

From a Classroom to the Block - A Teacher's Story of Propagating Personalized Learning Opportunities for Children

"Khandala Block is the smallest block in Satara District, Maharashtra. Though small in terms of its population, the block has witnessed various initiatives to improve the quality of education in the government Zilla Parishad (ZP) schools over the last few years. Santosh Nevase, an enthusiastic ZP school teacher from Bholi village (Cluster-Loni, Khandala Block) has been working in the school since 2018, teaches class 3 students and loves working with children.

Navase sir was first introduced to the concept of personalised learning plan through workshops conducted at the district and cluster level by Gyan Prakash Foundation in collaboration with District Institute for Education and Training (DIET), Phaltan. The idea that every child learns differently, at his/her own pace and hence education should be tailored to every individual's needs, struck a chord with Navase sir. He started to develop personalised learning plans for the children in his classroom. His efforts reflected his wholehearted embrace of competency-based education, an approach that values each child's distinct abilities and aspirations.

He also used diverse techniques in the classroom, like inviting a postman to introduce the concept of mails/letters and the postal department and encouraged the children to ask him questions. By creating differentiated learning groups with activities tailored to individual capacities, he offered innovative learning experiences. The impact of his efforts were soon visible on the children. Students started feeling included as each child was considered while teaching. Even those children who spoke less in the class came forward and started to express themselves.



Working within the framework of child-centered planning, Navase sir kept in mind the learning outcomes that children needed to achieve. He worked on integrating the elements from the textbook with the assigned learning outcomes. At the Cluster Resource Group (CRG) meeting, he shared the challenges he faced in implementing personalized learning plans, his solutions to deal with them, and the ways in which he integrated textbook lessons to learning outcomes. Since then, he has guided many teachers in the cluster by demonstrating this in the Shikshan Parishad, and now this process is being implemented in the entire Loni cluster.

Further, the encouraging tales and successes within the Loni Cluster created inquisitiveness among teachers from neighboring clusters within the Khandala Block. As a result, Nevase sir shared his own journey at the Block Quality Centre. He addressed a common misconception held by some teachers – the notion that creating personalized learning plans constitutes an extra burden amidst their existing duties. In contrast, he emphasized the intrinsic connection of personalised plans to learning outcomes and how they can be woven into the teaching process.

Nevase sir has played an important role in enhancing children's learning outcomes at various stages, from his position as a dedicated teacher to a valuable member of the Block Quality Centre. Engaging in frequent dialogues with GPF representatives, he has familiarized himself with all the educational processes. His unwavering commitment drives him to acquire and apply essential tools for each child's learning journey, whether it involves integrating technology or implementing effective classroom methodologies.

In a world where uniformity often reigns, Nevase sir's commitment to fostering individual growth stands as an inspiring testament to the power of personalized education.



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