

Mini school(Old panappakkam)

About teacher:

Me, Kumari, am proud to share about my Mini School. I am associated with Asha for Education for past 4 years now. Devastating Covid 19 started spreading in India sometime during the mid-January 2020. The government orders were to shut the schools from 22nd March 2020 till further notice. So, I thought that my village “Old Panappakkam” will be a better place to live in. Along with my family, we shifted to our village.

“Asha for Education” has always been committed to children’s holistic development. Seeing the impact of the indefinite lockdowns, The Co-ordinator Mr. Rajaraman announced and motivated us to start Mini schools in our village. Mini school is a concept initiated by Asha for Education to support children to continue with their education in an unconventional settings like, in a teachers house, or under a tree, or in a balwadi or in a public place in the village. These schools may have less strength and free of cost education for the children. Asha for Education, set some guidelines to be followed during the school hours for the safety of every one which are as follows:

Notification declared by Asha:

1. Students must wear the mask.
2. Wash their hands before entering the mini school.
3. Maintain the social distance (2 meter from one to another students)
4. Total strength of mini school is 15 in beginning (June 2020).
5. We should use the Teaching learning material to teach students as given by Asha like Ganith mala, Base ten blocks, Abacus, ELS kits, building blocks, etc..
6. We should teach the lesson through activity based method trained by Meena mam(Maths).
7. We should use the worksheet to complete the HW of children.
8. We should follow the survey of mini school on each month.

Mini school at my home:

Eswari teacher and me started the Mini School in my Village in June 2020. We continued this mini school on my residence terrace. Initially we were scarred to have 15 children in my house. As per the guidelines layed by Asha for Education, we followed strictly cleaning our hands with Sanitizers and soaps before getting into the school. Masks were provided to all the students. Snacks were also organised.



During the rainy season, we shifted our classes inside my house. Mr. Rajaram visited our Mini School 3 times. Oral assessments were also conducted. This was taken up by Asha teacher “Sailaja” in the month of November.



Teaching materials:

Asha for education provided us with lots of training materials like Ganit mala, Base ten blocks, Abacus, Alphabet cards, sentence builder, ELS kits, etc... and work sheets. Children really enjoyed learning in a fun-fulfilled manner.

Maths Kits given by Asha



Games conducted at the lake

Every Friday we conducted the P.E.T near the village lake. Students eagerly waited for Fridays because they loved to play Kabaddi, football, Kho-Kho, Cricket, Running race, etc.. Some Fridays, we conducted craft activities.



In August 2020, two people died of Carona in my village. This scared all of us, including the parents. We stopped the Mini School for 20 days in September. Tamil Nadu Government, relaxed the lockdown guidelines with which we could restart the school in October. The student strength increased from 15 to 25. My terrace was not convenient to accommodate 25 children and conduct activities. So we approached the village's president's for permission and shifted our mini school to the Balwadi there.

Mini school at Balwadi:

In Balwadi Mini School, classes from KG to 8th were conducted with a schedule as following:

Monday- Tamil, Tuesday-English, Wednesday-Maths, Thursday-Science or Social science, Friday- Craft or P.E.T.

Easwari teacher and me handled the lower primary and upper primary classes respectively. We organised activities for science experiment, programming activities, Yoga and chess.



Science experiment



Art & craft



Chess game



Maths from Computer

Our special thanks to our Lead teachers Nathiya (Maths), Radhika (English), Sophya (Tamil), Science(Jayalakshmi) who provided us with worksheets and activities to make the classes more effective and interesting for the children

Mini school at Temple:



There came another challenge when the assembly elections were scheduled. We had to provide the school space for elections. During those days, bees made a bee hive in the school. When we came back to school after the

election holidays, a child was stung by the bees. Then we had to move the school to the temple. Towards the end of the semester, we even had written assessment.

Annual day celebration:

On the 21st of April 2021, was the turn for long awaited Annual day celebration. Children took part very enthusiastically. They participated in events like dance, songs, storytelling, etc. It was an occasion for the children to showcase their talents and skills to their parents and other friends.



Students gave a thanks giving speech and expressed their gratitude to Asha for Education. Two days later, we closed the school for summer vacations.

Next plan of Asha :

After the summer vacations, it is proposed to reopen the school from the 1st of June provided the lockdown is not extended. There is also a possibility that the children could start going to their regular schools. That being the case, we might have to go back to our regular computer teaching classes like we did before the Mini schools concept came in.