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School  
Learning Post  
COVID 19 era  
2020

## SCHOOLS POST COVID-19 The New Normal



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW  
**SYED OMER JALEEL**

Secretary & Commissioner  
Intermediate Board and  
Intermediate  
Education Department  
Government of Telangana

### COVER STORY

Blended Learning the  
New Normal

### SPECIAL FEATURE

School Leaders on Preparations  
of Post Covid



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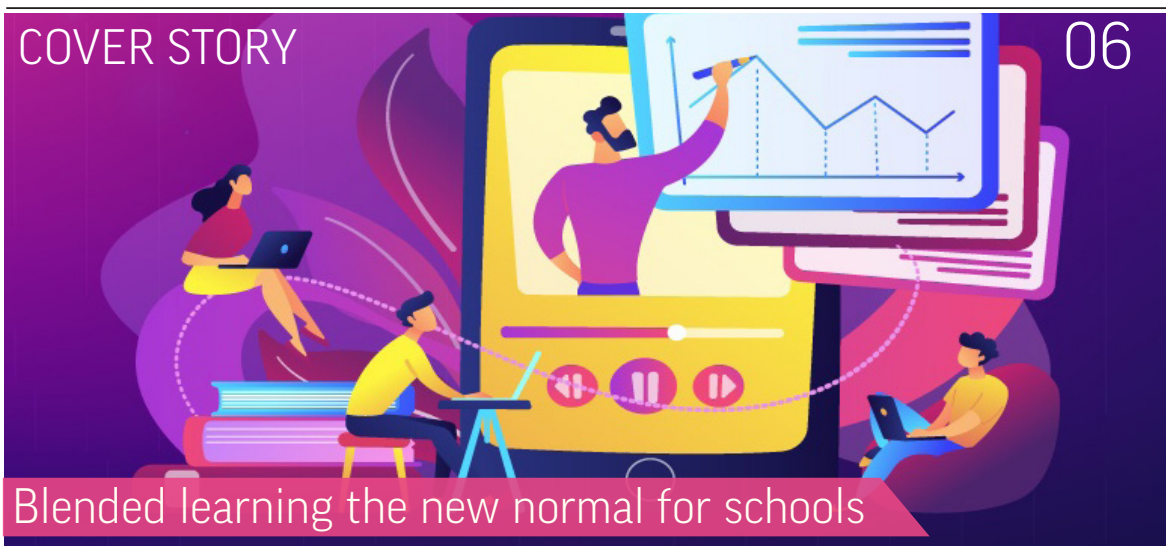
# CONTENTS

JULY 2020 | VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 07



## COVER STORY

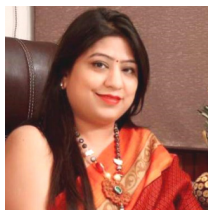
06



## Blended learning the new normal for schools

### SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE

09



**Anu Gupta**  
Parenting proficient | Chairperson  
Leaders group of schools

16



**Dr Vidhukesh Vimal**  
Headmaster  
The Assam Valley School

36



**Revathi Srinivasan**  
Director  
Singhania Schools, Mumbai

### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

10



**Syed Omer Jaleel**  
Secretary & Commissioner  
Intermediate Board and Intermediate  
Education Department  
Government of Telangana

### 17 Conference Report

**elets**  
**SCHOOL**  
**LEADERSHIP**  
*Virtual*  
**SUMMIT**

CHANDIGARH, 31 MAY 2020

### 27 Conference Report

**elets**  
**SCHOOL**  
**TECH**  
*Virtual* **SUMMIT**

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# EDITORIAL

## **Post- COVID: Customized blended learning the need**

Many education stakeholders have expressed that in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic online self-guided learning could solve some of the current teaching problems and address the educational backlog. What learners need, the reasoning goes, is to get free internet access to educational support materials on offer online.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The only answer, in the country's unequal teaching environment, is a customised version of blended learning. Blended learning integrates computer-assisted online activities with traditional face-to-face teaching (chalk-and-talk).

When used by a trained teacher, this approach can add valuable new dimensions to the learning process. It can allow learners to work at their own pace and teachers to fill content gaps. Digital remote learning and teaching is backed up by dependable infrastructure and skilled, motivated teachers.

The current lockdown has suddenly compelled teachers to adopt predominantly online, blended learning teaching practices. Not only blended learning, we need to think beyond that.

The greatest success has been a blended learning system that uses a combination of online and offline interactive resources with pre-installed apps that are aligned with school curriculum. We call it techno-blended learning: a structured approach, using mostly offline apps in an integrated way, with the full participation of a trained or experienced adult mentor or guide.

In this month's issue on Schools post Covid-19, we have tried to highlight how will operate when they will re-open. How schools will provide safety and hygienic to students will be a million dollar question.



**Dr Ravi Gupta**

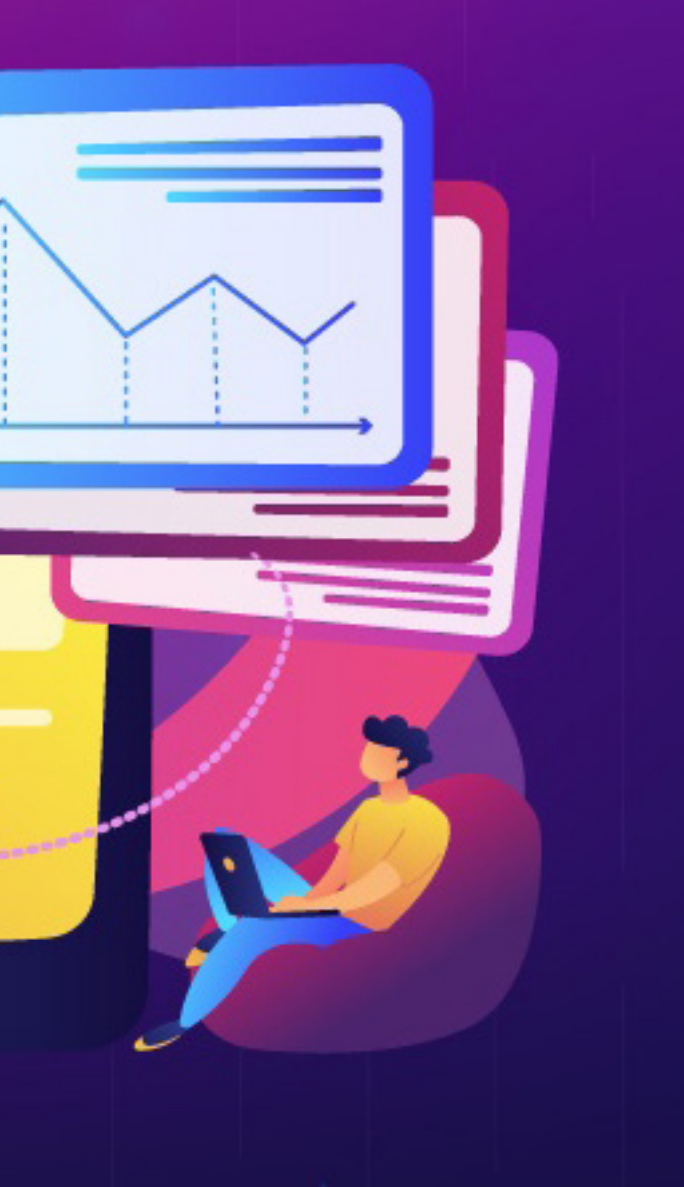
Editor-in-Chief, digitalLEARNING magazine  
and Founder Publisher and CEO  
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# BLENDED LEARNING THE NEW NORMAL FOR SCHOOLS

The growth of e-learning isn't just about online courses. Many of the technological advancements in the education industry are about what happens inside the classroom.

Detail analysis by **Pankaj Samantray** of **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



With COVID-19 spreading its wings across the globe, e-learning is the new norm adopted by many educational institutions. Even the governments are also encouraging online learning keeping the safety of students in mind. But, what after the schools re-open as things will not be the same as it was six months back. However, most of the schools will opt the new blended learning. Even CBSE and ICSE have reduced their syllabus by 25 pc.

The growth of e-learning isn't just about online courses. Many of the technological advancements in the education industry are about what happens inside the classroom. Technology such as computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones become more and more present in our lives. So, it makes sense for these useful tools to be gaining a much greater presence in the classroom, too. Most schools, colleges, universities and other training centres have incorporated new technologies into their course structure. Blended learning in the classroom uses the best of both worlds. They take the best of what traditional classroom learning and e-learning has to offer and put them together, to produce a learning experience that offers the most value possible.

### Is blended learning so effective?

Blended learning experiences are incredibly effective as they offer students the benefits of both virtual learning and traditional learning.

Students can take advantage of on the go learning exercises. Nowadays, they can use their smartphone or tablet, in order to fit their coursework in around their other commitments. Access to a digital learning platform also allows students to receive instant feedback on their work, thanks to automated assessments.

However, the unique thing about a blended learning programme is that students get all these benefits as well as the real life community of a physical classroom.

### How can you introduce blended learning methods?

#### 1. Experiment with the flipped classroom model

The flipped classroom model works to address by 'flipping' the traditional role of each learning space. So, student use independent study time to watch lecture content and introduce new concepts. They then use class time to engage in discussion about this information, do exercises with the support of their teacher, and engage in group work and discussion.

This flipped classroom methodology is a firm favorite with teachers and students alike. It allows class teachers to surge the social value of classroom time, while ensuring that students don't miss out on learning new information.

#### 2. Switch to digital assessments for instant feedback

One of the great selling points of a digital learning platform is that it makes life easier for teachers. It allows teachers to automate areas that would previously have taken up a great deal of their time. Luckily, a learning management system (LMS) can change this. This type of digital learning platform can make the assessment process effortless for teachers, and give students the benefit of allowing them to see their results instantly.

#### 3. Set digital revision tasks

Using a digital learning platform allows teachers to access data about how well their students are doing. One great way to use this inside the classroom is to allow the results of digital revision tasks to set the class schedule for revision. Teachers can invite students to complete revision exercises on a digital learning platform at home..

#### 4. Explore group projects that utilise multimedia tools

A learning management system can be a great way for students to share learning resources with each other. Engaging in group projects that can make the most of these tools is a great way to maximise the effectiveness of blended learning or flipped classroom methodology.





A learning management system (LMS) can make this type of project work seamless. It also means students can use the same tools both inside and outside of class time.

### 5. Offer virtual office hours for students to ask questions

Students are often shy about asking questions during face-to-face class time. Especially if they think their question is a silly one. A digital learning platform such as a learning management system (LMS) can help with this.

Teachers can use the digital learning platform to set virtual office hours. They can invite students to chat virtually with them during set time periods. Many students will welcome the opportunity to ask questions more privately, and teachers can make sure that any misconceptions about the learning material get addressed quickly.

Blended learning is important because it breaks down the traditional walls of teaching, ones that don't work for all students and now with access to present-day technologies and resources we can tailor the learning experience for each student. Blended learning also offers flexible time frames that can be personalized to each person, offering them the ability to learn at their own pace.

Teaching is less expensive to deliver, more affordable, and saves time.

Blended learning offers flexibility in terms of availability. In other words, blended learning enables the student to access the materials from anywhere at any time while enjoying the benefits of face-to-face support and instruction.

E-learning allows more effective interactions between the learners and their instructors through the use of emails, discussion boards and chat room.

Students have the ability to track their progress. Students can also learn through a variety of activities that apply to many different learning styles.

E-learning could improve the quality of teaching and learning as it supports face-to-face teaching approaches.

### Blended learning also improves other factors for the teacher including:

- More engaged students
- Better information and feedback on work
- Team teaching
- Extended time with students
- More leadership roles
- Focus on deeper learning
- Motivate hard to reach kids
- New options to teach at home
- More earning power
- Individualized professional development plans
- Improved Teaching Conditions

### Blended learning tears down the traditional bricks and mortar approach to teaching, which can improve conditions such as:

1. Reduced Isolation
2. More opportunities for collaboration
3. Meaningful professional development
4. Better student data
5. Improved Time efficiency
6. Role-differentiation

Increase student interest: when technology is integrated into school lessons, learners are more likely to be interested in, focused on, and excited about the subjects they are studying. Subjects that might be monotonous for some – like math and science, while also increasing information retention.

Keep students focused for longer: The use of computers to look up information & data is a tremendous lifesaver, combined with access to resources such as the internet to conduct research. This engagement and interaction with the resources keeps students focused for longer periods than they would be with books or paper resources, this engagement also helps develop learning through exploration and research.

Instill a disposition of self-advocacy: Students become self-driven and responsible, tracking their individual achievements, which helps develop the ability to find the resources or get the help they need, self-advocating so they can reach their goals.

Promote student ownership: Blended learning instills a sense of 'student ownership over learning' which can be a powerful force propelling the learning. It's this feeling of responsibility that helps the feeling of ownership.

Allow instant diagnostic information and student feedback: The ability to rapidly analyze, review and give feedback to student work, gives the teacher the ability to tailor his teaching methods and feedback for each student while improving time efficiency.

Enables students to learn at their own pace: Due to the flexibility of blended learning and the ability to access internet resources allows students to learn at their own pace, meaning a teacher can help speed up the learning process or give more advanced resources if necessary. **DL**

# SAFETY AND HYGIENE WILL BE OUR PRIORITY

The school will have a task force team especially constituted to ensure proper safety and hygiene and will have training of staff for survival skills, says **Jyoti Arora**, Principal, Mount Abu Public School in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

COVID 19 has revolutionized the education sector with the advent of online teaching, which otherwise had been a wild dream. These challenging times have made every educator take the best of opportunity to make the learning environment regular and smooth. I strongly feel that the strength lies in the faculty and institute nurture. Faculty need to change their mundane teaching methods and adapt to evolving technology-centred teaching. The faculty will have to establish themselves as “competent” individuals who can deliver what the students expect.

We are happy to see that we are successfully dealing with the COVID times through online sessions for the students, so now the challenge before everyone is the Post COVID learning when the schools physically open for the learners. In view of the upcoming challenges post covid, the school has designed its SOP for post COVID challenges so that the students learning goes on smoothly with all the safety measures. The school will ensure the adherence to norms of social distancing according to the orders by Health Department in the school.

The school will have a task force team especially constituted to ensure proper safety and hygiene and will have training of staff for survival skills. Zones will be demarcated as Red, Orange and Green and only that sports will be taken wherein appropriate distance can be maintained among the players.

In order to avoid commotion, the school will have staggered arrivals and departures and the students and other members will undergo thermal screening before boarding the bus and hands free sanitizers will be placed for hygiene. The washrooms will be having contact less taps with foot tapping valves. Moreover the school will be run in shifts for all the classes and SOP must be implemented seriously and monitored and supervised by the authorities regularly. The school will also have a quarantine zone to handle the cases, if any.

A school is not paradise. But school is a place where paradise can be created”. It continued in the same vein with the thought, “The classroom with all its limitations, remains a location of great possibility” so the classes will be held with class wise division of students for 50 PERCENT offline and 50 PERCENT online classes so that every student gets benefit at large. The whole building will be sanitized once the children and staff are inside the premises.



**Jyoti Arora**  
Principal, Mount Abu Public School

So I would say that nothing is so tough that it cannot be accomplished. We, as educators, are trained to grab every opportunity to make the best use of it especially when it is the question of our young learners who are our future leaders. In fact, I should say that real success in life does not come to you by following the already set trend, rather it comes to you when one thinks out of the box and avails the best chance to make the existing system run smoothly. So Post-COVID Teaching learning techniques is yet another discovery which will surely bring a new transformation in schooling but will also benefit the future generations.

Someone has rightly said that “In a world where knowledge is a mouse-click away, the role of the educator must change too. **DL**

# TELANGANA INTER- EDUCATION REDEFINING JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDIES

With a revived spirit to lay strong career foundation for the students, Telangana State Intermediate Education Department is taking strategic and innovative approach in teaching, skilling and well-being of students tells **Syed Omer Jaleel**, Secretary & Commissioner, Intermediate Board and Intermediate Education Department, Government of Telangana in an exclusive interview with **Sudheer Goutham** of **Elets News Network**.

**What are the preventive measures taken by the Intermediate Education Department to prevent untoward incidents during the announcement of results?**

The state govt was particular and didn't want to repeat last year's mistakes during result declaration. We created an IT cell to coordinate with the new agency (Centre for Good Governance – A Telangana State Government Agency) that was finalized to develop the evaluation software. Around 24 modules were created for pre and post examination. We even incorporated all the queries of students in the new software. With the new software, all processes went on smoothly.

During the intermediate examinations, Corona Pandemic spread as a huge scare, but we took extra precautions and completed the exams. Even the evaluation of papers we started during the lockdown and completed it within 24 days. We used both the OMR and ICR technology as a two-layer check for the first time. With these two new technologies in place, we were able to provide error-free results.

**Please elaborate on the number of students appeared for the exams and the pass percentage?**

Over nine lakh students appeared for the exams. For the 1st year, the pass percentage was 60.10 pc and 68.86 pc students passed in the 2nd year exams.

**What were the arrangements in place during the examinations in view of the prevailing COVID-19 Pandemic?**

During the Corona crisis, all the 1339 exam centres were sanitized on a daily basis. Children were provided with sanitizers, liquid soaps during the exams and children having any symptoms were







asked to sit in separate rooms. Post Examinations, we also took precautions in the monitoring and security of evaluation centres with answer sheets for almost two months before the evaluations.

**How do you see the education going further in these times of Corona Pandemic and Lock Down? What are the plans, strategies, policies and infrastructure integration in the offing to get things going?**

We have lost nearly two months of the coming academic year due to the pandemic. There is uncertainty looming over the admission process. The Corona is here to stay for longer time and to tackle with it we have created some policies and submitted it to the

government. We have suggested reducing the number of students at a time by introducing a shift system when the classes will be re-opened. The government is considering all the options and had a meeting with stakeholders.

Considering the Corona crisis, we will think about how to accommodate the students who have cleared the Class 10 exams. There are requisite numbers of seats available in both govt and private colleges.

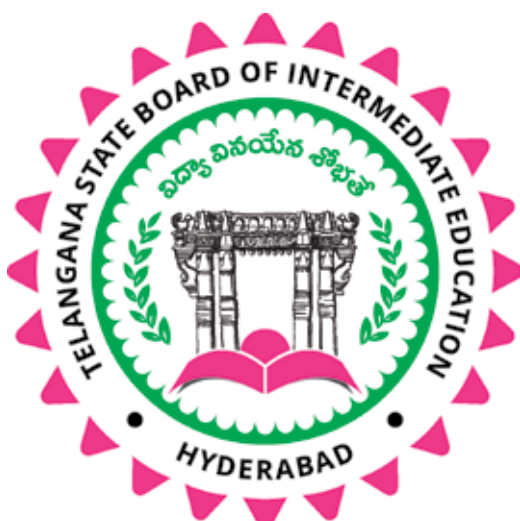
In our submissions to the government, we suggested the first-year classes can be taken in the afternoon shifts and second year in morning shifts. We have said to combine some classes for first and second-year students. We have also asked the govt to reduce some holidays to cover up the academic time we lost.

We have also submitted that some part of the syllabus must be covered as online assignments to students. Children can assess those materials through any online mode. We are hoping to cover the entire syllabus before end of March 2021.

We will be inculcating innovative technologies for our students which will help them in future.

**How is the govt prioritizing skill education for the students at the junior college level? Are the teaching staffs skilled enough and updated?**

We have started a training programme for our district education officers and principals of govt colleges. These training programmes in administration have been started from 23rd June and will continue till 4th July, 2020. We are carrying out these training sessions through online mode. The second part of the programme will be skilling them. During this break of Lock Down, we have added all the intermediate content online for students. We have also collaborated with a private agency to carry out online tests. More than 17,000 students are participating and getting ready for competitive exams.





We have tied up with Centurion University to bring in skill education to our colleges. We are developing Centres of Excellence. With the help of Centurion University, we are trying to improve the syllabus and labs. We will be starting new vocational courses this year for students. We have also tied up with the Ministry of Skills and Entrepreneurship, Govt of India to start 10 new vocation courses in the colleges.

In these courses students will be provided with stipend and certificates from Govt of India for taking up the new skilling courses.

The skilling courses are mainly focused on agriculture, engineering, IT and e-commerce sectors.

#### **How are you planning to provide Industry-ready**



#### **hands-on training to students?**

We are trying to collaborate with corporate houses to provide training to our students. There will be a student exchange programme with Centurion University also. We have even tied up with hospitals to provide training to our students. In the coming days, there will also be campus selection of sorts happening in the intermediate level also.

The board will be creating one centre of excellence this year. We will be improving our labs in the coming days.

#### **What is the current status of counseling programmes started last year for social and mental well being of student? How is it going to be sustained in future?**

Last year, 27 students committed suicide. The govt ensured that such incidents must not happen and special focus was given on social and mental well-being of students. To prevent such cases, we identified student counselors. We provide them two-day training on how to deal with students. It was a successful programme.

Just before the exams, we identified clinical psychologists and notified their names and contact details in newspapers. They received over 5000 calls after the exams. The psychologists discussed their issues and tried to calm them. We are even developing a programme for counselors.

In the coming days, we will be introducing more skills, technologies, and improving the system, so that children will not get stressed out. There will be classes on T-SAT regularly. In the coming days, there will be less number of students failing. We are trying to reduce the stress of students during exams. **DL**

# NEW NORMAL FOR SCHOOLS POST COVID – 19

We understand that online teaching methodology cannot replace the traditional way of teaching and the students miss that immensely, says **Dr. Sandeepa Sood**, Principal of Saffron Public School in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

Being the Principal of Saffron Public School I have already started working on the re-opening process of the school by creating a professional blueprint on the massive changes being made in the school.

I am regularly going to the school and working towards revamping the whole structure keeping social distancing and the security and hygiene of the students and staff as a priority. Since the lockdown has started, the teachers of Saffron Public school are diligently taking online classes for their students and helping them with syllabus completion, assessments, assignments and doubt-clearing sessions. I and my teachers are in regular contact with the parents, motivating them to coach their children and also taking constant feedback from them regarding the online classes.

More than the academics, I have worked immensely hard towards the upkeep of the mental health of students. We have promoted the conduction of psychometric tests, counselling sessions and one-to-one coaching for many students as per their needs and requirements.

We understand that online teaching methodology cannot replace the traditional way of teaching and the students miss that immensely. They miss the interaction with their teachers and want to start coming to school like before. Despite the fact, that all efforts have been made to provide excellent and technologically updated education to all students, but just the feeling of coming to school, meeting friends, sitting in a class and studying is badly missed by all.

We don't have any idea for how long the pandemic will continue and by when can we see the happy and beautiful faces of our students back in school. But we are preparing for the same. The safety and hygiene of my students and staff is my first priority and we are all making every possible effort to provide the same to them when the schools re-open. We have organised and re-set the classrooms keeping social distancing in mind. The tables have been allocated at a distance as prescribed by the physical distancing norms. We will be increasing the number of sections to accommodate all our students of one class in different rooms. The entire school will be properly sanitised, and we will conduct all classes including recreational, yoga and other academic based classes while the students is sitting on that one desk only. They



**Dr. Sandeepa Sood**  
Principal of Saffron Public School

will not be allowed to share meals and a stringent check will be made on the meal breaks, washroom breaks and other activities of all students.

All precautionary measures will be taken to protect the children and to make sure they keep away from each other and maintain social distancing. Even the transport system including buses will be properly sanitised before we start with the pick and drop of our students. We will also give an option to the parents to look after and into the transport system, if manageable.

Additional measures will be taken to boost the immunity of the children and to work on their mental and physical health. The school will be introducing additional yoga classes and rigorous counselling and mentoring sessions with the concerned faculty to deal with any kind of anxiety or depression that the student may face. **DL**



# SCHOOL EDUCATION IN INDIA POST COVID ERA

Using technology as a learning medium will definitely prove to be more effective than the traditional method of using books and charts for illustrational purposes. Detailed report by **Pankaj Samantray** of **Elets News Network**.



From last three months, there is an uncertainty looming over the education sector across the globe. The schools in India are closed from mid-March. Before COVID-19 disrupted lives and forced children to open laptops and learn from home, the first day of school was the start of a life-determining journey for many.

From kindergarten to year 12, classrooms are run by teachers who deliver lessons that start and end with a bell.

They set tests, watch over examinations, and give marks that delight, disappoint, or even surprise parents.

This one-size-fits-all approach to education has been in place for a couple of hundred years. The response to the coronavirus has demonstrated how technology can help transform how we teach and learn. But the push for change started long before the pandemic struck, and it will go on long after the threat subsides.

For years, policymakers have been exploring new transformative approaches to K-12 education that go far beyond just online lessons at home.

As lockdowns ease and schools will start to re-open after few days, it's as good a time as any to take stock and look at the likely future of education.

Children who will start school will grow up to be future leaders a digital-first world that will demand new skills and new ways of thinking.

To succeed in life and at work, they will need all the social, emotional, and academic support they can get via rich and flexible learning experiences that will differ vastly from the schooldays of their parents.

Education's age-old three Rs – Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic – are being joined by a fourth: Rethink.

New data-based technologies are opening up ways to transform practices, structures, and even cultures in schools.

Personalized learning is a holistic approach that must do more than only focus on academic progress.

It will also help teachers stay on top of, and adjust to, factors that affect social and emotional well-being. Teachers will be able to ensure students feel inspired, safe, valued, and able to learn in ways previously not possible.

New learning tools will also be able to adjust to the needs of individual students – without instructions or intervention from their teachers.

It would be like one of those virtual ten teachers turning up the brightness of a screen without bothering to tell the teacher. The smarter the technology gets, the more the teacher is supported and empowered.

In India, traditional teaching practices are still not changed at many remote and underprivileged places where having a school itself is like a luxury. Classrooms with minimum facilities and premises with basic hygiene are like a challenge faced by the school authorities every year. At these circumstances, affording a technology friendly learning environment is like a mammoth task. E-Boards, smart classes and digital teaching equipment like AV screens or projectors look like a long lost dream for such children. The Indian government does provide grants every year for such schools. Yet getting technology into the scene will take a good amount of time.

The schools in the cities, on the other hand, are now emerging into better than the best institutions with the rise of techno-friendly learning platforms coming into existence. Blackboards are replaced by projectors and post-school tutoring has been replaced by learning apps that are extremely user-friendly and gives an in-depth knowledge about a topic via various perspectives and theories. Learning is no more a straight path. It is not a royal highway with many deviations leading to the success destination.

### There are certain pros and cons of technology usage in schools:

#### Pros:

-Using technology as a learning medium will definitely prove to be more effective than the traditional method of using books and charts for illustrational purposes. The colourful visuals tend to stay in their minds for longer than the printed, stagnant material in the books.

- It is evident that in today's world, there is hardly any job or a career that does not require any usage of technical jargon or technological stuff. A kid who can operate a PC easily today could perform better during his days of becoming a Software Engineer, or a child who grows up looking at better educational AV visuals turns out to be a great dreamer.

-Technology gives wings for their imagination and prepares them for an obvious tomorrow which includes the compulsion of using smart gadgets.

#### Virtual classroom

-Inclination towards technology could prove a cost-effective way of learning. Spending less over books and updating the technological application will for sure go lite over the parents' pockets. Each year parents spend a good amount of money over the books which are perishable and difficult to carry.

#### Con:

-Affordability of stuff can pinch the pockets of those parents for whom affording quality education for their children itself is a challenge. The below poverty income group crowd, who can barely afford books admission, can only see technology aided learning as an impossible dream.

-Technology brings in a lot of health hazards with it. Each day doctors are recording many of their patients struggling with vision and concentration-related problems which come as an unpleasant gift for loving these gadgets more than required.

-Usage of tablets for studies or for fun can prove very dangerous if not used for a recommended duration.

“

*Blackboards are replaced by projectors and post-school tutoring has been replaced by learning apps that are extremely user-friendly and gives an in-depth knowledge about a topic via various perspectives and theories.*

”

The young eyes and brains are under constant risk which is a serious concern for parents.

-Tools like auto-correct and spell-check are spoiling the skills of the children to a certain extent. The prominence given to handwritten scripts/assignments is gradually diminishing with the birth of the online submitting provision.

-Virtual classrooms have given a back seat to a good parent-teacher relationship. Things are for sure becoming easy but at the same time it has decreased that zest for listening to a nice lecture from a scholarly teacher who explains a concept of germination the way it has to be and doesn't just show videos at YouTube or any learning apps as a part of conceptual learning.

In India, the Ministry of Human Resource Development is formulating safety guidelines to be followed whenever classroom learning is resumed. This will also prepare school systems to face such pandemics in the future more efficiently and without prolonged disruption, as well as move towards building a strong public education system in the country. COVID-19 did teach us how schooling is not equivalent to merely learning, but encompasses a social space, a social process, to learn to live, think and act for one's self and the collective good. In this 'new normal', changed behaviour of people and changed centralised norms and guidelines could lead to a situation where forms of governance and participation may change. Virtualisation of teaching may impact the social relation between peers, teachers and school and community on the whole. The social class gap between the teachers and students may widen after the school reopens post-lockdown. **DL**



# MEASURES SCHOOL WILL TAKE POSTS COVID-19

The school will have staggered arrivals and departures and the students and other members will undergo thermal screening before boarding the bus and hands free sanitizers will be placed for hygiene, says **Jyoti Arora**, Principal, Mount Abu Public School in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Jyoti Arora**  
Principal, Mount Abu Public School

## **The guidelines are not clear about re-opening of schools, how Mount Abu is getting ready for it (SOP)?**

Looking at the present challenges due to COVID-19 the school has prepared its SOP so that the physical opening of school does not face any problem in the process of imparting education.

The school will have a task force team especially constituted to ensure proper safety and hygiene and will have training of staff for survival skills. Zones will be demarcated as Red, Orange and Green and only that sports will be taken wherein appropriate distance can be maintained among the players. In order to avoid commotion, the school will have staggered arrivals and departures and the students and other members will undergo thermal screening before boarding the bus and hands free sanitizers will be placed for hygiene. The washrooms will be having contact less taps with foot tapping valves.

## **Mount Abu is one of the decorated schools in the country; what are the plans to continue its legacy?**

Mount Abu School believes in imparting quality education the learners

to make them capable enough to carry forward the legacy of the school with pride. So the school keeps on emphasizing on the aspect of experiential learning thus making the children learn the concepts so as to keep them in sync with the real happenings of the world. The school keeps imbibing the values among the children so that they carry forward the legacy and make a world with better place with best of humane with real human values.

## **A mental stress can be witnessed with the students due to lockdown, how Mount Abu is dealing with it?**

Since the times are very challenging so the school took the notice of the circumstances and started getting connected with the students online through different session aimed at motivating them to remain calm and composed and use their energies in a positive way. To maintain the flow of the school routine, the schools keeps celebrating the events virtually so that the students remain engaged and stay connected. Since it is now NEW NORMAL way of education so we have trained the staff in all the aspects wherein they stay connected with the students all the day.

## **How virtual classes are different and are they beneficial for students in longer run?**

Yes, I would say that this COVID 19 has brought a huge transformation in the education sector. What we never even thought has become the trend. Online classes are surely beneficial for the students. They are able to have flexibility of time and are able to explore more as compared to teaching in the four walls of the classroom. Online classes have opened the doors for better research and have taught the time management skills to a large extent.

## **Online classes are not the solutions as there is an uncertainty of re-opening of schools, how schools can deal with it.**

Online classes are happily welcomed by the students and parents as they know that this is the best medium of staying connected and continuing the learning process. I understand that there is a lot of uncertainty but online classes are the best ways of imparting education as learning should never be hindered by any obstacles. **DL**



# **elets** **SCHOOL** **LEADERSHIP** *Virtual* **SUMMIT**

CHANDIGARH, 31 MAY 2020

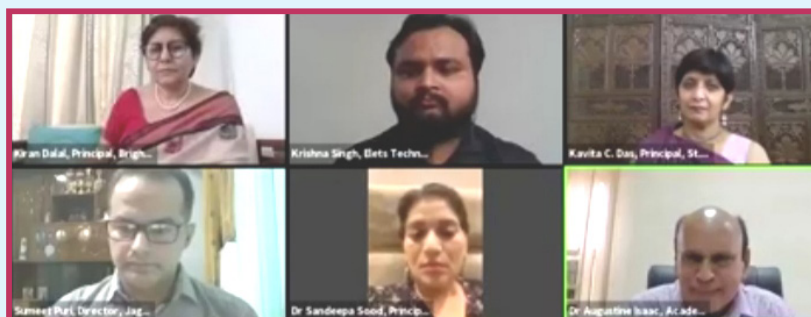
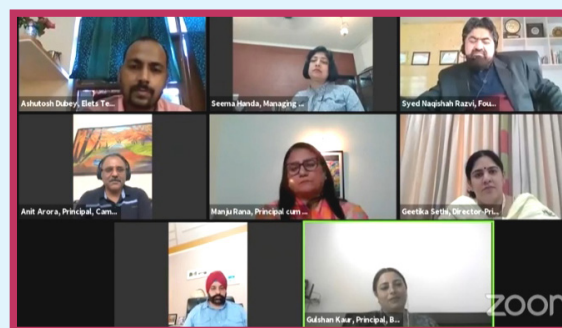
## WEBINAR REPORT

by

Technomedia Pvt Ltd

Bringing Leaders Together  
to Revitalize Education

Date: 31 May 2020



#SLVSchandigarh | #SLVS2020

# EDUCATORS: NEED TO REVAMP AND REINVENT EDUCATION WITH HELP OF TECHNOLOGY

In the face of a crippling pandemic, technology has emerged as a major lifesaver. Communication is a major key to our interconnected existence and technology is the driving force that maintains our connections.

For education, that means creating content and delivery systems that harness and utilize technology to its fullest. Perhaps, education may become more flexible and accessible, relinquishing its over-reliance on rigid structures that we currently consider necessary.

The future of education will find no room to ignore the utilization of technology since it may very well be the best platform to empower learning in an age that is integrating technology as a way of life. Blended learning will be the new norm when schools will be re-opened.

Elets Technomedia and Elets Education organized the biggest School Education Virtual Summit on "School Leadership Virtual Summit, Chandigarh. Various government dignitaries, school leaders and leaders from industry participated in the summit. Eminent speakers including



**DR RAVI GUPTA**  
Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief  
Elets Technomedia Pvt Ltd



**RAMANAN RAMANATHAN**  
Mission Director  
Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)  
NITI Aayog  
Government of India

Ramanathan Ramanathan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, Government of India; Pramod Kumar, State Education Officer, Dept of School Education, Govt of Haryana and Amneet P Kumar, Director General – Secondary Education, Govt of Haryana and many more school leaders. Form the industry speakers including Garima Babbar, Head Programme, Education and



**PRAMOD KUMAR**  
State Education Officer  
Department of School Education  
Government of Haryana

Skill Development, Adobe; Sahiba Pahwa, Country Head – India, Classtime; Divya Lal, Founder & MD, Fliplearn; Venkata Raman, Education Business Manager, ViewSonic presented their views on use of technology in school education. Dr Ravi Gupta, Founder and CEO, Elets Technomedia Pvt Ltd introduced, welcomed and introduced the speakers.

In the opening remarks, Ramanathan



**AMNEET P KUMAR**  
Director General – Secondary Education  
Govt of Haryana

Ramanathan said "tackling COVID is a huge challenge for the country. We have to become a nation of job creators. The AIM is created to form entrepreneurs. More than 10,000 schools are identified for Atal Tinkering Labs. Students must be prepared as future leaders. AIM has been creating job creators for the country. We need to have a holistic approach towards education."

He even said usage of digital in education is going to be default in future. Extra-ordinary talents come from remote areas and talent exists everywhere. The role of parents is very important in shaping the future of children.

Amneet P Kumar, Director General – Secondary Education, Govt of Haryana said “The assessment and monitoring is still an issue for educational institutions. There will be huge budgetary allocations post COVID. The Central govt, state govts, private schools and parents will feel the pinch of the COVID. We need to prioritize and rationalize budgets. Data management is also important.”

She also said there were huge challenges for students to adopt E-Learning. We need to identify issues and provide free data, gadgets and other things to students for E-learning.

The syllabus must not be textbook oriented anymore. Technology can be used as a tool. We cannot leave the underprivileged behind and equity must be maintained. The peer group learning is missing in digital learning. We need to find new methodologies and pedagogy for students, she added.

Garima Babbar, Head Programme,



**GARIMA BABBAR**

Head Programs  
South Asia (Education and Skill  
Development), Adobe Inc

Education and Skill Development, Adobe said “Technology will play an important role in the education sector. In this crisis, education must not stop. We need to come together to tackle the crisis. We need to provide assistance to students, teachers and all stakeholders in the crisis.”

She also said we have to shift from physical to digital form. We need to channelize things. We have to look at the quality of education.

Anirudh Gupta, CEO, DCM Group of Schools said “We are in the middle of an



**ANIRUDH GUPTA**

CEO  
DCM Group of Schools  
Punjab & Haryana

unprecedented situation. The lockdown has impacted over 1.3 billion students across the globe. It's high time to re-strategize our education sector and create a competent environment for students.”

He also said “Soon, the industry will offer jobs over skills not certificates. We need to understand the need of the hour and prepare students for the future. Schools must start skill education and make students future ready.”

We need to bring a long and short term plan. We need to constitute a task forum with ministries and academia to change the education sector. The complex of all businesses will change, he added.

Teachers need to re-innovate, re-invent things to provide quality content to students, he added.



**REEKRIT SERAI**

Managing Director  
Satluj Group of Schools  
Punjab, Haryana and J&K

A panel discussion was on Financial Survival Strategies in COVID19 Crisis: Emergent Resource & Implementation.

Pramod Kumar, State Education Officer, Dept of School Education said “School education is hugely impacted due to the COVID crisis. The schools are closed from mid-March. We must not panic as NCERT is making an online syllabus for students. Things will become normal very soon. No one is talking about the students, who are the main stakeholder. Over 33 cr students are impacted in this crisis.”

Reekrit Serai, Managing Director, Satluj Group of Schools said “The crisis is huge for many schools. The livelihood of millions is at stake. The education sector hasn't changed much in the last few decades. Salaries are not the only cost schools have to bear; there are numerous other costs. It is important to focus on positives. Some parents understand the crisis and support us.”

He asked to focus on the PERK module



**BRIG. NAVDEEP MATHUR ( RETD. )**

Director ( Admin ), DCM Group of Schools  
Punjab & Haryana

– Postpone, Eliminate, Reduce and Keep.

Many schools have closed down due to the crisis. It's a very tricky situation and we must try to manage for the next three to six months, he added.

He also requested the govt to provide Deferment of taxes and financial support to schools in this crisis.

Brig. Navdeep Mathur ( Retd. ), Director ( Admin ), DCM Group of Schools, Punjab & Haryana said “The three major stakeholders in the education sector are schools, parents and government.



The solution is with society as these are unprecedented times. We need to have long and short term strategies. We need to focus on how to survive in this crisis."

He also said to analyze the risk issue and ways to tackle the crisis in coming days.

Robin Aggarwal, Director, Learning Paths School, Mohali said "Schools are



**ROBIN AGGARWAL**  
Director  
Learning Paths School  
Mohali

under a lot of stress. All the schools are not having the resources to tackle the crisis. A large amount of parents are supporting us. This is the matter of survival. We need to look into the non-salary expenditures."

He emphasized over developing passion, compassion and empathy. He also said to We need to focus on academic quality.

Dr Prem Kumar, Executive Director,



**DR PREM KUMAR**  
Executive Director  
Hero Group - BCM School  
Ludhiana

Hero Group - BCM School, Ludhiana said "We must not waste the crisis as it can be turned into an opportunity. Schools need to talk to banks, stakeholders over the crisis. Most of the schools are under pressure. Teachers have risen to the crisis."

Overuse of technology, he said "The use of technology in education was there for 20 years. We need to redefine the process." It's a black swan event. The technology will change in 10 years which hasn't changed in the last 100 years. We need to find ways to integrate technology within schools. We can transform the school education sector, he added.

Sahiba Pahwa, Country Head - India, Classtime presented her views on the use of technology in education. She said "Technology has always been there in the education sector. The crisis has made us adopt the technology. We can provide



**SAHIBA PAHWA**  
Country Head - India  
Classtime

real time data to parents to provide them confidence over e-learning. We need to have hybrid solutions in schools."

She also said "We have to provide quality education. Institutions must find out ways to re-define education."

Sunita Gupta, Chairperson, Heritage School, Jammu said "We will have issues, when schools will be re-opened, from safety of students to salaries of teachers. We are gearing up for the crisis. The connectivity is not good in the state, which is a huge challenge for us. We have to bring parents on board in the crisis. Our teachers are working hard to provide study materials to students."



**SUNITA GUPTA**  
Chairperson  
Heritage School, Jammu

She also said all the private schools are working on debts and they need fees to keep running smoothly.

Divya Lal, Founder & MD, Fliplearn said "We need to focus on four things- Live classes, Learning content, Online Assessment, stakeholder management.



**DIVYA LAL**  
Founder & MD  
Fliplearn

The idea is very simple, to provide quality content and give teachers the control of content. We allow teachers to create their own content for students."

In the afternoon session, a panel discussion was done on Virtual Learning is the New Normal: Are Teachers enough Skilled & Equipped.

Manju Rana, Principal cum Director, Seth Anandram Jaipuria School, Vasundhara said "Online education will not match the physical ones. The online education is here to stay and there is a paradigm shift witnessed in the sector. There will be huge changes coming



**MANJU RANA**

Principal cum Director, Seth Anandram  
Jaipuria School, Vasundhara

up in the sector. We have seamlessly transformed from offline to online classes. Our teachers were not ready for such a crisis."

She said "Teachers have emerged as online warriors. The basic challenge was to engage children during the virtual classes."

Strong communication, orientation of parents, preparedness is the most important in this crisis, she said.

Syed Naqishah Razvi, Founder, Imamiya Mission School, Leh, Ladakh said "The e-learning is not new in India. The e-learning has been used for higher education for the last few years. We have a different school calendar than other parts of the country. Many older teachers were reluctant to adopt the e-learning



**SYED NAQISHAH RAZVI**

Founder, Imamiya Mission School, Leh,  
Ladakh

process. We were not equipped to adopt online learning."

Only 42 pc of Urban and 14 pc of rural areas have proper internet connections in



**GEETIKA SETHI**

Director-Principal, The British School,  
Panchkula

India, he added. The new normal will be blended learning, he said.

Geetika Sethi, Director-Principal, The British School, Panchkula said "Within a span of two-day, online classes began in the school. There were hiccups initially as there was no preparedness for such a crisis. However, things were resolved very soon. The challenge was to deliver quality content to students. There was a lot of resistance from parents, when online classes started. This challenge has provided us an opportunity to prove ourselves on the international platform."

She even said to emphasize on preparation, prevention and preparedness. Parents and society must change their



**KAWALJEET DHINDSA**

Director, SEABA International Public School,  
Lehragaga

mind-set towards online education post-COVID, she added.

Kawaljeet Dhindsa, Director, SEABA International Public School, Lehragaga



**SEEMA HANDA**

Managing Director, Eklavya School, Jalandhar

said "Our teachers are working very hard to deliver content in the lockdown. We are conducting a lot of life skill activities for students. These activities are keeping the students engaged. We have used subjects to provide them life skill learning."

He also said it will be very tough for us to start the school as parents will be very skeptical about the safety and hygiene of their wards.

Seema Handa, Managing Director, Eklavya School, Jalandhar said "Teachers are unsung heroes in this crisis. Learning must be the same in both online or offline classes. Teachers are under scrutiny in virtual classes due to various challenges. Many times parents relate education to



**GULSHAN KAUR**

Principal  
Bhavan Vidyalaya, Panchkula

infrastructure. Education is not about infrastructure; it's the human touch which teachers provide to students."

She said the role of teachers is pivotal

in the crisis. Teachers are makers of generations and they need to be given their due respect.

The pre-primary and primary students will come back last to schools, so we need to prepare different strategies for them, she added.

Gulshan Kaur, Principal, Bhavan Vidyalaya, Panchkula said "We were not prepared to handle the crisis. The teachers have started a new journey and it is full of challenges. Content development, delivery were huge challenges for teachers. There will be more focus on blended learning. Health and hygiene measures will be prioritized."

She also said students have learned the value to people around them in this crisis.

Anit Arora, Principal, Cambridge International School, Hazipur Road,



**ANIT ARORA**

Principal, Cambridge International School, Hazipur

Dasuya said "Evolution is the key to success. We need to empower all the stakeholders. Children will adopt online education with ease. Teachers and parents have accepted the new change. Teachers who have accepted the changes will go to the next level. The online learning has provided us flexibility and is cost-effective. It's now survival of the fittest."

Over technology, he said "Technology is a wonderful tool to introspect. In the next 10 years, there will be augmented classes for students and they will enjoy it. It's a huge learning opportunity for us. We need to have all SOPs ready for all the departments."

Venkata Ramanan, Education Business



**VENKATA RAMANAN**  
Education Business Manager  
ViewSonic

Manager, ViewSonic said "Students are missing real time experience. Teachers are feeling more stress during online classes. There is a digital gap between teachers and students. Teachers are digital immigrants and students are digital natives. We need to bridge the gap between teachers and students."

In the last panel, the discussion was on "Role of Ed-tech in the Virtual Education Environment".

Dr Sandeepa Sood, Principal, Saffron Public School, Phagwara said "The technology has grown immensely. Technology has played an important part in the education sector. However, we cannot remove traditional ways of



**DR SANDEEPA SOOD**  
Saffron Public School, Phagwara

teaching. We have seamlessly shifted to online classes as soon as lockdown is announced. The impact of virtual classes will be immense. With virtual classes

teachers can provide content to students anytime and anywhere."

We have started new things to engage students. Technology is in our blood and we are well prepared for any such crisis, she added.

We need to train our parents and teachers about the usage of technology.



**KAVITA C. DAS**  
Principal

St. John's High School, Chandigarh

Technology is a boon for the education sector, she added.

Kavita C. Das, Principal, St. John's High School, Chandigarh said "Physical classrooms cannot be removed from schools. Technology is a blessing in disguise in this crisis. Technology is now available in every school even in rural areas. Teachers are using technology to make classrooms more engaging and interactive. Testing has become fun for students. It is enhancing and adding new dimensions to the sector."

She also said we need to keep the human touch with children and try to evolve them. We need to strike a balance. Education will become fun for students. With flexible timing, we need to keep a check on virtual classes also.

Kiran Dalal, Principal, Bright Scholar Sr. Sec. School, Sonipat said "It was easy to adopt the technology. Earlier, it was a bit difficult for teachers but with time it became a cakewalk. Technology has given new parameters to learning. With technology, learning is easy and beautiful. However, pen and paper classes cannot be





**KIRAN DALAL**  
Principal, Bright Scholar Sr. Sec. School,  
Sonipat

replaced. Virtual classrooms have given us a new scope to grow in the education sector."

She also said Technology is here to stay for a long time. Home and blended learning will be the new normal. No one will be left behind in the age of technology, she added.

Parents, children and teachers are working as a team. Parent trust is the foremost thing. We must hear from parents what they want, she added.

Sumeet Puri, Director, Jagat Jyoti High School, Amritsar said "From last 60 days,



**SUMEET PURI**  
Director, Jagat Jyoti High School, Amritsar

people are learning new things. In the coming days, technology will play a vital role in education. Like God, technology is also omnipresent. Virtual learning will give more clarity. Virtual reality is very essential for all schools. But, overuse of technology will hamper students and make them robots."

He also said "We need to reduce the screen time of children. Blended learning will be the new norm. We need to give direction and bring clarity with students.

Dr Augustine Isaac, Academic Director, Kirpal Sagar Academy, Nawanshahar

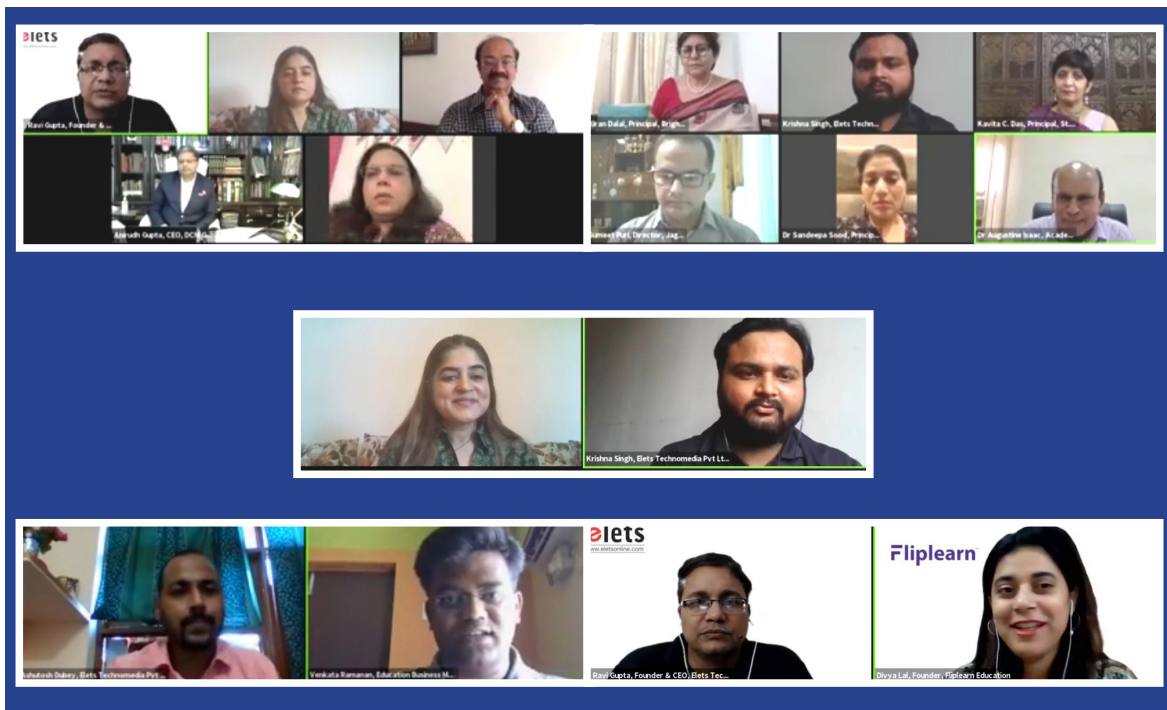


**DR AUGUSTINE ISAAC**  
Academic Director  
Kirpal Sagar Academy  
Nawanshahar

said "Learning can take place in virtual classrooms also. The effectiveness is the same as offline classes. The virtual classroom is the best place to learn as the entire world is under lockdown. Both physical and virtual classrooms cannot be compared."

He also said Virtual classrooms are not comfortable to everybody; we need to bring new innovations to make online classes more engaging.

Technology holds the future. Technology and teachers should combine to provide a better future for students. **DL**



# POST COVID IN SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES AND PRECAUTIONS

The necessity to evolve and adapt to changes wherein virtual classrooms and online learning has become a new normal says **Geetika sethi**, Director-Principal, The British School in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Geetika sethi**  
Director-Principal, The British School

School education is one of the core sectors that will be drastically impacted by the outbreak of Covid -19. Thus, the necessity to evolve and adapt to changes wherein virtual classrooms and online learning has become a new normal. Towards this end I am happy to inform you that The British School Panchkula adapted with a fast pace and crystallised an innovative mode of imparting online education to its valued students by aggressive use of various digital tools/platforms available via Zoom App , Google forms, Teacher connect etc. I really appreciate the positivity displayed by the students and teachers of our school in adapting to the changed tutoring methodology to include online teaching, online practice programs/reviews and posting of relevant videos and media content.

We all are eagerly looking forward to go back to normal classes at school premises on lifting of lockdown by the Government in near future. We fully appreciate the anxiety of parents with respect to safety of their wards once the students will again start attending the school. Herein I will like to assure all parents/guardians that post Government clearance your ward will be in safe hands at the British School

wherein due attention and care will be taken in enforcing preventive/precautionary measures such as :

- Screening of students, teachers and other staff at entry points. No sick person will be permitted to attend the school.
- Strict adherence to social distancing norms.
- Enforcing regular washing of hands with soap and water and use of Alcohol based hand sanitizers.
- Periodic disinfection of school premises.
- Maintenance of high standard of hygiene and sanitation in school premises.
- Institution of regular cleaning and decontamination procedure

I also assure you that due procedures will be instituted for catering uninterrupted tutoring of students who are not able to attend school owing to sickness or any other unavoidable reason. For ensuring their quality education following measures will be taken:

- Assigning teachers to conduct daily online curriculum and weekly follow up of students
- Practice and review of subjects covered by online means.

Any student, teacher or staff member who has availed leave on account of health issues will only be allowed to rejoin school on production medical fitness certificate from registered medical practitioner.

Safety of students during transit will also be ensured by way of adherence to under mentioned measures :

- Regular medical screening of school van drivers and support staff.
- Disinfection and sanitation of vehicles twice a day.
- Enforcing well spaced sitting arrangement in school vans and wearing of face masks by everyone
- Rescheduling pickup and drop of students travelling by school vans for obviating congestion
- Body temperature screening of students before pickup

I assure The British School will not leave any stone unturned in providing best possible educational and emotional support to the students. Special sessions by experts to uplift the morale and confidence of teachers and staff have also been planned for. The British School management is looking at the challenge in hand with a positive and optimistic approach and we are committed to come out with flying colours. We all need to stay focused, firm and patient to sail through these trying Covid times with optimism. **DL**

# PARENTS MUST SUPPORT IN THIS CRISIS

Many schools are taking efforts in facilitating live classrooms and other such activities to ensure that learning continues without any hurdle says **Saarah Kausar**, Founder & Director, Shine Kids Academy, Chennai in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

Due to the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), children are affected by physical distancing, quarantines and nationwide school closures.

Some children and young teenagers may be feeling more isolated, anxious, and bored.

The learning has to continue for children to upgrade themselves. As the new academic year has begun but still schools are shut, most of the schools have immediately started online classes or distance learning pre-recorded sessions to ensure that students are engaged.

Many schools are taking efforts in facilitating live classrooms and other such activities to ensure that learning continues without any hurdle. Teachers are also doing their best and have opted for e-learning techniques to keep the learning process going smoothly.

In India, the recent act between the Parents and the School Management for the fee payment has led to many controversies. Parents are signing petitions or approaching court to ban the fee payment. Many Parents have also maligned the school by exposing the fee structure. But before doing this Parents must be clear it is you who has chosen the school according to your budget, so now when school authorities demand a fee then why play the blame game?

In any school organization whether big or small there are many other people who are associated with it. Teachers, Ayahs, Clerical staff, Watchman, Drivers etc. They are the ones who are badly affected in this critical time as they also need to feed their families and take care of their children. Every School Management is taking utmost care in paying them their salaries and supporting them in this critical time. We, as a Preschool division conduct Summer Camps during the month of April and May, but this time it was cancelled due to lockdown. But still without income for these months we have paid our Teachers and other staff. Because at this crisis time we only have to support them, can't leave them to suffer.

Even few Parents had paid us in advance the Summer Camp fee and to those Parents we have fully refunded the fee of the course which we didn't conduct.

Hope other schools, if they didn't conduct any activity then



**Saarah Kausar**  
Founder & Director, Shine Kids Academy, Chennai

should not charge the fees for the lockdown period and also should not hike the fees for the new academic year, because many Parents are also facing job loss or pay cuts. The Parents and School Management should have a coordinated approach in this regard and the issue should be considered sympathetically.

It's an urge to all those Parents who can afford, to come forward and to pay the fees and to save the lives of many in this distress time. Because School Management, Staff and Parents are inter-related even if one withdraws there will be a huge impact on the other.

Let's be an example to our children and support the people who shape their future.

On Humanity grounds - Kindness costs nothing. Just a big heart and an open mind! **DL**



# POST COVID MDN EDIFY EDUCATION MAKING ROOM FOR 'SAFE SPACES' IN SCHOOLS

This focus on nurturing emotional connections, as well as protecting mental health is also reflected in the considerations and accommodations built into our strategies for blended learning, says **Dr Gaurav Muradia**, Director, MDN Edify Education Pvt. Ltd. & DRS International School, Hyderabad in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

Even as our inboxes and newsfeeds are filled every day with apocalyptic projections reimagining how the post-lockdown school setting will be like, here at MDN Edify Education Pvt. Ltd., we have embraced the complexities and challenges this crisis poses as a unique pedagogical opportunity to revisit the true essence of learning and teaching.

Without doubt, at the heart of cognition and learning, as the theorist Piaget noted, is our ability to adapt by assimilating and accommodating our mental frameworks to new scenarios and contexts so that we constantly refine and build on our understanding of the world. Seen this way, the COVID-19 pandemic, and its ramifications for schools, is a learning assignment- albeit one, whose kind and scale we have never seen before.

This learning assignment calls for accelerated professional development for educators and school leaders alike. There is an urgent need to tap into the socio-emotional power that learning holds. Learning and teaching can be the glue that holds together communities through this difficult time, by modelling resilience and providing young learners with the emotional and intellectual tools they need to navigate uncertainty, adapt to change of an unprecedented scale, and thrive using new modes of exploration and learning that the 'new normal' calls for.

MDN Edify Education is currently offering a host of initiatives to support our rapidly expanding network schools across India in safeguarding the health of their learning communities as they plan their exit from the lockdown. The launch of a dedicated 'Manual of Prevention and Protection Procedures', spanning domains such as the sensitization of stakeholders, considerations for transportation, management of common spaces and high-contact surfaces and amenities, the conduction of meetings as well as the in's and out's of classroom reorganization was one of the first steps taken in this direction. This collection of well-thought-out Standard Operating Procedures not only inform our school leaders in planning for a smooth transition in terms of logistics and administrative planning, but also provides sound guidance on monitoring the mental health & well-being of students in the months to come. From offering insights into creating safe spaces for discussing health anxiety and related concerns, to the development of tools to help learners recognize the symptoms of stress and manage them with the aid of healthy coping mechanisms and even an array of self-care techniques- the manual emphasizes the need to address all dimensions of well-being- not just the ones that



**Dr Gaurav Muradia**  
Director, MDN Edify Education Pvt. Ltd. &  
DRS International School Hyderabad

concern physical health.

This focus on nurturing emotional connections, as well as protecting mental health is also reflected in the considerations and accommodations built into our strategies for blended learning and continuity planning for academics. As schools iron out the kinks in staggered schedules, designated drop-off points, contactless marking and alternate-day teaching, it is also vital to look beyond the structures and matrixes of schedules to consider providing time for students with teachers and peers for reflection, sharing and rapport-building. While social distancing is here to stay, we can be savvy and foresighted in planning for meaningful interaction and collaboration that respects the boundaries of individual space and even carefully planned seating charts.

The bottom-line is that safeguards and prevention procedures are essential and vital, but we must keep the myriad needs of our learners in mind as we cross off our checklists, and wield our thermal scanners. Let's make sure there are friendly faces to greet our students at the end of every disinfection tunnel and hope that, like all learning assignments, this too brings us some unforgettable lessons! **DL**

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27 JUNE 2020

# WEBINAR REPORT

by

Technomedia Pvt Ltd

Accelerating Learning-Driven Technology  
Transformation in Remote Education

Date: 19 June 2020



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# EDUCATORS CALL TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

With the outbreak of the Coronavirus, over 260 million students in India have been impacted. Central and state governments are leveraging online platforms to facilitate e-learning, while also coming up with solutions like alternative academic calendars to make up for the loss of school hours. The ed-tech firms have emerged as life savers for many educational institutions.

Government school students face a huge gap in access to high-quality learning content and digital infrastructure. High number of teacher vacancies, poor quality of teacher training, and heterogeneous learning levels of students have only exacerbated the problem.

Elets Technomedia has organized a conclave on "TECH Revolution in policy Regulation & Remote Education: Roadmap Ahead". The conclave was graced by eminent speakers from government and private sector.

The welcome address was given by Dr. Ravi Gupta, Editor-in-chief, digitalLEARNING Magazine and CEO, Elets Technomedia. He welcomed all the guests for the conclave.



**DR RAVI GUPTA**  
Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief  
Elets Technomedia Pvt Ltd



**DR BISHWAJIT SAHA**  
Director - Training & Skill Education  
Central Board of Secondary Education  
(CBSE)

Dr. Biswajit Saha, Director - Training & Skill Education, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) addressed the keynote for the conclave. Saha said "Education is basically related to assessments and exams. We have to drive the country from assessments to learning. We need a new education policy to drive the competency based exams. The CBSE is catering to 20 million students across the country."

He emphasized introducing competency based exams in our schools.

Technology will play a key role in this crisis. We need to change the mind-set of parents with the usage of technology in school education. Coverage of syllabus must not be a priority but making them self learn must be focused, he added.

Traditional education needs to be re-designed. We need pedagogy and industrial involvement to evolve students. Education must be re-shaped post COVID, he added.

He also said "Parents involvement is required and profiling of students is also important. There will be new future classrooms with technology in place, he added.

Garima Babbar, Head Program, South

Asia (Education & Skill Development), Adobe India said "With the help of technology, we are helping students. Technology is changing a lot in the recent past. Teachers must update themselves to provide proper quotient to students. We are providing teacher training to create quality content. We need to re-skill our teachers. Teachers must be empowered to create future learners. Distance learning and technology are components of each other."



**GARIMA BABBAR**  
Head Programs-South Asia  
(Education and Skill  
Development), Adobe Inc

She also said project based learning is coming up. Critical thinking is must and schools must collaborate with parents in this crisis. We have to nurture and monitor our students.

Rohit Gajbhiye, Founder and CEO, Financepeer said "Technology is the need of the hour. We pay to schools on behalf of parent and will collect it from them after lockdown. We even provide fees to content providers' behalf of schools and will collect from them post-lockdown. We even explore all the digital solutions. We are operating in over 40 cities across the country."

He also said it's time for blended learning and we need to upgrade the staff





**ROHIT GAJBHIYE**  
Founder and CEO  
Financepeer

and students for future prospects.

Ravikant Wairagade, Sales and Marketing Manager, Yarukey-India said "We have specialized platform for Mathematics. It has real time solution platform. We provide workshops and equip teachers with effective teaching strategies. We provide continuous support to students."



**RAVIKANT WAIRAGADE**  
Sales and Marketing Manager  
YaruKey-India

In the first panel it was discussed on "Technology Outlook: Mobile first & Mobile – only education shaping the Future classroom New Rules & Engagement Defines!."

Dr S K Rathor, Chairman & Managing Director, Sanfort Group of Schools, Ghaziabad said "Everything came to an unprecedented halt due to the COVID crisis. Over 90 pc schools were not prepared to shift to online classes. The teachers are not so tech savvy in pre-schools and it was difficult for us to engage toddlers in virtual



**DR. S.K RATHOR**  
Chairman & Managing  
Director  
Sanfort Group of Schools

classes. All the pre-schools are working hard to deliver quality content."

Over online classes, he said this is not a permanent solution as it is the demand of hour. Blended learning will be the new normal for schools post COVID.

he bonding between students and teachers are not going to dilute and importance of physical schools will never die. We need to socialize our students as they are missing the schools, she added.

He also said it's a huge challenge for rural schools to provide education through online. There is an uncertain over opening of schools. Parents will not send their children to pre-schools, he added.

Dr Jawahar Suriseti, International Educationist, Adviser to Government, Smart City said "Virtual is the only option in this crisis. There is no uniform code for govt schools to conduct online classes. With virtual classes parents have become



**DR. JAWAHAR SURISETTI**  
International Educationist Adviser to  
Government

more responsible. We need to have a policy over online education. Teachers are the real Corona warriors and as they can influence generations."

Over online classes, he said "virtual classrooms cannot replace physical ones. Blended learning will be the new normal for schools. We will miss the peer to peer learning. The digital well being on child will be affected. It is a wake-up call for parents to be a part of education system, he added.

Over content, he said maintaining the quality is very important and making is interesting is more essential. Engagement of students during the lockdown is a huge issue.

He also emphasized on private stakeholders involvement in education sector.

Dr Niyati Chitkara, Principal, Chitkara International School, Chandigarh said "The COVID has created a great opportunity to bring change in education system.



**DR NIYATI CHITKARA**  
Principal, Chitkara International School  
Chandigarh

This is the best time for action research. The major challenge is to keep all the stakeholders intact. All schools are trying to portrait virtual classes as physical ones. The mental health of student is also important and schools must focus on it."

She said many schools are running on mobile phones. Keeping employability on mind we have started using technology in school education. We have started using tech edge module for students. We were tracking children and have health cards for students.

To engage students, the school has started many activities including songs, dance, painting and many more. To encourage students, school is providing e-certificates and batches.

She also said boredom is the biggest challenge during online classes. She also said parents are the new quality auditors and content is the king in virtual classes.



**RACQUEL SHROFF**  
CEO  
Global Education Solutions

Racquel Shroff, CEO, Global Education Solutions said "The COVID has act as an equalizer. It has created an opportunity for every student to gain knowledge. We need to re-design our learning and teaching ways. We have to embrace the new way of learning. Now, students have to take responsibilities to learn new things. The teachers are doing a tremendous job in this crisis."

She said it's time to educate and empower parents, teachers and students in this crisis.

She also said blended learning is need of the hour. Technology and automation can have impact on jobs in coming days. Schools are the integral part of the community. Micro-learning will be to stay for longer period.

Andrew Collins, Director & CTO, Vu2Vu India Pvt Ltd (India/Ireland) presented his views on the online education.

In the second panel the discussion was organized on "School TECH Rising: Process of Advancing Education & Rise of Blended Learning.

Mark Parkinson, International Speaker & Education Consultant, Malaysia said



**ANDREW COLLINS**  
Director & CTO  
Vu2Vu  
(India/Ireland)  
Academy of Research  
(STTAR)

"We need to focus on basic necessities. Educators have to focus on students' personalization. We must not waste this tragedy. We have to use this to evolve the education sector. The evident that a child can be a carrier of a virus. The return to physical schools will be a huge challenge."

K Prabhakaran Nair, Headmaster, The Lawrence School, Lovedale said "Things have changed a lot. There's an opportunity in every crisis. All the schools have evolved in this crisis. Important aspects of education are disrupted. In the long term it will impact the education sector. Currently, we are missing students and peer learning is utmost important."

When she schools will re-open blended learning will be the key. The fatality rate in India is just 4 pc, which is far more less than other countries, he added.



**K PRABHAKARAN NAIR**  
Headmaster  
The Lawrence School  
Lovedale

The post Covid scenario will be different and the learning process will be different. There is a digital divide within India. Virtual learning will be a boom. There is a change in the assessment system, he added.

He said there will be a positive change in the education sector in coming days.

Dr Jayshree Periwal, Chairperson, Jayshree Periwal Group of Schools, Jaipur said "These are very difficult times. We have to adopt technology to survive and can make the virtual world our world. We have to find solutions in challenges. Schools have to use technology to its best in this crisis. In future, blended learning will be adopted."

She also said educators need to provide quality education in the country. There is digital illiteracy across and that needs to be taken care of.



**DR JAYSHREE PERIWAL**  
Chairperson  
Jayshree Periwal Group of Schools, Jaipur

The technology will be handy if any such pandemic comes back. Schools have learnt to adapt new things, she added.

Dr Vidhukesh Vimal, Headmaster, The Assam Valley School, Tezpur said "There are changes in the education system. There is a huge shift in the sector. We have to compliment technology not use it as a supplement. Now, students are not in a controlled environment of teachers. The learning culture has to be changed. Children have to take onus of self learning."

Now parents are acting as teachers. Parents have to play a direct role in education. This is a huge cultural shift, he added.



**DR VIDHUKESH VIMAL**

Headmaster  
The Assam Valley School  
Tezpur

Over exams, he said "We have to create a new assessment system. Assessment part remains the most critical. Everything has changed a lot in the crisis."

Schools and teachers will never become redundant. The pandemic has exposed society and we need to rectify it. Patience is the key in this time and schools will be the safest heaven for students, he added.

Lt Gen Surendra Kulkarni, Director, Mayo College, Ajmer said "Everybody has suddenly fallen in love with technology. Technology has overtaken inertia. How schools leveraging technology is important. The pedagogy of online learning is different from physical ones. There will be a huge change in teaching ways in schools. Digitization became the key factor from the last 10 years."

He also said "Parents cannot be



**LT. GEN. SURENDRA KULKARNI**

Director  
Mayo College  
Ajmer

expected to be teachers. Parents must understand they are our partners not pay masters. There will be a growing divide within the schools and technology is a great leveler.

He emphasized on providing safety to students, when it will re-open.

Harinder Chhabra, Director, The Infinity School, Noida Extension said "Parents were a bit apprehensive in the beginning. This is a blessing in disguise as quality education will only survive. The adaptation of technology has become very fast. We need to enhance the teaching and learning process. Schools have to be very serious about their teachers' capacity."

He also said "Now parents are part of the process. Students will be more independent in future. There will be more personalization for students."



**HARINDER CHHABRA**

Director  
The Infinity School  
Noida Extension

Dr D Usha Reddy, CEO, Meridian Schools, Hyderabad said "Learning never stops as remote learning continues. We are changing the world with remote learning. Overnight, students and teachers have evolved to adapt the new change. The quantum of usage of blended learning has surged a lot. The teacher assesses the student before starting the online classes."

She also said "The digital divide will increase between urban and rural areas. The world is ready to use technology."

We have to protect our children from cyber fraud. It's time to celebrate the innovation and resilience of teachers and students, she added.



**DR. D. USHA REDDY**

CEO  
Meridian Schools  
Hyderabad

Harish Sanduja, Director - Schools, Seth Anandram Jaipuria Group of Educational Institutions, Ghaziabad said "Everything has become transparent and a complete U-turn has been witnessed in the society. Few years back, schools were reluctant to adopt technology. We did a survey to know how impactful is online teaching. There is a gap between teachers and students. Ability of teachers to connect is very important in online classes."

He said designing thinking must be at the core of teaching and learning.

This is the golden chance for schools to learn new things. Students have to take responsibility for their own learning. Schools are going to collaborate and it can create opportunities to evolve new things, he added.



**HARISH SANDUJA**

Director - Schools,  
Seth Anandram Jaipuria Group of Schools &  
Member, Academic Council,  
Saamarthya Teachers Training  
Academy of Research  
( STTAR )





**SAPNA SKAUL**  
British Council Ambassador Education  
Trainer, Advisor  
New Delhi

In the last panel, discussion happened on "Automation of Education: Transition from Traditional Classroom to Virtual Classroom, Preparing the Future students".

Sapna Sukul, British Council Ambassador, Education Trainer & Advisor, New Delhi said "The major challenge was to battle the pandemic. Teachers have been working hard to ensure learning doesn't stop. Every crisis has a huge opportunity within it. Technology has acted as a great leveler. We are adapting to the new normal. We can only become better and better with such challenges."

Admissions are a problem and there is an issue everywhere. Over 70 pc of parents are supporting online classes, she said.

Teachers are going to sustain as no pandemic is going to stop the growth. The new normal will continue. There is a paradigm shift in the education system, she added.

Revathi Srinivasan, Director, Singhania Schools, Mumbai said "It is important to take cognizance of every little doubt. Training teachers for virtual classes was a huge challenge. We spoke to parents over their issues and resolved the digital divide. For online classes, teachers have to put more effort. Teachers are always experimenting and evolving during this crisis. Schools are collaborating with each other to sail through this crisis."

She said "Online teaching is not the same as physical ones. The whole of



**REVATHI SRINIVASAN**  
Director  
Singhania Schools  
Mumbai

May was used for training teachers. We had fashion shows, debates, music competitions, all happening virtually. This platform can bring out the hidden talent from every child."

Things will become normal very soon, adaptability is a huge thing. We are in a new world and have to prepare students for the future, she added.

Kapil Gupta, Founder, Leaders Group of Schools, New Delhi said "The biggest challenge is to train teachers in tier II and III cities. Engaging toddlers in virtual classes was a huge challenge as they don't sit in one place. With the help of AI, we started training teachers. We need to bring new innovations for kids and



**KAPIL GUPTA**  
Founder  
Leaders Group of Schools New Delhi

provide guidance to parents."

He also emphasized on creating quality content which can engage children.

Deepa Bhushan, Director Schools, C

P Goenka International Schools, Mumbai said "The change is the only constant. The challenge was to adapt the change in the education sector. Dealing with the change for stakeholders has been the biggest challenge. It was a steep learning curve for schools as there was no time."

She also said "Many schools converted



**DEEPA BHUSHAN**  
Director Schools  
C P Goenka International Schools, Mumbai

physical schools to virtual ones. Massive populations have accepted the change and are slowly settling down with a new normal. We have to re-look the way schools have been operating. "

We have to learn from each other and collaboration has been the biggest asset during the epidemic. We must continue



**DR KAVITHA JAIN**  
CEO  
MDN Edify Education  
Hyderabad

the learning curve, she said.

Kavitha Jain, CEO, MDN Edify Education, Hyderabad said "The biggest



challenge is uncertainty. Conducting assessments through online is also questioned. Schools all over the world are struggling. There is a big shift with the students and adapting the new change is also difficult for them. There is a socio-economic challenge for students in India."

She also said "Parents need to support teachers and schools during the online classes. Developing the routine is also important for students."

Data analysis is also very important



**DR. MANIMEKALAI MOHAN**  
Managing Trustee &  
Correspondent  
SSVM Institutions  
Coimbatore

and content quality, he added.

Dr Manimekalai Mohan, Managing Trustee & Correspondent, SSVI Institutions, Coimbatore said "There is an uncertainty, when the schools will be re-opening again. The live classes are very effective. Online education will play a vital role in the sector. Running an online class is not easy for any teacher as parents are also part of the classes. These sessions look like one-one classes."

The students and parents are missing the real classrooms, which virtual ones cannot provide. Parents must teach technical ethos to their children, he added.

Schools are becoming strong with every passing day and have to involve students with more activity classes, he added.

Dr Nripen Dutta, Founder & Principal, Miles Bronson Residential School, Guwahati said "We started a pilot project in the month of April. The connectivity and infrastructure is a huge problem for



**DR NRIPEN DUTTA**  
Founder & Principal  
Miles Bronson Residential School, Guwahati

us. This is the only option and we have to continue with it for next few months. We must find ways to utilize the online classes to take out the best. The virtual classes will never provide that peer learning to students."

He also said "We can start activity based learning and pick the best things. Remote learning is the new normal."

Jyoti Arora, Principal, Mount Abu Public School, New Delhi said "The greatest challenge was to continue the learning process. The cyber safety of children was also important. It was like changing parents' attitude towards online education. The quality of content is also an issue as there is ample free content available. We have set up a helpline for students to calm their anxiety. The mental health and well being was also an important factor for students."

The automation of education can be



**JYOTI ARORA**  
Principal  
Mount Abu Public School New Delhi

visible in the 21st century, she added.

Rashima Vaid Varma, Principal - Secondary School, Prometheus School, Noida said "The challenges are very few, so we moved to online classes in two-three days. The transition for us was much easier. The learning methodology was always there. Earlier, our teachers were used to teach with the help of technology. The children, who were silent in the classroom, started participating more in virtual ones. There is no peer pressure on



**RASHIMA VAID VARMA**  
Principal-Secondary School  
Prometheus School  
Noida

students in virtual classes."

She said "This is a whole new world of technology. AI will be an easy substitute for content education. It will challenge the traditional education system. The skill based education will be more prioritized."

Next couple of months will be very important as schools will learn new things. Skill development, assessments will also be important. **DL**



# NEED CHANGE IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Times have changed and one must understand that education will go through a hugely reformed process, says **Revathi Srinivasan**, Director, Singhania Schools, Mumbai in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Revathi Srinivasan**  
Director, Singhania Schools, Mumbai

With the ushering of the new year everything seemed just normal and peaceful until a few months back when we suddenly experienced uncertainty. This was caused by the pandemic that brought in its own set of unrest, transitions and the need to create as well as adapt. The current scenario does not appear normal anymore. Times have changed and one must understand that education will go through a hugely reformed process. For many of us educationists, who are driven by the passion for learning have forged to make unique choices for the betterment of our children.

We ourselves have moved from the brick and mortar era to homeschooling and virtual schooling temporarily. There has been a lot of learning, much beyond the comfort zones, where the confluence of traditional learning is coupled with the technological prowess.

What remains a constant is the love for teaching and the pleasure of seeing the students being more receptive to this form of learning. For students too, the school in the clouds across a screen is new. While they are digital natives, they can adapt swiftly. The school is their second home and their teachers are undoubtedly special to them.

The school means the world to these young ones because that is the place, they meet friends, play, chat and have fun. Thus the school has a very crucial role to play; it harnesses a positive impact on every child, nurtures values and beliefs as well as gives a dimension to their personalities. The walls of school is privy to their secrets and personal stories. Above all, it is the only place (other than home) where they can make mistakes yet feel a sense of belongingness. For the parents, the pandemic seems to have

toppled the apple cart. Everything that had been on course was invariably thrown off track. Time, people and space suddenly seems claustrophobic. All of this sadly, has led to changes in very many ways that we think and act(react!!) They say -Growth is optional but Change is inevitable. Let's accept it gracefully.

My concern stems from the fact that there's so much to be done in Education now. We have to re-imagine and reconstruct our Curriculum and its processes.

Educational researchers have been concentrating more on preparing the pedagogy of the future. Drawing references from educational models of the West, Finland and Singapore may not seem like a feasible approach for each country today is working differently to resolve the uncertainties with the pandemic and its socio-economic impact.

So it would be best to devise the strategies that work to our country's advantage. No one policy or strategy can work for India which is so diverse and large. Over the years our ways of teaching and learning have evolved.

Innovations have happened majorly at the classroom and the school levels. But, we have been working at a slow pace and in isolation. At the policy levels too efforts are being made to ensure active learning, better standardized tests, training for teachers and greater administrative controls.

No matter where we go, we will always hear of the inadequacies of the education system. When I look at education as a whole, I realise that it is not that our efforts are insufficient. We have lost our direction and need to cater to its objectives. Firstly, let us accept that pressures and contradictions during the process of change is natural. Secondly, I strongly feel that we have only worked on the "What" of changes and not the "WHY" of Change. The 'What' of Change is meaningless to address from a broader perspective. If we have an answer for the WHY- the purpose will emerge and the Vision and Mission can be laid out. Why do we need to Change? Because we have a new purpose, a different vision. Why do we need to think differently? Because of rapid globalisation. Why is there a shift in the process? This is so that we keep our children prepared for an unknown future. Why do we need to use technology in our teaching? Because there lies our child's future. When answering these in detail, we will get clarity of the purpose.

The Online and offline curriculum, the online tests, the relevance of teacher interaction, the stipulated time for online sessions, the activities, the relevance of exams, self-work exercises, the role of parents and school, handling diversity and the question of equity all can be addressed only if we have a clear shared vision.

- There are three aspects to Change which Educationists must address:
- The technology /new materials for the curriculum delivery
- The newer teaching approaches /activities inter

-disciplinary

- Changing mind-sets, beliefs, challenging assumptions

The first two aspects are much simpler to introduce and practice. It involves sound training and availability of resources curriculum delivery will be easier. The third aspect is the most difficult to address. We need to provoke people and challenge their beliefs. We have to engage in challenging assumptions that we rest on.

We have to push ourselves to teach and learn beyond any set standards. If we move in the comfort space that we are in, no learning will happen. There has to be a feeling of inadequacy to change our mindsets. Students are slowly seeing relevance in their learning, they are discovering and constructing their own knowledge, they are trying to seek answers from within, all of these are associated with their capabilities. Relevance, Inquiry and Reflection, as John Dewey puts it, will make change possible.

How will our classrooms change? We will need new ways of doing, learning and new types of knowledge. We cannot predict the skills that students will need or the kind of business that will emerge. Our children will be living in a new world that needs a different kind of thinking and a new approach to life. We will need to focus on diversity, not sameness.

They will need higher order concepts that involve the ability to recognise patterns and have the ability to combine creatively unrelated ideas to something new. The higher order concept is not about solving a problem that others cannot but the higher order concepts for our students would mean the ability to empathise with others, to understand the intricacies of human interactions and the importance of total well being. We have to prepare our teachers for this new thinking. The new thinking will differ from village to town to city and differ from school to school. So, our educational policy must honour diversity among teachers, students while empowering them to take on new challenges for the whole new world.

Educational change is complex but can be effective only if it is collective and collaborative. This is the time to create a new vision for Education, not the time to look at the smaller picture. One can't always push change. One needs to pull as well. We need to pull ideas, thoughts, people, resources and allow ourselves to be challenged beyond.

We need a whole new transformational model to implement and sustain changes. If we need to see India in the top 3 countries of the world in Education (in the next 10 years), we need consistency in policies and autonomy to function. Schools are not Eiffel tower structures

It has to have a circular model of leadership to encourage and accelerate visualisation. Only if we have the potential and the courage to visualize, will learning ever happen..I believe that extraordinary experiments happen in ordinary environments and innovations are not always resource driven. Parents and schools must build a positive culture, if you wish to see the transformation. **DL**

# POST COVID: SCHOOLS MUST TAKE ACTION TO CURB VIRUS

The school should have complete information and the facts about COVID-19 which will help diminish the students, parents, teachers and other faculty members fear, anxiety around the disease says **Sumanth Narayan**, Vice Chairman- Shanthinikethana Group of Institutions, Chairman - Adelle International Preschools in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

At the outset, we hope that you and your family are safe and healthy. The entire world is passing through extremely difficult situations owing to havoc created by CoronaVirus infection which is declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation. The situation in our country has also compelled our Central Government to invoke the provisions of the Disaster Management Act to declare a state of lockdown in the entire country.

Further, declaration of lockdown by the Government, though considered to be an inevitable measure to contain the spread of infections, has affected people across all walks of life, in ways that were beyond reasonable comprehension. The field of education and academics has also been severely affected. The Education institutions, teachers, non-teaching staff, and more importantly, the students, have suffered irreparable losses in their own ways.

The institution is not immune to the situation either, and we have also been severely impacted. As you are aware, running an education institution that believes in imparting quality education is challenging.

The students are also compelled to face an unprecedented situation. The threat of losing an academic year is looming large. Further, considering the age factor, if the young and restless minds get disoriented, it would be difficult to bring them back to a balanced lifestyle which includes adequate concentration on academics.

The school should have complete information and the facts about Covid 19 which will help diminish the fear, anxiety, stress, emotion around the disease among students, parents, teachers and other faculties.

Note that SOP documentation is much more involved than a simple procedural document measures to protect school from Novel coronavirus.

## 1. Back To School Arrangement Precautionary Measures In Schools

Thermal scanning of temperature - students (2 intervals), teachers, staff, parents & other visitors.

- Face Shield
- Mouth Mask
- Small Handy Sanitizer
- Visitor management system.
- Fogging & Spraying (2 Times In Day)



**Sumanth Narayan**

Vice Chairman- Shanthinikethana Group of Institutions,  
Chairman - Adelle International Preschools

- Social distance measures to be abided in the campus .

2. Leave Of Absence of Both Students & Staff
3. Stay Home Notice And Approved Absence (Aa)
4. Medical Counsellor Responsibilities: Shall provide counselling to healthcare counseling; psychology
5. Emergency ready reckoner

Technology now allows students to connect anytime, anywhere, to teachers /school in the world, from any device. This COVID is dramatically changing new collaborations of learning .

"Ultimately, the greatest lesson that COVID-19 can teach humanity is that we are all in this together."- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. **DL**



# POST COVID-19- A NEW NORMAL AT MANIPAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

At present, due to the unprecedented situation of Covid-19, we all have shifted our pedagogy and mode of teaching learning overnight, says **Dr Ritu Chauhan**, Principal of Manipal International School, Bangalore in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Dr Ritu Chauhan**  
Principal, Manipal International School, Bangalore

Indian Education system has undergone a drastic change in the last few months. All these years, we were postponing the changes which are required and were not ready to go beyond our comfort zones. We were teaching the students in four walls with face to face interaction and mostly in traditional set ways with little technology. At present, due to the unprecedented situation of Covid-19, we all have shifted our pedagogy and mode of teaching learning overnight.

As principals, we need to assure our parents, students and all staff members that post COVID-19, school environment will be safe for all of us. In a fearful environment, we may not be able to learn and grow together so its utmost important to make the place SAFE for all.

We are planning to take the following measures in our school for which our planning is already in place and needful arrangements will be made prior to reopening of school for students, staff and other visitors.

1. Hygiene maintenance committee- Formation of this committee which includes facility manager, transport manager, cafeteria in-charge, housekeeping in-charge and

a trained nurse. This team will be trained by the officials to monitor and control the infection in the entire campus.

2. Sanitization Routine- Daily sanitization of all areas of the schools with the help of trained staff. Battery sprayers, manual sprayers, disinfectants etc should be bought and used with great care in terms of their dilution ratio.
3. Staggered classes- Students of pre primary will come once in a week to school. Primary grades will come to school two days in a week. Middle and high school students will attend 3 days in a week. Other days, they will study at home via online mode and blended teaching techniques.
4. Staggered transport- One child per seat will help social distancing. Before boarding the bus, children will be sanitized by the bus helper.
5. Masks- Masks will be compulsory for ALL.
6. Arrogysatu and other government instructed apps will be compulsory to install for all staff as well as visitors.
7. Online PTMs- All meetings with parents will be conducted online. Staff meetings and daily updates will be taken through online mode.
8. Multiple Checks and sanitization levels- At the main gate, at the entry point of building, washrooms, cafeteria etc, multiple checks will be done.
9. Audit and certification- We have registered for Green germ-free school audit with an agency so that we are rest assured that all places are disinfected from time to time and staff is trained to continue the disinfection drive.
10. Children awareness programs- Our psychologists and counsellors are taking care of the mental wellbeing of our children.

Academically, we have developed content which will be given to the children and with the guidance of our teachers, their academic journey will continue. Novel ways of assessments are designed by our curriculum team. We need to keep faith in our children and seek little support from our parents. I think, as a community, we are taking this responsibility and supporting each other.

Children, parents and teachers need our support and we must make it possible. As leaders, we need to figure out ways to tackle these unprecedented situations. **DL**

# PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE NEW NORMAL POST COVID-19

To prevent the virus from entering school premises, we have made arrangements to run comprehensive background checks on all students, staff and their immediate family members which includes medical and travel history since the beginning of the year 2020 says **Dr. Chandrakanta R. Pathak**, Principal & CEO, HVB Global Academy, Mumbai in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Chandrakanta R. Pathak**  
Principal & CEO, HVB Global Academy, Mumbai

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of our lives in one way or another and it is suggested that an effective covid-19 vaccine might take yet another year to develop. Given the critical role education plays in the cognitive and affective development of young students, we must make meaningful effort into devising strategies as to how we might resume school operations before the vaccine becomes available without compromising the safety of our students. Considering what we now know about how the virus spreads, it seems that the best course of action would be to adopt a set of rigorous measures that would effectively prevent the spread of the virus among students and staff when they are in transit between their residence and school and when they are within the school premises.

To this end, we have devised a two-pronged plan aimed at:

- a) preventing the contagion from entering the school premises, and
- b) preventing the spread of the contagion through person-to-person and surface-to-person mechanisms within the school

premises.

To prevent the virus from entering school premises, we have made arrangements to run comprehensive background checks on all students, staff and their immediate family members which includes medical and travel history since the beginning of the year 2020. Background checks have been made mandatory for all individuals who wish to gain admission to school premises. We have made provisions to ensure thorough sanitization of school buses before and after they pick and drop students. At the school's main entrance gate, we have installed touchless sanitation devices to sanitize hands, shoes and bags, and also a temperature sensor that measures and records the body temperature of every individual who enters the campus.

We have also suspended all activities requiring face-to-face interaction with individuals not affiliated with school. Such activities are to be held virtually.

To prevent the contagion from spreading within the school premises, we have adopted a set of rigorous measures which includes social distancing norms and regular sanitation which all individuals within the school premises are required to observe. We have installed hand sanitizers in all classrooms, outside of washrooms and elevators.

All classrooms and desks will be cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis. We have designed orientation programmes for our entire janitorial and security staff to train them in safety operation procedures and social distancing norms. In addition, we have appointed a committee of teachers that will monitor all activities and ensure that the approved safety operating procedures are being implemented throughout the school premises. In order to allow students and staff sufficient time to adapt to the new normal, we will resume the regular school session in five phases distributed evenly over five weeks. In phase 1, the school will reopen for staff to allow them time to make the necessary arrangements and ensure that school is ready to operate under the new normal.

We will carry out a thorough examination of our facilities and assess the situation at the end of every school day and plan for the following day accordingly. We have also put contingencies in place to ensure continuation of learners' education without disruption. **DL**

# SAFETY TO BE PRIORITIZED FOR SCHOOLS POST COVID – 19

Though learning began in the online space, we would look at going back into the physical format of schooling post COVID – 19 reducing, says **Deepa Bhushan**, Director Schools, C P Goenka International Schools, Mumbai in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Deepa Bhushan**  
Director Schools, C P Goenka International Schools  
Mumbai

The Coronavirus pandemic changed the way we looked at the world. All that we saw as 'normal' no longer existed and we had to gear up to live with the 'new normal' Whether it was staying indoors or wearing masks, or washing our hands all the time or sanitizing everything we touched, the upheaval it brought into everyone's lives across the world was immense. The financial, emotional, physical toll it took on the population in all the countries led to disruption in the way we lived our lives.

Though learning began in the online space, we would look at going back into the physical format of schooling post COVID – 19 reducing. At this point of time we do not know when it will get eradicated or how soon the vaccine will get administered. Taking this into account we have started planning for school reopening once the government directives for schools re-opening comes through.

## What safety measures and concerns your school will be taking post-COVID – 19?

We have created standard operating procedures for sanitization and maintaining cleanliness of the school. A safety officer and a medical officer will be allocated for each school who will be specifically in charge of monitoring the safety and health of all within the schools.

Each and every one within the school premise will undergo a training program related to the rules and safety procedures.

Once the school premise is sanitized and ready, we would start school for different sections in a staggered format. Every staff member and parent will need to share their recent health history before they start school. At this point, we are looking at running of classes in two shifts or calling one batch of students every alternate day. To maintain physical distance between the children we would have only 50% of students in each class. Only one student will be permitted to sit on each desk. School hours will be reduced and there will be no assemblies or activities where groups of students have to gather together.

In - school procedures would include strict hand hygiene routine for students and staff, wearing masks, maintaining physical distance and classrooms and washrooms will be disinfected every day.

Based on the number of days within the working year the curriculum will be reworked to ensure key learning outcomes and minimum learning levels are achieved. A hybrid model of online and face to face teaching is being worked on so that students have continuity in learning. The assessment has been reworked to ease the pressure on students.

We also understand that along with the students, teachers too need to be supported. It is not only the physical health safety which is a concern but so is the mental health and emotional health of students and staff a priority. Counselling sessions are made available for students and teachers as part of a Wellness initiative.

Key responsibilities at every level have been worked on in a structured format. Parents as stakeholders in the education system also will be included and will hold accountability.

We will continue to monitor the risks while the school is in action. Though we have planned the processes, due to the uncertainties in the situation the planning may need to be reworked. We are keeping track of practices for school reopening across the world and learning from them. It is a time to collaborate and learn from each other how we will be safely able to get children back into classrooms. **DL**

# THE NEW NORMAL FOR SCHOOLS POST-COVID-19

Remote learning is added as a new normal where the trio of teachers, students and parents tried to adopt themselves at light speed to adjust and embrace the new normal says **Dr Sanghamitra Banerjee**, Principal, Gateway International School, Chennai in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Dr Sanghamitra Banerjee**  
Principal, Gateway International School, Chennai

Covid-19 has made us reflect on the ways to survive, sustain and build a sustainable future in all aspects. The outbreak of coronavirus has been declared as a PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN (PHEIC).

I as an administrator truly understand that post lockdown, the schools' set up needs revamping and the policies need to be restructured to ensure the safety of students.

Following basic principles can help students and teachers safe at schools and help stop the spread of this disease.

## Recommendations:

### 1. Follow basic principles:

- Sick students, teachers and other staff should not come to school
- Schools should enforce regular hand washing with safe water and soap, hand sanitizer or chlorine solution and, at a minimum, daily disinfection and cleaning of school surfaces

### 2. Know the latest facts: Understand basic information about

coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including its symptoms, complications, how it is transmitted and how to prevent transmission.

### 3. Ensure Safe School Operations:

- Update or develop school emergency and contingency plans. Work with officials to guarantee schools are not used as shelters, treatment units, etc.
- Reinforce frequent hand-washing and sanitation and procure needed supplies. Prepare and maintain hand-washing stations with soap and water, and if possible, place alcohol-based hand rub (hand sanitizers) in each classroom, at entrances and exits, and near lunchrooms and toilets.
- Implement social distancing practices that may include:
- Staggering the beginning and end of the school day
- Cancelling assemblies, sports games and other events that create crowded conditions
- 4. Promote information sharing:
- 5. Adapt school policies where applicable
- 6. Monitor school attendance
- 7. Plan for continuity for learning

Plan for continuity of learning In the case of absenteeism/sick leave or temporary school closures, support continued access to quality education. This can include:

Use of online/e-learning strategies

- Assigning reading and exercises for home study
- Assigning teachers to conduct remote daily or weekly follow up with students
- 8. Implement targeted health education
- 9. Address to mental health and psychosocial needs
- 10. Support vulnerable population

Hence it is recommended to widen our horizons of knowledge to face every undue challenge effectively. To list down the basic things I would personally recommend the following:

1. Recognize the symptoms of COVID-19 (coughing, fever, shortness of breath) in your child
2. Keep children in school when healthy
3. Washing hands properly

India will once again shape up the way it was and we educators will continue inspiring life in the best possible way, creating leaders for tomorrow aiming for a sustainably abled future. **DL**



# A SHIFT IN MINDSET WILL BE NEEDED -TO TEACH AND LEARN POST-PANDEMIC

Future transformations will witness these classroom transactions are complemented with new-fangled technological tools says **Dr Manimekalai Mohan**, Managing Trustee & Correspondent, SSVI Institutions, Coimbatore in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

Today, due to unforeseen extensions, it is difficult to predict when schools will resume. As educators, we must look after the emotional, social and behavioural health of our learners, which is diametrically opposite to social distancing.

Currently, SSVI is effectively engaging students with online education. Our prime focus is at the inferences of the novel learning approaches that are being redefined through technological innovations, right from the live academic meetings, video interactions, online theatre, to working with all learners fulfilling their varied learning needs. Future transformations will witness these classroom transactions are complemented with new-fangled technological tools. It is time to embrace learning "anywhere anytime".

The new reality takes us towards technological assessment systems, digital paper corrections, eBooks and smart classroom boards and many more. Moreover, it is very early to be judgemental about how the learning trajectory will be affected by online teaching. However, when students participate in online learning, their responses have been awe-inspiring, and this has strengthened the resolve of our teachers and has motivated them to work harder and smarter.

Moving forward, towards the new normal post-pandemic environment, we require a considerable shift in the mindset of the entire learning community— both emotional and social. We hope for the safe return of teachers and learners to school so that hands-on teaching and learning can happen smoothly. A fresh approach is the need of the hour to teach and learn in this reformed online paradigm. Therefore, a post-pandemic Institutional plan is very significant, and this demands systematic preparation.

SSVI would indeed initiate new approaches by which learners can be assimilated back into the schools' physical setting safely from the virtual world. Besides practical measures such as frequent cleaning of classrooms and sanitising all the areas where the students regularly converge, prioritising of recess, wearing masks and face shields, distance-desk markings, sizeable students- teacher ratio, sufficient medical support- staff, safer zone to eat, play and so on will also be implemented.

A revised school calendar will be planned where the events with large gatherings of students/parents will be avoided. There would be a cancellation of field trips, conferences and inter-school competitions, but



**Dr Manimekalai Mohan**  
Managing Trustee & Correspondent, SSVI Institutions,  
Coimbatore

will make it possible through the virtual world without compromising on the quality. School timings will be modified, giving students' attendance its due space. School bulletins would have colourful, pictorial depictions and slogans that sensitise students on essential hygiene and cleanliness such as washing hands frequently, safe socialising and social distancing.

Considering senior students, we have almost lost the year 2020. Bearing their future progression in mind, we must help them realise the significance of their academic excellence by educating them to gain adaptability and mental strength to face any challenges in life, aiming to achieve their goals.

These are unpredicted times, and we need extraordinary measures to tackle them. No doubt, returning to school after this pandemic will indeed be a new learning exercise for learners at all levels. Adaptability is the key to unlock any adverse circumstances. **DL**

# SAFETY MEASURES FOR SCHOOLS POST COVID-19

One of the main challenges we face as an organization is to meet the fear driven anxiety of parents says **Dr Vidhukesh Vimal**, Headmaster, The Assam Valley School in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Dr Vidhukesh Vimal**  
Headmaster, The Assam Valley School

One of the primary discussions that consumes us today are the changes we stand to face in the mundanity of our lives as we have known it. One of the main challenges we face as an organization is to meet the fear driven anxiety of parents. At The Assam Valley School, with its sprawling campus of 240 acres and a complex residential structure that caters to 800 students, a diverse teaching faculty and support staff, this can be a labyrinthine process.

## **Academics and Activity Programme:**

- The School made a smooth transition to online teaching-learning mode in a flipped classroom.
- Students and parents were acclimatized to the rigors of a digital environment with classes and assessments designed to extract the maximum off an online platform.
- AVS's rich and diverse Activity Programme has been shifted online where teachers plan their sessions to actively engage their students.
- A significant element of a residential school is its Pastoral Care. Tutor-tutee engagement remains prioritized to ensure the mental well-being of the students where they are provided with an outlet to share their apprehensions if any.

## **Infrastructure:**

- Provision of a bay has been made at the Main Gate to disinfect vehicles.
- Couriers and other goods received at the Gate are being set aside for the prescribed disinfecting period.
- Thermal scanners for all Boarding Houses and other strategic locations across campus is being acquired.
- Data is being collated for necessary procedures and training of staff on safety protocol has begun.

## **Medical Provisions and preparations for extreme emergencies:**

- The School has a 32 bedded fully equipped infirmary, a Resident Medical Officer with trained staff and an ambulance with life support paraphernalia.
- Sanitizers have been placed on strategic areas across the campus while masks and gloves are made regularly available to all concerned.
- A suitable building has been converted to an Isolation Ward for flu cases and to provide quarantine facilities as and when required.
- The School is in the process of acquiring PPE Kits for our Health Care workers to tackle any unforeseen situations.

## **Emotional and Mental Readiness of all stakeholders:**

- A long term goal, the aim is to ensure the mental health of students, parents and staff.
- The School Management conducts regular interactions with Staff at different levels.
- Online meetings are held with Parents to discuss their concerns.
- A series of Webinars with Parents of different age groups have been designed with the School's Councilors and the Resident Medical Officer moderated by the Headmaster to address the anxiety quotient faced regularly by Parents and safety protocols that our children must be made aware of and trained in.

Pandemics have marked history in a queer fashion indicating that human evolution has often been hastened by tragedy. The values we teach our children today may just be the faith that sustains us tomorrow. **DL**



For the safety of children, the whole building including furniture, swings, garden area, washroom and all the touch points will be sanitized on daily basis, says **Anu Gupta**, Parenting proficient | Chairperson, Leaders group of schools in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

# MEASURES FOR PRE-SCHOOLS POST COVID-19

The government asked schools to shut down around March 15, 2020 and still under lockdown due to surge in the COVID 19 curve in India. The HRD Ministry planning to open Sr. classes from August 2020 onwards and gradually will start primary classes from September/October 2020.

## Brief Guidelines for Kids & Parents.

We have drafted detailed guidelines for the kids & parents, over here we are covering some brief pointers

1. For the safety of children, the whole building including furniture, swings, garden area, washroom and all the touch points will be sanitized on daily basis.
2. All the kids coming via busses or as walkers, thermal screening will be done before entering the vehicle & inside the school premises.
3. Shoes will be sanitized at the gate and once inside the premises near the gate only, washing the hands will be compulsory
4. Wearing mask will be compulsory, no morning assemblies and any activities which will involve gathering.
5. Parents who come to drop kids to school, will be handed over kids at the gate and not allowed in the premises. In case they want to come at the reception, then thermal screening, mask and proper sanitization of them will be done.
6. Kids will not be allowed to play in groups at the swings, ball pool. If they will play
7. They will not be allowed to share their food and water bottles. Even after every use of washroom, the toilet seat will be sanitized.
8. The class sitting arrangement will be accordingly to maintain

physical distancing among kids inside the class.

9. In DayCare also the sleeping beds will be individual, and all the bedsheets will be washed on daily basis.
10. Busses/Vans seats will be sanitized daily.

## Brief Guidelines for Educators & Support Staff

1. Thermal Screening will be compulsory along with mask for all the staff members including drivers
2. They will strictly follow up the social distancing by themselves & will make sure that this should be maintained by visitors & parents
3. Staff will not be allowed to call food or any other item from outside in school hours.
4. Before & after taking any child to washroom Didi will sanitize her hands properly
5. BH's will make sure that while cooking food for DayCare kids, Didi will follow all hygienic measurements
6. No staff will be allowed in the premises if suffering from any flu or infection.

## Equipment's in Premises

To make ourselves ready we have all the equipment's installed well in place

1. Thermal Screening Guns
2. Masks & Gloves
3. Hand free Sanitizer Machine
4. Disinfection sprayer machine
5. Disinfection solution for cleaning all the touch points like toilet seats, taps, swings, doorknobs etc.
6. Face Shields in case of any requirement. **DL**

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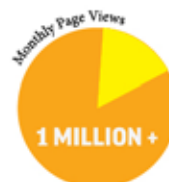
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