Do you worry about the kind of choices your child will make as they grow up?
REOPENING SCHOOLS POST COVID OVER TIME: WAY FORWARD

The story outlines the precautionary measures to be undertaken by schools during post pandemic.

SELF DIRECTED CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT: NEED OF THE HOUR

The article aims to elaborate on the practices of Self Directed Learning (SDL) that were administered amongst a group of Middle School students.
LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP: AN INFLUENCE
The premier quality required is to take everything that comes your way as an opportunity. A leader should take more share of the blame and less credit after a job is done.

EVENT

EDU TALKS FORAYS INTO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS
LearnShare Consulting(www.edutalks.biz)organized a series of story writing workshop, "Write Your Own Story" for school children aged 10-16 years.

EVENT

THE ROLE OF LIBRARIANS IN THE HYBRID ENVIRONMENT
Liferarian Association organizes the 1st Virtual Conference on the best practices in librarian partnership and management.
By the end of 2020, more than 200 nations worldwide would have been affected by Covid-19. Many are still reeling under the pandemic’s devastating effects, with both public health and the global economy has taken a major blow.

Despite the government taking drastic steps, including offering varying degrees of support to their citizens, certain society sections have been inadvertently excluded. Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) - more than one billion in number globally is one such group. The advocacy on how to stay safe during the pandemic has not factored in the inability of immobile people or living with mental illnesses to follow these instructions. Containment measures, such as physical distancing and self-isolation,
maybe impossible for those who rely on the support of others to eat, dress, and bathe. The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a document highlighting this issue and explaining how People with Disabilities (PwDs) may be at a greater risk of contracting Covid-19. Some of these include:

- Accessibility issues may limit how often PwDs can wash their hands
- PwDs who require additional support may find it difficult to practice physical distancing
- People with intellectual impairments cannot cope with self-isolation
- People with visual disabilities rely on “touch functions for mobility and work,” thereby increasing their risk of infection
- Public health information remains inaccessible, which acts as a barrier, particularly for people with hearing impairments
- PwDs may be at greater risk, as people with underlying health conditions, particularly those related to respiratory function, immune system function, heart disease, or diabetes, are more likely to be infected with Covid-19.

Apart from these issues, there is also the mental and emotional toll it takes on children, especially those with special needs who thrive on a fixed schedule; having that taken away from them causes them a lot of mental distress.

Prabhat Education Foundation is an organization committed to the national effort to help children with special needs to find their way to independent adulthood. Prabhat’s mission is to build the capacities of people with special needs to live with dignity and hope as productive and confident citizens. Prabhat works towards bridging the gap between them and mainstream society.

Prabhat’s first response to the pandemic was to assure the parents that the organization is with them and assess their immediate need, which was food for most of them. Food packet distribution and food kits started rampantly. With its limited resources, Prabhat could not reach everyone, so it started tying up with other organizations to supply food in the communities where Prabhat works. 700+ food kits were distributed, after which governments and other organizations were roped in to carry on the process.

The second step was to provide reusable masks to everyone. Teachers from Prabhat started making them at home and distributing them in the community. The organization realized that much wrong information regarding Covid - 19 was circulated, which created a sense of panic and anxiety. To curb that, Prabhat started sending appropriate information material to the parents. It was essential to consider the learning gap forming for the children and thus began the process of collaborations with other expert organizations and institutes to devise ways to keep the learning ongoing.

Since the children cannot reach the centers for therapy, the teachers and therapist ensure that the treatment and lessons get to these children's homes. The teachers train the parents—especially mothers, the exercises that need to get these children to perform at home. The small videos are sent to the teachers who guide them further. It is understandably a quick stopgap way, and all the stakeholders – children, parents, and teachers are all awaiting the pandemic to end and continue their association on site.

One of the most awaited sessions that the children await is the Buddy
Interaction they have with mainstream schools. This initiative is successfully implemented between the Riverside School and Prabhat for the last 11 years and is now replicated by various schools. They make it a point to meet online even through this pandemic to ensure a sustainable relationship. More than its impact on Prabhat’s children, students of the mainstream schools learn the life lessons that are a strong takeaway of this initiative.

The pandemic has displayed the community’s resilience and their ability to find solutions to challenges never faced before! Prabhat salutes the community and feels privileged to be a part of them.

For more details on Prabhat Education Foundation, please visit www.prabhateducationfoundation.

**QUOTES**

"After a yearlong intervention with Prabhat buddies, one common takeaway was that we are all similarly different. We understood the real meaning of unity in diversity."

    Arshiya Shah, Grade 7 student
    The Riverside School

"The children from Riverside School holding the hands of our children from Prabhat during cultural festivals gives a strong message to the society that we are all one. It was overwhelming to see the buddies from Riverside come to motivate and cheer our participants at the Khel Mahakhumb."

    Jagruti Desai, Educator at Prabhat
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