

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SHEET

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Shri Nagla Sureshkumar Dhanjibhai became a teacher in June 1999 and has been working in Aansodar Primary School since November 2004. He holds an MA and a B.Ed and is a language teacher (English/Sanskrit) teaching Class 6-8. He has 21 years of teaching experience.

When he joined Aansodar Primary School in 2004, he found that students' attendance was very low; they did not pay attention in class or do homework assigned to them; and parents too were indifferent as they felt that teachers did not put in enough efforts. In fact, they were not willing for any active participation in their wards' studies as they felt it was the responsibility of the school.

To start with, Shri Nagla arranged for a meeting with parents of students who had irregular attendance but to his dismay no one showed up. Undeterred, he decided to go to the village and meet them at their homes, after school hours, around 5 pm in the evenings. As a next step, he began holding "Ratri Sabhas" or night meetings in the village to interact with the parents. During these meets, students showing outstanding performance were honoured, to acknowledge their efforts and at the same time, motivate the slow ones to up the game. The meets also helped to build confidence amongst the parents who were now more receptive to his ideas.



Meeting with SMC members

Shri Nagla, after establishing parental support, initiated the following activities:

- **"Ame Shu Shikhya?"**
This is a form of a Report Card that lists students' progress in both studies and participation in various activities. The students have to get the report card signed from their parents so that they are aware of the progress made by their wards. This activity has greatly helped to change the perception that parents had of the school, that is, teachers don't make any effort to teach the children.
- **"Ame Pamyā Lilu Nishan"**
To curb the menace of low attendance, Shri Nagla came up with the idea of letting students mark their attendance themselves. So on the day they were present, they could mark a green tick, signifying present for themselves. The activity caught the fancy of the children and they became more regular in attending school and adding to their green ticks.
- **"Vaali Mulakat Form"**
Parent visits to the school are recorded in a Vali Mulakaat Form (Parent Meeting). The form has several columns to register their feedback with regards to their wards'



Parents having Mid Day Meal with children

progress with special focus on what activities they liked or disliked. Shri Nagla used this feedback to address all issues.

- **“Mahoola Visits and Awareness programme”**

Shri Nagla, along with other teachers, visited the village every Sunday to discuss various subjects of interest such as environment conservation, general sanitation, importance of balanced diet and maintaining good health etc. The students of classes 6 to 8 also accompanied the teachers and participated actively in these activities putting up plays and other demonstrations to amplify their message. The activities attracted attention of the neighbouring schools who also expressed interest to carry them out to inspire their students.

These meets became hub of several creative activities, for instance, students shared information about the books they had read; or they all got together to plant saplings; and during festivals they brought along sweets and snacks. Students also formed teams and visited all houses in the village to collect leftover rotis to feed the stray cows and dogs.

The students also carry out some form of self-assessment every week. For example, they find out which street is the cleanest, how much water is used and wasted in a house, and so on.



Children adhering to hygiene

With the school showing results, many donors and some companies with CSR funds have come forward to extend support and contribute to the infrastructure. In fact, some children have left their private schools to study in this government school. The school has improved its grading from “D” to “A” and maintained it for three years now.



QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

1. What activities can be effective in encouraging children to come to school?
2. What information can be requested in the parent visit form to increase the parent’s attention (accuracy) towards the meeting?
3. What steps should be taken to make the parent aware of his/her child’s study?

QUESTIONS FOR TRAINEES

1. What steps can be taken to find out the cause of irregularities in children’s schooling?
2. What extracurricular activities can be done to make schooling more enjoyable?
3. Apart from the activities done by the teacher to increase the regularity of the children, what other activities can be carried out here?