

A MODULE ON ROLE OF SCHOOLS IN INVOKING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PM SRI SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTION: Community participation with regards to school is all about the involvement of the local community in school management affairs. Community participation in education helps to identify issues and problems in school education as well as to solve these issues. School is a part of community and community supports school to give quality education to every student for the development of the society. Community participation is of immense importance at the school level, as it provides a culturally sensitive approach to provide enduring solutions for barrier-free quality education. Community participation at the school level is the thread to inclusive education. It is an important tool for the growth and development of the student. Family is the fundamental unit of the community and a child who receives support from the community grows up to be a responsible citizen. It is well-established fact through multiple researchers that when community members support the learning process, students exhibit significant improvement in all-around performance.

Teachers can play an significant role in developing an environment that is conducive and can role as an enabler for community participation. The principal as leader of an academic institution is responsible to ensure improved learning outcome. This can be achieved when implementation of mandated programs are complemented with active community participation. It is the role of the school to generate such participation. In background of such related experiences and to work out their sustainable solutions SCERT, Tripura, have designed this module. This module will provide healthy platform for all schools to have an insight in the light of community participation as an important tool for the wholesome/desired development of students.



TITLE OF THE MODULE

Role of Schools in Invoking Community Participation in PM Schools

OBJECTIVES

Through this module, schools would be able to understand the significance of community participation in school education

- Understand the scope of contribution from various parts of community.
- Appreciate the impact of Community participation – as a tool to promote improved learning outcome.

- Lead in the role of the principal/head in harnessing community participation for effective implementation of school programs.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION : Community participation is a concept through which different people from local populace come together for community problem solving. In background of school development, it is a way to identify the problem and design the strategies to implement program in sustainable manner. This is a way to take responsibility and accountability by the members included from different groups, caste, religion, and sex etc

Most educationists agree on the importance of role of community participation in improving teaching learning process at school. Kothari commission (1964-66) focused on need of decentralization of school education and involvement of parents and local bodies in the processes of improvement of school. NPE 1986 emphasized primarily on decentralized planning and management of primary education. A report (1992) was submitted by Veerappa Moily to the government of India on decentralization of educational planning ensuring greater community participation in education. National Curriculum Framework (2005) also emphasized to encourage community participation as a means of enhancing quality education. There is also a provision to constitute school management committees in RTE act 2009. Scope of community participation is very high. In rural areas all institutions recognize themselves through the community hence community has regular say in all aspects of rural life. Thus requirement for successful functioning of school, favorable attitude of community is of great importance. It ranges from identifying problem and addressing them through culturally acceptable solutions. The community participation make school more accountable for education delivery through regular involvement as decision maker.

STAGES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

1. Access
2. Awareness
3. Involvement
4. Decision Making

WHO CAN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE:

1. School Management Committee (SMC) - Section 21 of the RTE Act mandated the formation of School Management committee (SMC). It was to encourage community participation and more particularly parents' involvement. It's constitution has a provision for 75% of its members should be parents.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Scope of contribution	Challenges to Schools
> Actively participating in making SDP as per RTE norms, its implementation & monitoring the	Low interest of SMC members to attend the meeting and lack of awareness about RTE 2009 and NEP 2020

<p>performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Implementing delegated powers > Participation through regular & active attendance > Garnering more resources from and solving problem through regular interaction with education bureaucracy > Advocating enrolment and education benefits. > Sharing local culture information 	<p>Role of Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising workshops for SMC members • Invite SMC members in each programme • Time to time appreciate the work done by SMCmembers. • Schools need to prepare accessible environment in school. Crux of RTE needs to be conveyed in easy and creative way. • Training programs for Leaders and SMC members is an important tool.
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2. Parents Teacher Association - Parents teacher meeting is formal platform which facilitates parents' participation in school functioning. This provides opportunity for parents to get the first hand information about the performance of their child. On the same hand it also enables them to give feedback to teacher about the school functioning and the feedback about their wards.

PARENTS

<p>SCOPE OF CONTRIBUTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly attending school meeting and provide feedback about child's learning progress and school behaviour • Preparing child's readiness for schooling by providing adequate nutrition. • Ensuring child's regular attendance • Helping children studying at home • Promoting education benefits→ among community • Keeping an eye on the progress of their wards 	<p>Challenges to Schools</p> <p>Socio-economic background and literacy level and cultural barrier are major hindrance in improvement of parent participation in school programs</p>
	<p>Role of Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools need to take a lead to develop school meeting as a celebrating event. This can be achieved through educating teaching faculty, take help of active parents who promote the benefits of such meetings • Organise carnivals and invite parents • Reward the parents wherever possible • Regularly organise PTMs

3. **Role Model:** These are the individuals with social influence among community members. They play crucial role to shape the belief system of local populace.

<p>Scope of contribution</p>	<p>Challenges to Schools</p> <p>Demands regular interaction and sense of elitism</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting girls' education • Promoting educational equalities • Advocating enrolments and education benefits 	Role of Schools Principal can make best use of cultural and other events in school to honour the local role models to win their favourable response.
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4. **Teachers-** Teachers are the socially ideal personality who has a long term respect on children in particular and society at large.

TEACHERS

Scope of contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance awareness level of community members * • Promoting educational equality • Present them as socially ideal personality which has a long term impact on children 	Challenges to Schools Sense of indifference toward community
	Role of Schools Leaders need to highlight the significance of power of mutual trust and its contribution in making teaching job more meaningful and productive

5. **Alumni-** With their school specific experience they have the potetial to motivate children about the significance of study. They can also act as a guide regarding various available opportunities at in education and career so far.

Scope of contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivating children about the significance of study. • Knowledge development regarding the various available opportunities. 	Challenges to Schools Discontinuity in communication
	Role of Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a committed cell of trained teachers who can keep regular track of well placed alumni. • Successful students need to be honoured on special occasions. • Displaying board of honour of meritorious students is also a motivational tool.

BARRIERS IN INVOKING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL AND THEIR TENTATIVE SOLUTIONS

A. **Communication Gap** - There are probable chances of lack of coordination among teachers and SMC members. Teachers may undermine the importance of meeting and timely information may not be available to SMC members regarding various activities and meeting schedule. Principal needs to monitor this personally and educate the teachers about the significance of meeting. This will ensure improvement in attendance.

B. **Cultural Barrier** - Cultural difference between faculty and community inhibits free flow of exchange of views between teachers and community members. Principal can encourage teachers through highlighting the similarities. Further some role models among community can be motivated to lower these barriers.

C. Low interest of SMC members: In most of the cases, sense of belongingness to the committee functioning is absent. Members from poor social economic background take it as a loss of time and think it has direct bearing on their daily earning. Principal needs to maintain regular contact and convey the message that contrary to their thinking this is the right investment for inclusive development of their children.

D. Lack of awareness among members about RTE 2009 and NEP 2020: Most of the SMC members due to their socio economic background are not aware about the RTE 2009 and NEP 2020. Due to this lack of awareness they are unable to understand the significance of committee functioning. Principal must take a lead role in conveying the crux of RTE in understandable language. This can be achieved through distribution of pamphlets, conveying them in person, encouraging aware members to educate non aware members in their neighbourhood. Seminars, rally and community activities can be organised for community awareness.

E. Low interest of parents to attend the PTM - Parents teacher meeting is important platform to exchange views between parents and teacher for betterment of learner and school. Due to several reasons such as cultural barriers, low socio economic background, illiteracy among parents make the attendance of parents in PTM poor. To improve the attendance of parents in PTM principal should guide the teachers in communicating with parents in easy way to encourage them to attend the PTM. This can be achieved by making personal contacts, taking the help of active parents to educate reluctant parents about the significance of PTM.

F. Making PTM a two way communication - Generally PTM working is designed to communicate the performance of child from teachers' point of view. Principal should ensure that at PTM teacher must encourage and give space to the parents to share their feedback about functioning of the school. This motivates the parents for active participation in school functioning and increase their level of confidence.

SCHOOLS MUST DO

- Bring your school on social media like facebook, instagram, twitter etc.
- Create a youtube channel for your school.
- Share the school activities on social media to attract community towards your school.
- Advertise about the admission and activities in newspaper as well as on social media.
- Share the achievement and facilities available in your school at various platforms.
- Participate in nearby social activities and programmes. Time to time invite members from community in school whenever possible. Organise rally and community awareness activities.
- Work on the uniform/outlook of students and their communications to attract the community members.

CONCLUSION

Educationists acknowledge the fact that community participation plays significant role in attaining the goal of equality education. Parents and community members play a key role in making school accountable for improved learning outcomes. Community involvement helps to identify the problem in community specific education system. It also plays a vital role in development of strategies to remove barriers. Role of leader lies in

harnessing the power of such relationships. Being a critical link between school and community it is principal who can interpret the significance of school education to the community. This can be accomplished by developing a community friendly atmosphere at school which make school accessible to parents.
