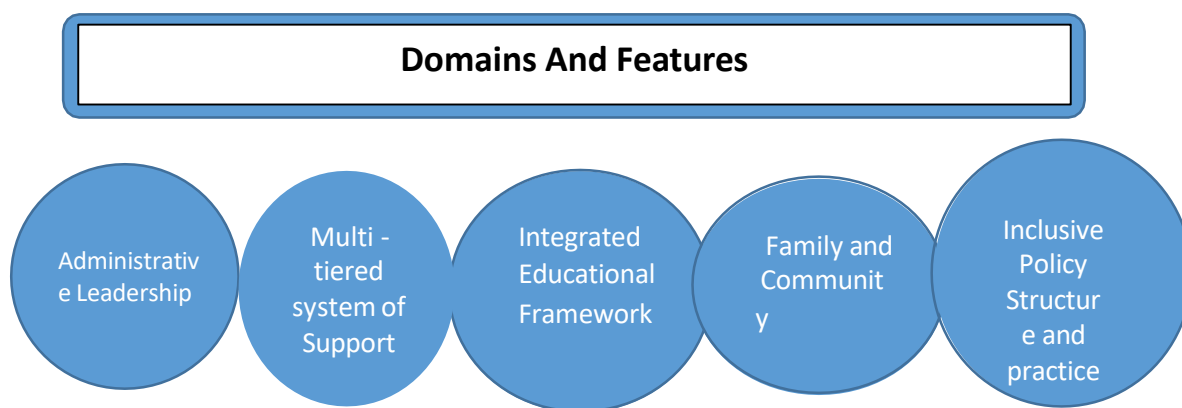
Community education can help empower individuals and enhance citizenship and participation.

Improving quality of life

Community education can help improve the quality of life of the community.

## Research Questions

1. What kind of partnership of community do successful development of schools?
2. What is the role of a principal/head of the institution for the overall development of the school making an alliance with community?
3. What factor support the development of strong community partnerships in the school?



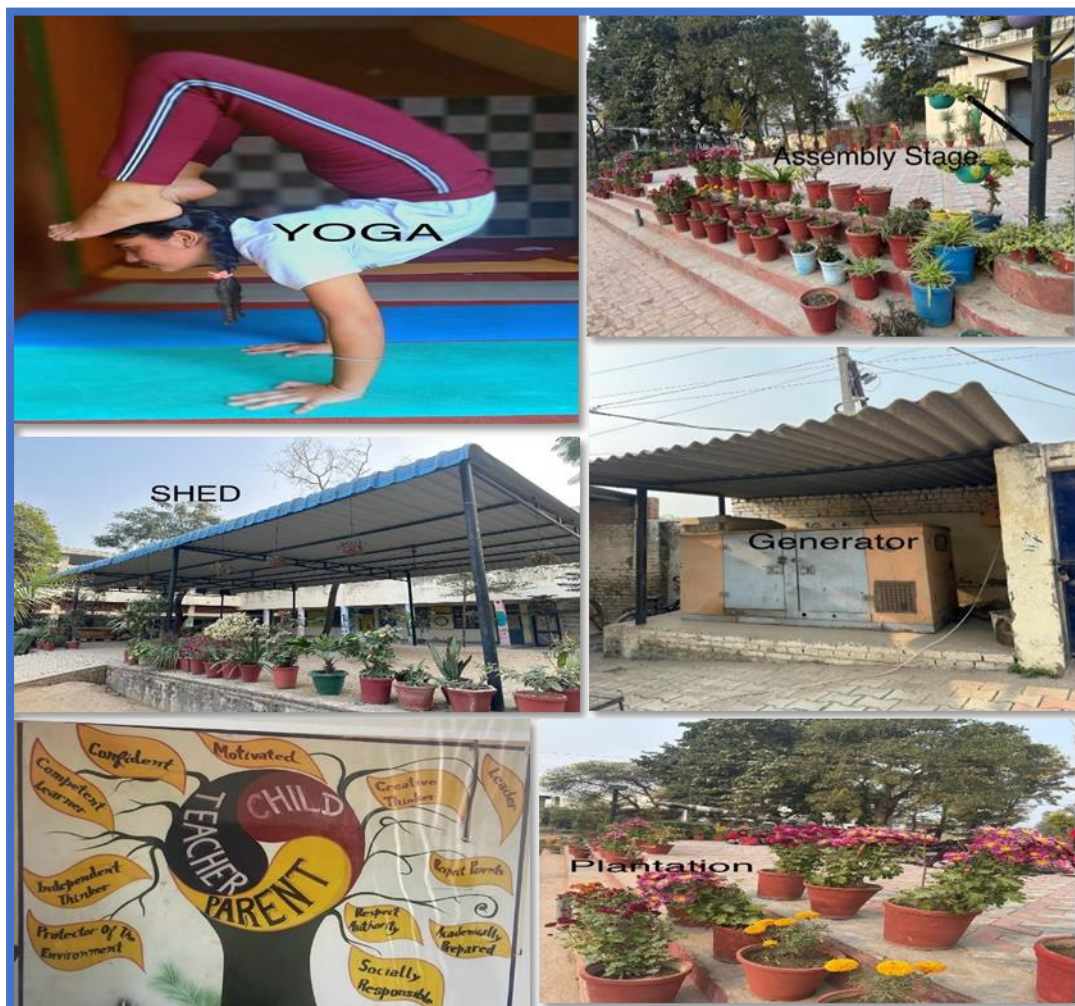
## Reasons For selection of Research area:

Earlier there was a problem relevant to electricity. Whenever there were long electricity cuts, students find it difficult to sit in suffocated classrooms in hot weather and unable to focus on studies. There was also insufficient drinkable pure water in the school. The ambience of school was very normal, there was a few plants in the school. No educational park was available in the school. There was less participation in sports and cultural activities. But after joining of Dr. Karamjit Kaur as a principal in the school all problems were solved. Her holistic approach and great communication skills brought many donors and NGOs in the school for the development of facilities and this notion assist the better learning environment for the students in the school.

## Story of Change

- **Electricity:** After the initiative of Dr. Karamjit Kaur, the electricity problem was solved. A humble person Mr. Jasdeep Singh, Police officer from U.S.A donated a Generator set worth Rs. 3 Lakhs. Another special donor Mr. Surinder Singh Nijhar from U.K. donated 23 air conditioners and Rs. 90,000 for transformers. Colonel Lal Singh Dhillon gift 19 fans for schools. Mr. Anurag Jaidka from U.S.A also donated 12 fans. Now students sit comfortably in the class even in a very hot weather. The students of the school belong to under-privileged families.
- **Shed and Morning Assembly Stage:** With the efforts of School principal, assembly stage and shed was constructed. The construction expenses were bear by Mr. Surjit Singh M.C. Sanour.
- **Plantation:** Dr. Karamjit Kaur has done M.Sc. Botany. She is a plant lover and after her joining the ambience of school is much greener.
- **Sports Activity:** She believes in overall development of students so along with academics she motivates the students to participate in extra curriculum activities.

Total 60 students have participated at district and state level. There is less space for ground in the school but with the collaboration of school with local community playgrounds, the students of the school prepare for the competition and get positions at state and national level specially Handball and Yoga.



- **Cultural Activities:** Students Of the school does not only remain confined to academics but also performed extraordinary in cultural activities. Giddha and role play teams have been getting first and second position at state level and participating in National for last 3 years. This year two students got first and second position at state level in Solo Folk dance of Andhra Pradesh. The travel and costume expenses are always bear by the Mr. Inder Kumar Shindi, President of Sanour Committee.
- **Health and Hygiene:** Different kind of health and hygiene campaigns are conducted by the school authorities with collaboration of different trusts. Campaigns such as traffic rules, disaster management, awareness of healthy habits and cleanliness. Gyan Jyoti Education Trust distribute helmets and also aware the students about traffic rules. Taraksheel Society aware the student about superstitions. So, these kind of awareness camps help in better development of students. School got first position in Swachh Vidyalaya Swachh Bharat for cleanliness inside and outside the campus.
- **Math Educational Park:** Punjab's First Math's Park without any Government Aid and

only with the help of community was constructed in G.H.S Karhali and on the same pattern Math's Park was constructed in GGSSS Sanour.

- **BALA Work:** Extra BALA work was done by School Principal Dr. Karamjit Kaur with the help of community besides the work done with the help of govt. aid which helps to enhance the beauty of the school building and also increase the knowledge of students in an attractive way.
- **Business Blaster:** A government of Delhi initiative, this is a programme that seeks to inculcate a business & entrepreneurial mindset amongst students through a specially designed curriculum. Dr. Karamjit took this notion on priority and work upon it different ideas was innovated by the students and teachers, food, Heena, clothes, candle and soap making, embroidery and needling was included in business blaster. Time to time Sale counter is organized in local fairs and gathering which have been benefiting the students drastically. This all was done without any govt. aid. Only community members help us to start this pilot project which was inaugurated by Dr. Gurpreet Kaur Wife of CM Punjab Sh. Bhagwant Maan. This effort is highly appreciated by the parents and beneficial for the students which help them to make their business career.
- **Uniform, Books and Monetary help to the needy students:** With the help of community and various NGO's uniforms, Stationery Items, Books and also monetary help for depositing board examination fees is regularly done from last 20 years.
- **Honesty Shop:** A unique concept was given by Dr. Karamjit Kaur for the school students to inculcate moral values which would help them to become a better citizen of the Nation. It will benefit both the students and the society.

## Conclusion

This study demonstrates that School community partnership can be strong and needed sport for local schools. While also providing a reciprocal benefit to the community partners. School has a variety of partners and partnerships ranging from local small business and non-profit's to large universities and corporations. Each community partner provided unique and individual support to his or her local school, while also receiving social, emotional and tangible benefits in your return. In particular, a strong finding of reciprocal benefit was their community partners apply what they learn from our school's inclusive culture and practices to better support the inclusion of all individuals with disability in their community outside of the school. School factors that facilitate this partnership includes strong school leadership and in inviting school culture, educator commitment to students' success and the ability to collaborate and communicate with community partners. Strong community partnership support school in the present, while the benefit to the community may continue into the future.

## Recommendations for further research

This exploratory study unearthed interesting themes that should be investigated in more depth in future research. Most notably participants discussed how much they have learnt about inclusion through their partnership with these schools. Further research should examine how community partnership spread inclusive values in the community to



investigate examples of this spreading of value, researchers might query other schools, camps, recreational events, groups, religious and titles, sports teams and business. Additionally, the findings on community partners, perceptions of teacher's commitment to student success suggests a need for future research on the influence of teacher commitment on community stakeholder's interest in and willingness to partner.

## Recommendations for School leaders

### 1. Engage with the community

Frequent business and service organizations and enquire about what they sell or the services they offer. Establish our relationship with the honor of local business and service organizations. Attend social and cultural events within your community and network with other attendees. Identify a staff member to be the community liaison for the school and set aside time for that staff member to build and sustain community relationships.

### 2. Jointly identify mutual interests and goals

Invite local business and service representatives to a school event to discuss mutual interest and goals. Create a site council and invite community representatives to join and engage in school and community empowerment efforts. Survey community partners about what they see as needs of the families and students in the community. Link mutual interest and goals to student learning



**3. Ensure reciprocity in the partnership**

Meet regularly with community partner to identify and update mutual interests and goals for partnership. Identify ways that the school can give back to the community. Identify ways to harness community resources and services to support families and children in the school setting.

**4. Maintain an “open door Policy”**

Invite family, Staff of the school and various community members to provide meaningful feedback on different school program policies and practices. Invite individual, local business and service providers to visit the school, observe classrooms and participate in a classroom or School wide event. Schedule appointments with community representatives to discuss various student family school and community needs. Make school building easily available for community.

**5. Invite community members to serve in various roles within the school**

Invite community members to serve on committees and leadership teams and contribute to governance decisions. Ask community members to evaluate the performance of the school and staff. Involve various community members as active participants in projects, field, trips, classroom lessons and celebrations.

**Brief Introduction of the Leader**

Enthusiastic Leader Dr. Karamjit Kaur is a commendable Administrator.

- 1. Educational Qualifications:** She is M.Sc. (Botany), M.Ed., M.Phil (Education) Ph.D. (Education)
- 2. Professional Achievements:** She has been into teaching profession for last 29 years. She is the great administrator and working for the betterment of students throughout her career. She was the member of the first batch which was selected by the Punjab government to attend the international training for principals in Singapore in year 2023. She joined her present institute in year 2015 and a vivid transformed picture of the school's infrastructure and achievements can be seen.
- 3. Student's Achievements under her guidance:** She never let any stone unturned for the benefit of the students. In year 2006 she started working under Punjab government as headmistress and since then she has never stopped, every morning she wakes-up with the new motto in her mind for the students and school. Under her guidance the students have performed in different activities at different levels.
- 4. Sports:** Students have been performing in different sports such as Handball, Yoga, Judo, Karate, Hockey, Chess, Boxing and Power lifting. Many students are state level winners and also participate in National level. Handball teams (Under 14, 17 and 19) of the school have been stood first for last 6 years.
- 5. Cultural:** Under National Population Education Project Giddha team of the school got first position in state and participated in National. Under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat two students in solo folk dance of Andhra Pradesh in different age categories got first position.

6. **Activities under community alliance with school:** Throughout her career she has worked in many different schools and done commendable job with the help of the community and NGOs. She joined her present institute in year 2015 and a vivid transformed picture of the school's infrastructure and achievements can be seen.
7. **Electricity:** There was an electricity problem in the school, with the help of community and NGO's School Principal has installed Generator system and Air Conditioners for the benefit of students in school.
8. **Plantation:** With the help of community Dr. Karamjit Kaur has maintained mesmerizing greenery in and outer boundary of the school.
9. **Culture and Sports:** The travelling and costume expenses of the sports and cultural activities of the students is provided by the different NGOs for different competitions.
10. **Awareness Campaign:** Time to time many awareness camps are organized regarding traffic rules, disaster management, superstitious etc. with the help of community.
11. **Infrastructure:** Math's Park, Science Park, BALA (Building As learning Aid) Work, Morning Assembly Stage, Shed are constructed under her guidance with the help of community.