

Case Study Report – GHS Chirakkara

Title of the Case Study

Transforming Learning through Vijnanakiranam Worksheets under
Vajrathilakam Project

Theme of the Case Study

Pedagogical Leadership for Improving Student Learning

Case Study Information

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Profile of the School

Nestled in the heart of Kollam District, Government High School Chirakkara stands as a venerable institution of public education, distinguished by a rich heritage that spans more than seven decades. Established in 1948, the school has grown from its humble beginnings into a comprehensive educational hub, consistently demonstrating a profound commitment to academic excellence, character development, and the holistic growth of its students. Situated in a serene semi-urban village environment, the school today caters to nearly 850 students with the support of a dedicated team of 38 staff members, creating a nurturing atmosphere where learning thrives. The majority of students hail from middle-class families, bringing with them values of discipline, resilience, and hard work, which enrich the school community. Over the years, the school has earned the trust of the local community, serving as a centre not only for knowledge but also for cultural and social development. At the same time, the institution faces challenges such as limited infrastructure and the absence of a higher secondary section, which often leads to students migrating to nearby schools after completing their high school education. However, the school views these challenges as opportunities for growth, striving to enhance facilities through government initiatives, community support, and alumni contributions. With its strong legacy, committed faculty, and student-friendly environment, Government High School Chirakkara continues to stand as a beacon of hope and progress, inspiring generations of learners and shaping responsible citizens for the future.

The Present Scenario (SWOT Analysis)

Strengths:

GHS Chirakkara offers a complete and integrated educational pathway, catering to students from **Lower Kindergarten (LKG) through Class 10**. This seamless structure ensures a stable and continuous learning environment. The school's academic program is fortified by specialized support systems designed to foster scholarly excellence. 100% SSLC results, 28% of students securing A+ in all subjects. Notably, it provides dedicated coaching and preparatory resources for competitive scholarship examinations such as the **Lower Secondary Scholarship (LSS)**, the **Upper Secondary Scholarship (USS)**, and NMMS Examination equipping students with the skills and confidence to excel.

Beyond the core curriculum, the school nurtures leadership, social responsibility, and technical proficiency through a vibrant ecosystem of student-led clubs and initiatives.

Prominent among these are the **Students Police Cadet (SPC)**, which instils discipline and civic sense; the **Little Kites IT club**, which cultivates digital literacy and technological innovation in line with Kerala's high-tech education policy; and the **Junior Red Cross (JRC)**, which promotes humanitarian values and community service. The Supportive PTA and SMC

Weaknesses:

- Limited digital infrastructure compared to urban schools
- Academic backwardness among some students
- Irregular attendance due to socio-economic issues

Opportunities:

Government support through Samagra Guna Menma Project.

Strong PTA, SMC community support.

Scope to expand digital learning and blended teaching models

- Government-sponsored ICT and enrichment projects
- Community participation in school development
- Access to digital content and innovative teaching

Threats:

- Dropout tendencies due to financial struggles and family issues
- Peer pressure and social media distractions
- Migration of talented students to private schools

Description Of Community

The school community represents a rural-urban blend. The community surrounding the school is socio-economically diverse, with many families engaged in traditional occupations, agriculture, small scale business, and daily wage labour. The cultural values emphasize education, discipline, and social responsibility. Parents and community members actively support school initiatives, and students reflect these values in their involvement in school and community development programs. The community strongly values education as a means of social mobility.

Expectations: Academic excellence, job-oriented education, and opportunities in sports and arts.

Needs: Special care for low learners and inclusive education for physically challenged children.

Problem Situation

The major challenge identified was academic backwardness and lack of confidence among slow learners, particularly in English, Mathematics, and Science. These students struggled with reading, writing, comprehension, and basic arithmetic, which created a gap between average and below-average performers.

Change Initiated – Plan of Action, Strategy, and Outcome

- **Signature Program: The Activity-Based Workbook Vijnanakiranam (Rays of Knowledge)**

A hallmark of GHS Chirakkara's commitment to equitable education is its flagship project, **Vajrathilakam**. The Vajrathilakam Project was formally launched (2023) by the Honourable Education Minister Sri V.Sivankutty on the Vajrajubilee function presided over by our respected MLA, Sri. G. S. Jayalal. Conceived as a pilot initiative, the project aims to uplift and support students who are comparatively backward in their studies, while also enhancing the educational level of every learner.

The project is founded on the belief that no child should be left behind. Every student, regardless of their current learning pace, deserves individual attention, proper guidance, and the opportunity to grow with confidence. Through this initiative, we strive to understand each student's level of knowledge and provide resources that are both meaningful and engaging.

As part of this mission, our LP, UP, and HS teachers under the leadership of HM have come together to design a worksheet-based activity book titled Vijnanakiranam (Rays of knowledge). Within a short span of time, our dedicated teachers worked tirelessly to understand the vision of the project and translate it into this innovative resource.

The uniqueness of Vijnanakiranam lies in the fact that it brings all major subjects — Languages, Mathematics, and Science — into a single workbook. This structure serves multiple purposes:

Holistic Learning Resource – By combining all subjects into one book, teachers can

easily monitor the overall progress of each child, while students benefit from an integrated, activity-based learning experience.

Individual Student Profiling – The carefully designed worksheets enable teachers to clearly identify each student's learning level in different subjects. This helps in recognizing strengths and areas needing support in Languages, Mathematics, or Science.

Encouraging Student Progress – The book helps students complete their worksheets more effectively and allows them to compare their progress in a healthy way with their peers, thereby boosting confidence and motivation.

Personalized Support – Teachers are equipped with a reliable tool to provide targeted care and individual guidance for every learner. The title Vijnanakiranam beautifully symbolizes our hope that every child may receive the rays of knowledge and light to brighten their future. It reflects the project's spirit of equity, inclusivity, and innovation in education. We gratefully acknowledge the vision of our leaders, the dedication of our teachers, and the enthusiasm of our students in making this initiative meaningful. With the collective support of all, we believe that Vajrathilakam and Vijnanakiranam will together pave the way for a brighter and more empowered learning community. The specially designed workbooks are also aimed at improving learning outcomes under the government's inclusive education framework.

Learning

Patience, continuous effort, and teacher collaboration are the keys to sustainable change.

Time Taken and Processes Involved

The transformation was gradual, taking almost 1-2 academic year. The process included identifying weak students through baseline tests, designing targeted worksheets, conducting regular follow-up classes, assessing progress monthly, and encouraging parents to support home-learning. Failures included irregular participation from some students initially. However, persistence, parental involvement, and teacher dedication led to eventual success. Key learning: Consistent remedial support with creative worksheets can bridge learning gaps effectively.

Achievements:

- In the last academic year, out of 123 SSLC candidates, 34 students secured full A+ grades, achieving 100% pass results.
- The school consistently ranks high in LSS and USS examinations, compared to other schools in the districts.
- The Students Police Cadet (SPC) unit of GHS Chirakkara, which has earned recognition at the state level. The unit of our school is considered one of the most outstanding in the region, and in recognition of its exemplary performance, Our SPC unit achieved district recognition, with our student being awarded the Best Platoon Leader, who commanded Kollam SPC it was honoured with a prestigious award from the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala. This rare achievement has brought immense pride to the entire school community and stands as testimony to the dedication and teamwork of our cadets and mentors. The success of the SPC unit continues to inspire students to pursue excellence in discipline, service, and leadership.
- Sports achievements include State medals in Kerala State Boxing Championship and Athletics.

Other highlights

Inclusive Model Education :

GHS Chirakkara is a model inclusive school where special care is provided for physically challenged students. A dedicated resource teacher, an ayah to assist CWSN students during emergencies, free periods, and intervals. A separate room has been arranged for their comfort and learning support.

Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities

Sports: Intensive coaching in **the traditional martial art**

of Kalarippayattu, Athletics, Boxing and Badminton enabling students to compete and succeed at district and state levels.

Arts: Dedicated training programs in **Drama, Music, Drawing and the traditional percussion ensemble of Chenda Melam**, preserving cultural heritage while fostering creative expression. These initiatives not only build confidence but also nurture the talents of students in diverse fields.

House system: A unique strength of GHS Chirakkara is its House System, which plays a central role in student development and leadership. All students are divided into four houses, each represented by a distinct colour—Red, Green, Violet and Yellow. These houses are not just symbolic divisions but serve as vibrant platforms for cultivating team spirit, responsibility, and healthy competition. The house framework organizes debates, quizzes, sports, cultural events, and arts competitions, allowing students to showcase their skills while learning the values of teamwork, discipline, and healthy rivalry. To strengthen this spirit, students wear T-shirts in their respective house colours, which instils pride, belonging, and unity. These colourful T-shirts transform every competition and event into a lively celebration, while also creating cherished memories of participation and friendship that last well beyond their school years.

Eco Club and Environmental Initiatives: Another distinctive feature of the school is its Eco Club, which reflects the institution's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. The Eco Club is one of the most active student groups, engaging learners in meaningful hands-on experiences that go beyond the classroom. Students participate in farming activities both within the school campus and at their homes, cultivating vegetables and plants. These activities not only encourage self-reliance but also help in spreading awareness about sustainable living and organic farming. The produce is sometimes shared or sold, and the proceeds are used to support fellow students, thus adding a social dimension to environmental education. The school's pride, the Biodiversity Park, is a living laboratory and learning space that houses a wide variety of plant species. Each tree and plant in the park are QR-coded, allowing students to explore, identify, and learn about biodiversity through technology. This initiative combines tradition with innovation and has made the school a model for eco-friendly practices. To further nurture responsibility and creativity, students regularly share photographs of their farming activities and eco-friendly practices in the Eco Club's digital group, which creates a sense of ownership, motivation, and collective pride. This sharing also encourages peer learning and inspires others to adopt sustainable habits.

Theory of Change

The transformation at GHS Chirakkara has been possible due to continuous support from PTA, SMC, teachers, community members, and political representatives, the school has achieved significant progress. The turning point has been the introduction of systematic academic projects like Vajrathilakam and Vijnanakirnam, the effective use of house-based competition, and focused attention on inclusive and co-curricular development. The 'mantra' for change has been personalized attention, discipline, and community collaboration.

REFERENCE:

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GALLERY:



ചിറക്കര ഹൈ സ്കൂളിന് ഇത് അഭിമാന മൂഹൂർത്തം നമ്മുടെ സ്കൂളിലെ പ്രിയ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിനി നീരജ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട കേരള ഗവർണറിൽ നിന്നും SPC യിലെ മികച്ച പ്ലട്ടൺ ലീഡർ ക്രോഫി ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങുന്നു.... ചിറക്കര നാടിനു അഭിമാനം....







ചെണ്ട പരിശീലനം - ആരംഭം

Drawing class



കളരി പരിശീലനം

