

Case Study 8 of 8

Name of School: Moharchera H.S. School, District: Khowai.

Name of the HM/AHM: Sri Dipak Kr. Das.

Overcoming Educational Challenges at Moharchera H.S. School.

Overview:

Moharchera H.S. School, located at the bank of the Khowai River in the Khowai district, Teliamura, serves approximately 550 students in its noon section. Despite its strategic location beside the Teliamura-Khowai Main Road, the school has faced several infrastructural and attendance-related challenges.

Key Challenges:

Inadequate Infrastructure: The school lacked sufficient buildings, benches, and necessary equipment, causing significant discomfort for students.

Poor Ventilation: Classrooms did not have adequate fans, making the learning environment uncomfortable, especially during hotter months.

Sanitation Issues: Both students and staff faced difficulties due to inadequate sanitation facilities.

Student Attendance: Many students were irregular in their attendance, primarily due to their socio-economic backgrounds. This irregularity led to higher dropout rates.

Child Marriage: The prevalence of child marriage posed an additional challenge to keeping students, particularly girls, in school.

Prioritizing the problems

The primary problems included the lack of benches and proper buildings, inadequate sanitation, and irregular student attendance. These issues significantly impacted the overall educational experience and performance of the students.

Background:

Despite the challenges, the school's location is advantageous, situated near the Teliamura-Khowai Main Road and only 150-200 meters away from the Khowai River. The students at Moharchera H.S. School are generally obedient and regular in their attendance when conditions are favorable.

Key Learnings:

From the challenges encountered, it was evident that:

Intent and Determination: Any hurdle can be overcome with proper intention, determination, and willpower.

Community Involvement: Engaging with the local community and parents is crucial in addressing school-related issues.

Continuous Effort: Regular and persistent efforts lead to significant improvements over time.

Best Practices

Community Engagement: The headmaster fostered good relationships with the local community and the parents of the students, ensuring their involvement in school activities and decisions.

Individual Attention: By talking to each student individually, understanding their problems, and inspiring them, the headmaster could address specific issues affecting attendance and performance.

Valika-Manch Initiative: To combat child marriage, the school formed the Valika-Manch, which actively prevented many child marriages and helped keep girls in school.

Implementation Process:

To tackle these challenges, the headmaster implemented several strategies:

Infrastructure Improvement: Applied for new benches and emphasized the need for proper facilities. This resulted in the introduction of sufficient benches and fans.

Enhanced Communication: Regular communication with the educational department and authorities ensured that the school's needs were addressed.

Home Visits: Teachers, along with the headmaster, visited students' homes to encourage regular attendance and address any socio-economic issues hindering their education.

Outcomes

The persistent efforts led to notable improvements:

Increased Attendance: Student attendance improved to 70-80%, a significant rise from previous years.

Reduced Dropout Rates: The dropout rate decreased as more students returned to school regularly.

Academic Performance: The academic results improved considerably, with nearly 100% of students being promoted to the next class in 2024. Additionally, one student from the Higher Secondary section ranked in the top 10 in the 2022-23 session.

Better Facilities: The school now has sufficient benches and fans, providing a more comfortable learning environment.

Significance of the Challenges:

The challenges were significant because they directly affected the students' ability to learn and thrive. Without proper benches, fans, and sanitation, the learning environment was not conducive. Moreover, irregular attendance and high dropout rates hindered academic performance and overall school progress.

Solutions Implemented:

Infrastructure: New benches and fans were acquired through school funds and repeated applications by the headmaster.

Community Engagement: Building strong relationships with the community and parents helped in addressing attendance and dropout issues.

Proactive Measures: Regular home visits and individual attention to students' needs played a crucial role in improving attendance and reducing dropout rates.

The case of Moharchera H.S. School highlights the importance of determination, community engagement, and continuous effort in overcoming educational challenges. Despite significant obstacles, the school has made substantial progress in improving infrastructure, attendance, and academic performance. This case study serves as a testament to the power of proactive and persistent efforts in transforming educational environments.
