

RHPS Newsletter

Newsletter capturing the progress of rural school in Bihar

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2019-20 Wrap Up and Covid-19 impact

While we were wrapping up our 6th year of operations in March, the world around us changed significantly.



2020, which gave us one of the greatest moments when our young student innovator qualified for national level of Inspire award, brought us very close to getting CBSE affiliated, **also threw the whole low cost private unaided schools in existential crisis.** We also appeal to our supporters for their continued support to survive this unfortunate

situation.

This newsletter shares the update of final quarter of 19-20 session, the disastrous impact of Covid-19 on us, the key challenges in remaining afloat. It will also share the initiatives we have taken so far to reduce Covid-19 impact for our mission and the current challenges before us.

Covid-19 Impact

1. **Financial Impact:** For around 80% parents only, we have per student overall charges of 14500/- and around 5000/- is payment for transport. Out of 14500/- around 3300/- are spent on subsidising transport for parents. The remaining amount covers 70% of our running cost, and rest is supported by our well wishers like you.
 - A. **Dues from Existing Students:** We traditionally get long pending fees dues and annual charges from parents in Mar'20. Many parents delay paying till they decide to continue for next session. That helps us in clearing all payments to staff and vendors and retain some buffer for next session. With Corona news and many fake messages regarding fees waiver, our fee collection has been severely impacted since March'20.
 - B. **Income from New Admissions:** For new admissions also, 15 March to 15th April is busiest time. We were expecting 100+ admissions this time, and could complete only 5.
 - C. **Donations:** March is also important month for donations due to financial year closure. Due to more urgent causes due to Covid-19, donations have also dried up.

- D. Additional Staff Cost:** We hired few new staff members considering next session in mind, including our previous experienced principal. That increased the staff cost further.
- E. Likely increase in Maintenance Cost:** Our school is designated as quarantine centre and government has taken control of it. There could be some damage done by quarantined people. We are not sure if we will get any compensation from government, so before starting sanitising and some damage repair may be unplanned addition.
- F. Staff Payment:** Due to negligible collections since March, all the staff payments are still pending. With current trend of collection, we don't know when payments can be made. We may lose some good teachers.

2. Operational Impact:

- A. Conducting Class for Existing Students:** We started the online classes for new session from April beginning. We had to put lot of effort to connect students. But still we are able to connect with only around 1/3rd students. Rest of the students lack access to smartphone and/or internet.

Even for connected students, there is challenge of

1. Good internet connectivity
2. Phone availability with students during scheduled class time
3. Teachers capability to adapt for engaging students properly in online way.

So, whenever school begins its normal classes, we will have to repeat classes again to bring remaining students to the level of online students will be another huge challenge. Also convincing parents of students not participating in online classes, to pay fees for this period, will be another daunting task.

- B. Session 20-21 strength:** Few students leave by end of session every year due to various reasons. We get a clear picture of session's strength by mid April when classes for new session starts and significant percentage of new admission is completed.

But for this session, the uncertainty has grown manifold. A small fraction of students are connected online(1/3rd) and we are not sure when some operations will resume at school. The greater the delay, we expect lesser inclination of existing or new students joining for the session!! That puts our survival at stake with very low number of students and CBSE norms matching staff strength and benefits!!

3. Marketing Impact:

- A. **CBSE Affiliation Delay:** We were very hopeful and put a lot of effort towards affiliation process in last session. We hoped good marketing mileage from affiliation. But due to Corona lockdown, that process has also got delayed and our expected boost in admission numbers looks difficult now.
- B. **Direct Marketing:** For the first time, we had hired a person in Feb'20 for door to door marketing campaign. All that stopped when lockdown started.

Key Challenges for our initiative

1) **Great resource uncertainty for 20-21:**

Due to challenging environment for schools, there is huge uncertainty in

- a) Number of paying students who will continue
- b) Number of new admissions we can take
- c) No clue on the date yet when schools can reopen. Parents may not pay for closure period.
- d) Support from government for this sector
- e) Damages that we may accrue due to management of our school as quarantine centre
- f) Donation we can get from supporters as there are many pressing causes that would be getting their attention

We had planned to plug in some gaps at school with better leadership and teachers to further increase the quality of education. But that came with increased cost of operations. We had hoped that our numbers will increase due to our changes as well as from our CBSE affiliation. But none of that has happened.

That has put our viability in question. Unless we get positive headwind from at least few of the uncertain factors mentioned above, our initiative will become unviable.

2) **Keeping RHPS Team Motivated:**

Due to the resource related challenges, our salary payments are not on time. We continue to try newer ways to motivate guardians to pay dues, but none of them so far is successful. **Our interactions with guardians suggest that till school restarts operations, we may not be able to motivate them enough. Till we restart operations, we need a lot of support from our well wishers to support our staff in this uncertain period.**

Online way of teaching requires different kind of skillset and effort. Though teachers are trying hard to learn new ways of engaging students, but without payment and without even roadmap for payment, it has become very difficult to keep them motivated and focussed to help our students.

3) **Taking all students together:**

Due to lack of computational and connected phone/laptop with every student, there will be significant number of students who will be left behind. To bring them up to speed as others, by redoing the same

syllabus, and keeping other students who finished it online properly engaged, will be another big challenge.

New Initiatives in 2020

1. **Exams and Results:** Couple of exams for few classes were left, when schools got closed. We took those exams for students on WhatsApp and gave the results also on WhatsApp and School App.
2. **Online Classes and Teacher's training:** We are conducting online classes using WhatsApp, Zoom and Google Classroom. Teachers are also getting trained through online video conferencing.
3. **Ramping up leadership, teaching and marketing:** We were able to get Jayanta Bhattacharya back as Principal. He was doing good job, but had to leave due to family issues.

We also got two good teachers on board for Maths/Science and Computers. We also recruited special education teacher and counsellor as per CBSE norms to contribute for 20-21 session

4. **Investment for Science Lab Equipment:** We got most of the required material for our Science Lab.

Key Highlights of final quarter of session 19-20 Jan'20

Karate Vizzy Cup 2020, Ranchi



Our Class 3 student won bronze medal in this prestigious event.

LKG-UKG ORANGE DAY

Colourful fun day for LKG and UKG classes to tell them more about orange coloured objects



SOF INTERNATIONAL MATHS OLYMPIAD LEVEL 1 RESULTS

15 of our students qualified this year for the 2nd level of IMO. Class 7 with 6 students and class 4 with 4 students did very well.

Amongst all second level qualifiers, Priyanshi Kumari of class 7 got our school's best zonal rank of 38. We had several others in top 100 zonal ranks.



SPORTS CARNIVAL AND ANNUAL DAY

We continued our annual tradition of 3 days of sports carnival graced by eminent local sportspersons(bicyclist, wrestler, kabaddi players) and events where every student is encouraged to participate. We combined our Republic Day celebrations with final day of sports carnival and everyone had a wonderful time in participating and watching various events.



INSPIRE AWARD - NATIONAL ROUND SELECTION

In one of the most proud moments of school journey, our student Subhash, class 7, qualified for Inspire Award - National Level for his fold-able scissors idea. He is one of the 10 students selected from Bihar to participate at national level, where around 300 participants are expected. 60 of those 300 will be chosen at National Level competition. They will get a chance to travel to Japan for a week.

Inspire Award is a very comprehensive context for young innovators from class 6 - class 10 students. At first level, schools share ideas(max 1 per class from 6-10) on central portal and students are selected for district level. Then after competition at district level few students are selected from district level for competition at multi-district level. Then finally selected students at multi-district compete to get selected to represent state at national level.

Subhash was able to pass all these rounds. He is one of the youngest of the selected 10 students from Bihar. Selection team from Bihar have high hopes from his innovation at national level also. Due to Corona, national level contest got postponed. Currently Subhash is getting mentored by professors at IIT Patna for national level contest.



दूसरे दिन 53 छात्र-छात्राओं ने अपने मॉडल का किया प्रदर्शन

इंस्पायर अवार्ड प्रतियोगिता में 10 बच्चे दिखायेंगे प्रतिभा

लाइफ रिपोर्टर @ पटना

विहार विद्या परिषद द्वारा आयोजित 'इंस्पायर अवार्ड' प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। मंगलवार को दूसरे दिन राज्य के विभिन्न जिलों से चुने गये चरमर्त 53 छात्र-छात्राओं ने अपने मॉडल का प्रदर्शन किया और जजों को इसकी विस्तृत जानकारी दी। इनमें से दस बच्चों का चयन राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर होने वाली 'इंस्पायर अवार्ड' मानक प्रतियोगिता के लिए हुआ है। राष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता के लिए तारीख की घोषणा 'इंस्पायर अवार्ड' मानक के वेबसाइट पर की जायेगी।

निर्णायक मंडल में आइ-आइटी



Mar'20

SOF OLYMPIAD 2ND ROUND RESULTS

Selected few students of Olympiad round 1 in various subjects take the second round exam conducted in Feb 2nd week by traveling to Gaya. We had a very good 2nd round results this time.

We increased our top 25 zonal rankers from 3 to 4, and increased our top 50 zonal rankers from 8 to 13. Also our best ranker, Atahar of class 7 has got zonal 8th rank in science and won 1000. Karan of class 5 has got top zonal 25 ranks in both Science and Maths.

Our top 50 zonal rank holders are.

English: Class 7 -Salea -ZR 40

Science: Class 3 - Sneha- ZR40, Class 5 - **Karan- ZR20**, Class 6: Atharv - ZR 29, Class 7: **Atahar-ZR8**, **Rudra-ZR18**, Aniket:ZR47, Subhash-ZR48

Maths: Class 4 - Satyam - ZR 35, Nishikant-ZR35, Saurav-ZR43, Shivan-ZR28, Class 5: **Karan - ZR 25**

SELECTION FOR BIHAR U-18 KHO-KHO

Two of our students Aayush and Amisha were selected to represent Bihar in U-18 Kho-Kho