

My Mini-school journey

This essay is about my small contribution and experiences in the Mini-school



What is Mini-school ?

All schools were closed due to covid-19 in March-2020. Classes were conducted online for private school students but no one focused on the Government school children. Mr.Rajaraman sir did not want the students' education to be affected. So he decided to start Mini-school for at least two hours per day in the place where we lived. Initially the teachers were hesitant to conduct these classes because of covid-19 health concerns. Eventually, we became comfortable once we adopted social distancing, frequent hand washing and regularly using hand sanitizers . The parents also supported and encouraged us.



Starting of the Mini-School at my home :

I informed the students in advance that the mini- school was going to be held at my home. I totally followed all the rules of Covid -19 safety guidelines. On the first day of Mini - school , my children and I eagerly waited for the students to arrive. About ten students came and my home started to look like a real school. It was a challenge to teach at home because I needed to behave like a mom and act like a teacher at the same time to my own children.

The attendance of students also increased day by day. Initially there were only ten students but gradually the number of students increased to more than forty students. So I decided to run like a school and not just run as a class.

The children ranged from first standard to eighth standard . So I divided the students into two batches, with the morning batch for first to fourth graders and the afternoon batch for the fifth to eighth graders. We increased the number of teaching hours from two to six hours.

This was my first time teaching the upper grade children and I gained a good understanding of their needs . At the same time I learned new things from their textbooks.



My job as a teacher in covid situation:

On the first day of mini-school I taught students about coronavirus [COVID-19] -How it spreads, what are the symptoms, how to prevent it. Towards the end of the class they eagerly answered all my questions about Covid-19.



[This photo was taken while practicing yoga in our Mini-school]

Our Mini-school looked like a gorgeous educational center full of children.

We did not read just what is in the textbook . We learnt various scientific concepts ,art and craft works, and science experiments.

We played many maths number games taught by Meena mam . Students easily understood how to use the ELF kits English learning. Students participated enthusiastically while doing science experiments. There is no word to describe how much we enjoyed thoroughly doing art and craft work. We used art and craft works to make flower vases, wall hanging, a variety of flowers, paper frogs, clay pots etc...to decorate our mini school.





When Rajaraman Sir, Paripooranam Mam, Madan Sir visited our Mini-school....



It was an exciting day for us and we eagerly waited for their arrival. The children prepared bouquets for them by gathering plants and flowers found in the garden . I was very anxious and maybe a little scared as this was their first visit to our place five months after we started the Mini- school. I thought Pari Mam and Madhan Sir really loved the bouquets. Students did various science experiments in the presence of Rajaraman Sir. The students explained why sea water is so blue with experiments while Rajaraman Sir explained to the students very clearly 'why sky is blue in color'. Rajaraman Sir mingled very well with the students. I arranged a simple lunch for them and we all ate together.



A teacher introduces us
to a vision of life,
to make us
as sharp as a knife.



Conclusion of my Mini-school journey

I am really proud of myself for being part of Asha. I totally enjoyed the time I spent with the students. Although my pre-covid work was with the Government school, the Mini-school gave me an unique opportunity to be creative and explore the children's potential to the fullest possible extent. This gave me a lot of satisfaction. Forty students benefited through this Mini-school during the covid-19 pandemic for about 6 months in my village. Due to some personal issues, I had to discontinue the Mini-school and this made me very sad. I am looking forward to the upcoming academic year and hope to enjoy my time once again with the students.



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