



JAGRUK VIDYARTHI: AN INNOVATIVE WAY OF LEARNING IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF FATEHABAD DISTRICT OF HARYANA

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Abstract

Education plays pivotal role in shaping the attitudes of the society and in development of the Socio-economic & cultural aspect of any nation. In India the modern education system was introduced by the Britain in the year 1830 by Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay. It is the field which requires continuous evaluation and researches to keep it updated so that the maximum employment can be generated as well as the values can be imparted to the students. In current time the private owned schools do a lot of activities to guide its student for prosperous career but it is not similar in the government run schools. Also, the recent case of violence in the school premises by the adolescents is a major challenge before the state. So recognizing the problem, an initiative is taken in the Fatehabad district of Haryana on the Pilot basis called "Jagruk Vidyarthi" which aims at enhancing the student's awareness in the government run schools by providing counseling, motivation and career guidance. The present study is an effort to understand the pilot project, its benefit to the students across the district and to check whether the project can be up scaled to the all the government schools across Haryana. The conclusions are drawn after conducting FGDs at the school level, newspaper articles of the project and after conducting interviews with the different stakeholders.

Keywords:- Adolescent, Counseling, Jagruk Vidyarthi.

Introduction

Education is fundamental to the human progress. It plays a key role in the overall development of the individual and the society.

It makes the person disciplined, sensitive and growth oriented. In nutshell it makes the world a better place to live.

In India education is imparted by the public as well as private run schools. We have three types of schools which are Primary school for the students up to 5th class, Secondary school for the students up to 10th class and senior secondary schools for the students up to 12th class. The government has made significant steps to improve the education system in India. After independence, as per the first census in India only 9 percent women and 27 percent men were literate population. It has reached to the 82.2 percent male and 65.5 percent female as per the 2011 census. Before liberalization the education in India was wholly state run but due to lack of resources with the state and large population of country, the private players were also allowed to open schools. The major and the recent step to universalize the education throughout the country was passing of the Right to Education Act 2009 which has assured free and compulsory education for the students up to the age of 16 years.

Why we need such innovations in Education

In the present context we have a very high population dividend of around 64.4%. The government is making concerted efforts to provide employment opportunity to the youth. The schemes such as Skill India, Make in India, and Start up India are being implemented to create the opportunities for youth. But the thread of education to employment is not connected properly; there are a large number of educated unemployed youth. Students from the rural background are not able to see the job opportunities created because of the changing technological revolution and Globalization. The private sector is creating a large number of opportunities in comparison to the public sector. And for private sector jobs we need



specific trainings as per the market demands. So this whole program is to connect the students of the government schools with the available employment trends and with the flagship schemes of the government of India. The other reason of need of such project is rising of the violence in the school premises. The recent instances of shooting of principle in the school of Yamunanagar, shooting of professor in the college of Sonipat, rape of the 10th class student in the Sonipat districts have shaken the school fraternity and common people. Schools can play a role in identifying such students through the counselors who are of violent behavior and can provide counseling to such students. Also, from the beginning the students can be taught the art of peaceful and healthy living by the trained teachers.

Who is a Jagruk Vidyarthi

The concept of "*Jagruk Vidyarthi*" means an "*aware student*". A student who is aware about the importance of education for his/her own growth and contribution to the society. A student who knows which career path to choose and how to prepare to achieve that job. It is a pilot project in Fatehabad district of Haryana and is being initiated by the Chief Minister Good Governance Associate in association with the Fatehabad district administration to provide career guidance, motivation and counseling to the students of the Government run schools.

Implementation of the Pilot Project

The project started with the baseline study of the students who have passed out from the government schools in the recent 3-4 years to know the activities organized for them related to career and motivation, their source of guidance in planning their careers and to know about its quality of education in the schools. The results of the baseline showed that no formal motivation/guidance was given to respondents in schools, 90 percent of the respondents have changed their subjects after 12th / Graduation. Also, every respondent agreed to the need of such guidance and motivation by the experts at school.

Selection and Training of PGT (Master Trainer)
- For implementation of the project the PGT teachers were screened on the basis of the interest shown by them. Preference was given to the Graduates of the psychology subject. Also the principles of the 36 selected schools for the implementation of the project were nominated as trainers. The selected PGT teachers and principals of nominated schools were provided with the training of the two days by the renowned and award winning career counselor and motivational speaker Dr. Dinesh Nagpal. The trainings were related to understanding of the child behavior and psychology, the process of taking admission in universities which are renowned & near to Haryana state, career and job opportunities across various sectors to the students and way to make strategy and prepare for jobs.

Selection of schools & workshop by Master teachers- For the implementation of the project initially 36 higher secondary schools are taken up on the basis of the maximum number of strength in the school across the Fatehabad district. These trained master teachers were asked to conduct the workshop in the selected schools as per the trainings provided to them. The students of 9th to 12th class along with their parents were recipient of the workshop.

Feedback from students and teachers- After workshop, the feedbacks were taken from the students, teachers and parents to know the shortcomings as well as the impacts of the projects.

Feedback of the Project

After the workshops the reviews were collected from the students, parents and teacher about the project. From the feedbacks it can be analyzed that parents showed a lot of enthusiasm as they came in numbers to attend the sessions along with their children. One of the parents from Badopal village has written in the feedback form that 'such activity has never happened before and it has helped him & his children to decide the further education'. The principle of higher secondary school Gajuwala has written that 'Jagruk vidyarthi is a project



which has a lot of potential and is need of the time to scale up learning of the students in the government school. This project will impact the students in a positive way'. Rahul a student of 12th class from the senior secondary school Gorakhpur has written 'I was not aware about so many opportunities and courses after 12th class as there was nobody in my family to guide me, the workshop has really helped me in planning my future ahead'. These were some of the selected feedbacks, similarly many positive feedback were received from the different workshops organized at the different schools. The overall feedbacks were positive regarding the project as it has given a direction to the students to choose their career in a planned manner.

Challenges & way forward

There were different challenges faced by the implementation teams at the various levels. The first challenge faced by the team was in selection of the master trainer as it was difficult to get teachers from the psychology field. Due to lack of teachers from psychology background who can be instrumental in leading the project as counselor, the project is not implemented to the full potential and only career guidance and motivation is being given to the student. The important aspect of counseling to the students on the issues like stress management, positive approach & social harmony is missing. Another challenge to the project is of getting the appropriate budget for the project. Due to lack of financial resources it is difficult for the implementation team to invite motivational speakers and counselors from the private domain, procure raw materials for the trainings and to impart the quality trainings to the master trainers and students.

But apart from the challenges, the project is being seriously viewed by the district administration keeping the positive approach to make it a success. The modules are being prepared at the district level so that they can be distributed to the schools and can be accessed by the students at the school level.

Another initiative which is being planned is to provide coaching classes to the meritorious students at the district level to promote education to the weaker sections of the students. For the promotion of the project and to increase the awareness of the students a website is also being designed so that they can access to the career opportunities online by sitting at their homes as well.

Conclusion

From the feedback it is quite early to come to the conclusions as it will take time to measure the results. But certainly it is viewed as a welcome step by the parents, students and the teachers. The feedbacks are positive towards the project. It is a kind of unique project to improve the quality of the government school education. From the researcher's point of view, the project needs to be strengthened by putting more resources to it and by making psychology as a compulsion for becoming the master trainers. There is requirement of the more clarity regarding the modules and framework of the project to the master trainers and school principles so that the desired results of the project can be achieved. The parents can also be made as a stakeholder in the project as they can be a continuous source of motivation to the students.

The project can be up scaled in the state of Haryana as these types of program do not run in any of the government school in the state. But before that there is a need to strengthen it in the district of Fatehabad as a model district.

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