

Case Study

BUILDING AND LEADING TEAMS

Name of the School: Kshudiram Bose English Medium School, Agartala, Tripura

Name of the School Head: Smt. BasantiBhattacharjee

Introduction:

In March 2020, schools in Tripura were forced to shut down owing to the ongoing pandemic Covid-19. Nobody knew when the situation was going to get better and when things would return to their normalcy. Children were stuck in their houses during this long ‘vacation’ that came with a number of stringent health and hygiene related guidelines.

Major Challenge(s):

Around July 2020, the nationwide lockdown was lifted, and phase-wise ‘unlock’ began across the states of India. Later, depending on the number of positive cases recorded in a state, phase-wise reopening of schools was advised since it was felt that a certain section of students could not have access to the online classes. But in all certainty, Covid-19 precautionary measures were being followed in all government schools and offices, and Tripura was no exception to it. Also, if students were to attend their respective classes (Class IX to XII), they would have to carry a consent letter from their parents/guardians regarding the same.

Amidst all such chaos, it was indeed a herculean task to convince the parents to send their wards to school, but Smt. BasantiBhattacharjee, Head Mistress, Kshudiram Bose English Medium School, Agartala, Tripura, accepted this challenge with the conviction that she and her colleagues could accomplish this task.

Steps Taken by the School Head:

1. One of the primary objectives of doing this was to prepare the students of Class IX for the upcoming Tripura Mathematical and Science Talent Search Examination due in December 2020. Accordingly, the HM communicated with her colleagues over telephone and called an urgent staff meeting where it was decided that the teachers of the school (including the Head Mistress) would visit the parents of the students and make them understand the situation so they could send their wards without inhibition and fear. In fact, the fear psychosis had to be done away with, and after a great deal of effort, the team of Smt. Bhattacharjee was able to take the toddling step of making the students resume their classes, of course by following social distancing rules and other Covid-19 related precautionary measures in the school premises.
2. Initially, in September 2020, the number of students attending school was less, but that did not deter the HM or her staff from their path. They continued taking special classes on Science and Mathematics and began guiding the students in every way they could. The students, although a little hesitant in the beginning about resuming their classes, soon showed a keen interest in the problem-solving classes and regularly attended school and completed the homework and assignments given to them. This motivated other students who later joined the classes with the consent of their parents.
3. Besides the weekly mock tests on problem solving and logical reasoning, Peer-Monitoring i.e. assessment of a student by other students, was an important aspect of these preparatory classes.

Visible Results:

All these efforts made by the HM and her staff during such pessimistic times bore fruit when the results were declared. A total of 8 students from Kshudiram Bose English Medium School qualified the Tripura Mathematical and Science Talent Search Examination, 2020, with flying colours, and applause for the students and teachers poured in from all corners of the state.

This is certainly a remarkable achievement and the credit goes to the entire team of KBEMS led by Smt. Basanti Bhattacharjee who has shown proactive leadership skills, especially during such critical times.