

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

CHANDIGARH, 31 MAY 2020

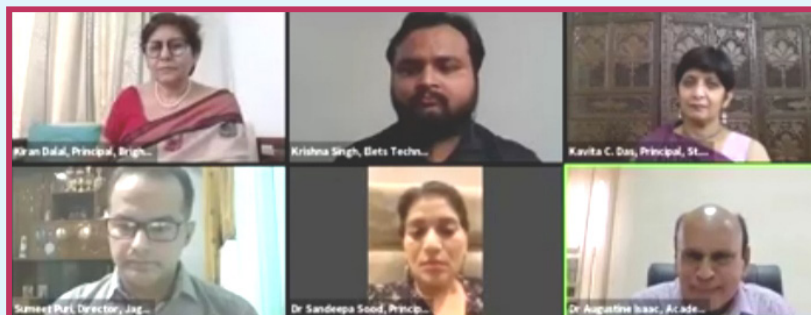
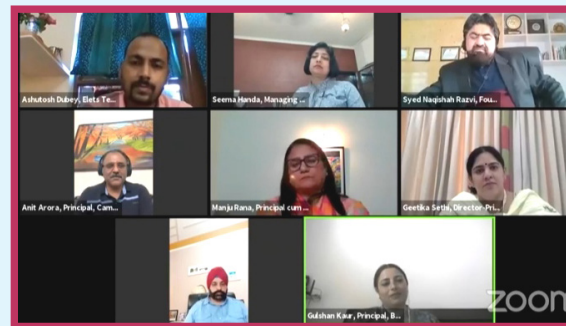
## WEBINAR REPORT

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

Ramanan 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 Ramanan, 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, Ramanan



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

Ramanan 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&

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

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



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



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

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,

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.”

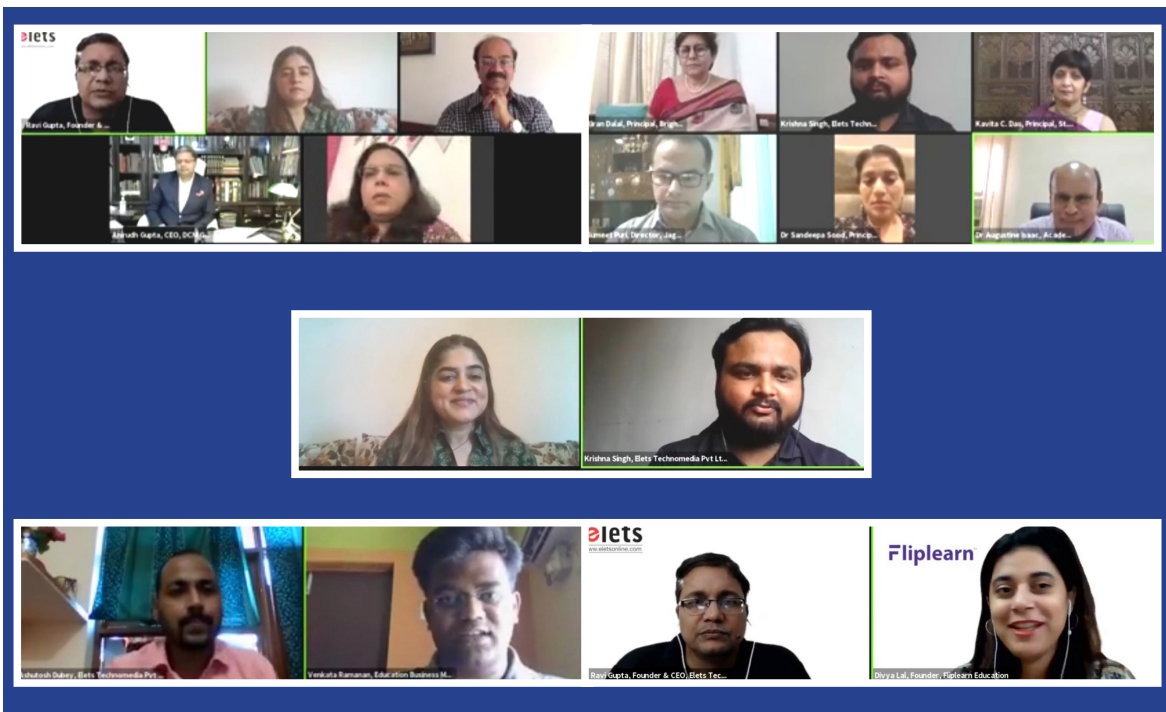
He also said “We need to reduce the screen time of children. Blended learning will be the new norm. We need to give direction and bring clarity with students.

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

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**