Meaningful Learning Experience Through All Round Development Initiatives of the School

Basic Information

Name of School:	**Sonapur Higher Secondary School**
P.O	**Sonapur**
District:	**Kamrup (Metro)**
Pin:	**782402**
Head teacher:	**Juri Devi**
Students Strength:	**814**
Teachers Strength:	**28**

For the all-round development of a school, it is necessary to pay attention to every aspect. Along with sports, literature, and culture, special importance is being given to various fields such as arts (crafts), vocational education, mehendi design, and others. I am happy to mention that students from our school have even participated at the international level in sports.

By forming groups like the **MOTHERS' GROUP** and the **GIRLS' FORUM (BALIKA MANCHA)** various activities have been carried out. Visiting the homes of the students and discussing with the parents has helped us understand the home environment of the students.

In the school campus, we have tried to impart cultural understanding by organizing festivals like **BOHAG BIHU** and **BHOGALI BIHU**, teaching students hands-on skills by allowing them to set up **MEJIS** and **BHELAGHARS**. Former students have also contributed by providing knowledge beyond the textbook. In this way, attempts have been made to teach students lessons beyond bookish knowledge. Students have even been given the opportunity to visit the Legislative Assembly to observe its proceedings.

Since 2014, rainwater used to leak through the old tin sheets of Sonapur Higher Secondary School. During the rainy season, the situation became terrible. Students had to sit in classrooms holding umbrellas. Teachers had to enter their classrooms drenched. Sitting in the principal's chair, I desperately sought a solution. Nearly three lakh rupees were required to replace the old tin roofing of the entire school building and to buy timber that had decayed. The distress of the students and teachers caused deep pain, so, finally, the general public was approached. But no one came forward with such a large amount of money. Ultimately, the **STAR CEMENT** family at Chamata, Sonapur, was approached reminding them of their social responsibilities.

To show them the school environment and to prove the truth of the situation, two meetings were called. In the end, they provided tin sheets for a portion of the school building. For the remaining portion, **TOPCEM CEMENT COMPANY** also contributed with tin sheets, thus helping realize the principal's dream.

For many years, the school playground had remained marshy. Even long after the rainy season, water remained stagnant. The school environment was not suitable for holding games and sports. Even after repeatedly filling soil, the ground could not be levelled up. Eventually, with the help of Ranger Dalim Das, an application was submitted to the DFO, and we were able to level a portion of the ground to hold events like prayer meetings neatly. Thus, another dream was fulfilled.



Efforts have been made to decorate the school with the beauty of nature. Various trees have been planted from time to time, and they have now grown into large trees. RAIN TREES and KRISHNACHURA have been planted along the pond. To give students proper knowledge of nature, medicinal plants such as NEEM, ARJUNA, BOKUL, AMLA, and SHILIKHA (HARDA) have been planted. Many birds visit these trees. The birds that mostly visit the school are SPOTTED DOVE, MYNA, and EGRET. As a former student, the Head teacher wished to beautify the campus where she spent her childhood and youth, and to provide shelter for these birds and instil love for nature among the students. For this reason, SUSHEEL DAS, who can train students to build bird nests, was invited. Using discarded coconut husks, students were taught how to make suitable shelters for birds. After the training, the bird nests made by the students were tied to the trees. They were also taught various aspects of bird conservation.

To promote NAAM-PRASANGA, an important element of Assamese culture, a naam team has been formed among the students. The boys can play the traditional instrument NAAGARA, and the girls play the TAAL. They can sing various devotional songs from the KIRTAN written by Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev and the NAAM-GHOSA written by Srimanta Madhavdev. They also know folk devotional songs sung locally. This team performs NAAM-PRASANGA during the Saraswati Puja celebrations at the school.

Vocational education can enable students to become self-reliant. Several students of this school are skilled in MEHENDI DESIGN art. Training in this art is provided in the vocational course called BEAUTY AND WELLNESS. Some economically weaker students have adopted MEHENDI DESIGN as a means of earning.

According to the first and tenth chapters of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev's teachings, **PUTOLA NAAS (PUPPET DANCE)** is an important part of Indian culture. To prevent the near disappearance of the traditional **PUTOLA NAAS (PUPPET DANCE)**, efforts have been made to give students proper knowledge of Assamese culture by performing it. Students have been trained to make the puppets used in **PUTOLA NAAS**. Arrangements have been made to impart various teachings through this art form, which had never been practiced in the school before. Puppets are made using wood, bamboo, clay, cloth, and other materials. Figures of humans, deities, and animals are created. A group of our students has been trained to make such puppets, providing them with an enjoyable and meaningful learning experience.

A national flag was created using the fingerprints of 35 students on a cloth measuring **35 FEET** in length and **16 FEET** in width, and it was displayed at the centrally organized **REPUBLIC DAY** celebration in Sonapur.



