

COMPUTER LAB ON WALL

TEACHER	Shri Bharatsinh Devusinh Vaghela
SCHOOL	Suthar Falia, Ruvabari Primary School, Cluster: Ruvabari Main Primary School, Ta. Devgadhi Baria, Dist – Dahod – 389320
PHONE NUMBER	9879-5038-35
E-MAIL	bharatsinhvaghela.vidaj@gmail.com



Scan QR-code
to watch video



Shri Bharatsinh D. Vaghela joined as an upper primary social studies teacher in August 2013 at Suthar Falia, Ruvabari Primary School, Ruvabari village of Devgadhi Baria taluka of Dahod district in Gujarat. For two years (2017-19), he worked as CRC Coordinator in Ruvabari Cluster.

Computer Lab

There was a computer lab in the school, but students were not interested in it. Shri Vaghela tried to talk to the students and provoke interest, but to no avail. In fact, he realized that the students hated the lab and the computer. He then developed a questionnaire to seek their feedback. The students were not happy with the substandard condition of the lab and poor working conditions of the computer. Also, they were uncomfortable about the fact that the computer was put in their classroom. Thus, if class 6 students were in the classroom, the other children found it uncomfortable to use the computer. The children also had the habit of dumping waste (paper or

chocolate wrappers) behind the computer. During the monsoon or when cleaning the classroom with water, there was the fear of electrical short circuits. Also, there was the fear of theft. Other schools had reported theft of their equipment.

The situation was discussed in a meeting attended by the principal, teachers, students and SMC members. Shri Vaghela then involved the principal and the students in working out a plan. First, the benches around the computer were shifted temporarily to another room. The plank on which the monitor and keyboard were placed was taken out. The students had fun watching how easily the screws opened and how the table plank became free. They were fully involved in redesigning the computer lab. The idea was to fix the keyboard on a plank, and shift the monitor and CPU to the wall. The latter task was difficult. After working out the measurement details, the design of the height and the seating arrangements were worked out. The tools needed for the job were obtained from the parents. The monitor



Students helping to create a lab on the wall



Computer Lab on Wall



Students working on a computer



Children studying after putting a computer on the wall

was permanently fitted to the wall; the keyboard was fitted in such a manner so the entire set up was protected by glass. This also meant some welding work had to be done in a shop. The CPU and battery were also fitted on the wall a little above the monitor using spare planks that were available. The wires, network cables, and other parts were also neatly organized. Now the entire computer lab seemed to be mounted on two walls of the classroom. The computers were numbered and a projector connected with one wall acting as a screen.

The new design was appreciated by the parents and others who now saw the free space for the children for their tables. The entire lab functioned nicely and each tool fitted permanently in its place i.e. on the wall. Since the wires were high up on the wall, the students felt safer. It was now easy to clear the floor. Since the equipment could now be locked up at the end of the table, the fear of theft reduced.

Officials from the taluka and the Education Inspector visited the lab. The questionnaire used earlier was re-administered to collect anonymous feedback. The students were happy with the new arrangement. Now, two groups of children could sit at the same time, one looking at one wall and the other working on the computers. It was easier to control dust and prevent damage from water. The children started to use the computer more often.

Many teachers have visited the lab, especially after the work was displayed in an Innovation Fair at the district and then at a state-level Innovation Fair held at Gandhinagar. The school which was rated D in the initial Gunotsav, moved to B and now has been rated A. Today, students from other states who come with their migrating agricultural labour parents also study in the school and are as regular as the village children.



QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

1. What should be done to make children interested in learning computers?
2. How are computers useful for childrens' self-study?
3. What are the things to keep in mind while using a computer with children?

QUESTIONS FOR TRAINEES

1. What are the benefits of doing group activities?
2. What will you do to make computer facilities available in the villages?
3. What can you do to help your children understand how to take care of a computer after using it?