

USING STUDENT, TEACHER AND SMC CARDS FOR ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, PHYSICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL

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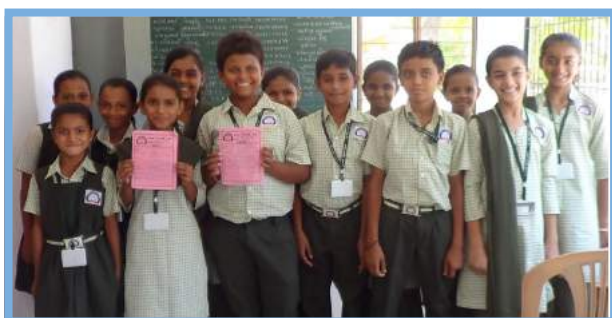


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Shri Nareshkumar M. Joshi became a teacher in September 1992. He has also worked as CRC Coordinator and DPEI for about 15 years. He became head teacher of the nearly 150 years old institution, Kanodar school in August 2012.

Many children were going out of the village to study at private schools in the nearby town of Palanpur. The members of SMC did not seem to be focused in carrying out their work. There was a marked absence in the number of parents attending the parents' meetings and children's attendance was irregular. Shri Joshi first reached out to the SMC and the children and held a meeting to discuss the various issues plaguing the school at physical, educational, social and organizational levels. A five-year plan, along with annual plans, was made to remedy the situation. Shri Joshi came up with the idea to use a student card as a tool to determine what work they had done. The parents were told about the card. Every month, on a Saturday, when parents visit the school, they go to their ward's class, see their work and sign the card as acknowledgement. Shri Joshi used this opportunity to share the issues plaguing the school and seek their help. The parents responded constructively, and as a solution, they all worked



Students participating in school work

together to reconstitute the SMC. A public electoral process was adopted and each newly appointed member was given a letter mentioning their responsibilities. They were also made to take an oath to fulfil their responsibilities to the best of their abilities.

The SMC members took their responsibility seriously and local artisans also pitched in to contribute with both time and skills for the betterment of the school. One SMC member came up with the idea of issuing cards to the SMC members too. All members also began to maintain diaries listing their contributions and ideas. One member, Malukaben Mookhey, continues to maintain a daily book even today. In 2018, cards for the guardians were introduced. Today this card system is an important part of the school management.

His efforts bore fruit and found reflection in improved student attendance and performance. Enthusiastic members also began to share their cards on their social media accounts. They exhibited as much excitement and involvement as the children themselves. No child wanted a negative note on the card, and so if anyone received one, actions were immediately rectify it. Further, Shri Joshi also launched a WhatsApp group for parents to keep them abreast of the various activities being held at the school.

All these actions bore fruit with students showing improved performance. The WhatsApp group also encouraged involvement of the parents, and they came together to resolve various issues associated with the school. For instance, they came together to collectively fund a magnificent gate for the school.

Retired teachers too have formed a WhatsApp group called "Gaurav Kumbh" which



Recognising good work of SMC members



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is actively supervising the reconstruction of the school's 146-year-old building, which involves the participation of about 3,000 people of the village. The children who were attending private schools in Palanpur came back to join the school in Kanodara.

Even during the Corona Pandemic, meetings are regularly held through the WhatsApp group. To evaluate the effectiveness of home learning, S.M.C members visit homes and interact with the parents.

This innovative work by Shri Joshi has been recognized by IIM Ahmedabad and displayed at

the Innovation Fair organized by IIM Ahmedabad and GCERT.

Shri Joshi has received a number of awards and the school has received a "Best Green School" of Gujarat award. Through BISAG, the SMC's work has been disseminated to other SMCs. Work is underway to build three multimedia halls with the involvement of all the village people. The school is about to celebrate its 150th anniversary and all alumni are being invited.



QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

1. What activities can be organized for the children to come to school regularly?
2. What issues can be discussed at the parent meeting?
3. What are the things to keep in mind when appointing S.M.C. members?

QUESTIONS FOR TRAINEES

1. What should be done for children to come to school with completely done homework regularly?
2. What co-curricular activities can be done to keep children entertained while studying?
3. What should be included in making of a monthly card?