

# GARNERING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

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## I - RATIONALE

Majority of the schools are facing problem of paucity of funds which in turn has affected their overall performance in academic and non-academic areas. These schools mainly depend on government grants or fees and do not try other means of mobilizing financial and physical resources which can help them supplement their efforts in creating the much needed infra structure and taking up other developmental activities. The present paper is a small step in creating awareness about tapping a very strong resource bank ie. “ The community”.

## II - OBJECTIVES

The prime objectives are –

- [1] To make schools financially self reliant & viable.
- [2] To reduce their dependency on government grants & fees.
- [3] To develop their overall infrastructure.
- [4] To improve efficiency and academic performance.
- [5] To prepare schools in facing the challenges posed by the fast changing socio economic environment.

## III - PRE-REQUISITE

In order to achieve the above objectives schools should fulfill the following norms –

- [1] Greater Social Interaction.
- [2] Heads of schools should show exemplary leadership qualities and win community faith & support.
- [3] Greater transparency in working specially in financial matters.
- [4] Dedication and hard work by teachers & other staff members.
- [5] Better academic results and greater satisfaction of students and parents.
- [6] Creating social and environmental awareness through community service programmes & projects.

## IV - ROLE OF VARIOUS AGENCIES

### [1] PARENTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Through its resolution in 1996 the state government has made it mandatory for all schools to establish a PTA every year. The GR also very clearly defines the role of PTA in the school set up. Which is as follows.

- (i) To see that the syllabus of all the standards have been completed as per schedule.
- (ii) To plan, suggest and help to take the remedial projects organized for the weak students of the schools.
- (iii) To approve and help to conduct extra-curricular activities in the school.
- (iv) To approve co-curricular activities.
- (v) To take cognizance of various fee rates in the unaided schools like Tuition Fee, Term Fee or any other Co-curricular or extra curricular activity Fee.

The PTA should act as a catalyst between the school and the community.

### [2] ALUMNII ASSOCIATION

Schools must establish the Ex Students Association and take its supports in conducting its regular and developmental activities. Successful ex students should be called to relate and share their success stories to guide and motivate students.

[3] **NGOS / EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS**

NGOS working in different fields can share their expertise with the schools and conduct various socially useful programmes. For example Health awareness programmes, Medical camps, Environmental issues, Awareness about law and enforcing agencies, benefits to senior citizens etc. These areas can be highlighted by jointly organising seminars, workshop, film shows, debates etc. for students, teachers & parents.

[4] **PRIVATE TRUSTS / CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS**

The charitable organisations & private trusts should adopt some schools and mobilize resources for them. Donations received by these organisations are covered under tax benefits. They can set up poor funds in schools which can be used to provide all necessary materials to poor & needy students.

[5] **CORPORATE & BUSINESS HOUSES**

These houses should adopt schools, help them organise career & vocational guidance camps, sports centers, gymnasiums etc. They can run short term vocational courses for the benefit of ex & current students & parents.

[6] **POLITICAL & SOCIAL LEADERS**

Schools can approach the political leaders i.e. MP., MLA, and Councillors and get funds sanctioned for setting up Science laboratories and Computer laboratory, maintenance and beautification of school building, compound and surrounding areas. These leaders can also help in informing and sanctioning various state and central governments schemes for the benefits of students and community.

[7] **RETIRED TEACHERS/ EMPLOYEES**

The services of retired teachers can be utilized for conducting extra and remedial coaching for weak students after school hours and during vacation, running canteen by providing healthy food at subsidized rates. Also they can help setting up co-operative stores for providing stationary and other related materials at concessional rates. These activities may also help in generating some revenue for the school.

[8] **PRESS & MEDIA**

Press and Media should highlight the good work done by some schools which can motivate and guide other schools in the area to take up similar work and projects. Times of India's new supplement NIE (News Paper in Education ) has already started doing this work. Media can play a very important role in creating a sense of responsibility in the community towards Educational Institutions.

## **V - METHODOLOGY**

For successful co-ordination between school and community it is necessary to ....

- [1] Organize workshop to train Heads, Management, Teachers and PTA members about their role in the project.
- [2] Provide platform to share experience with schools which have already been utilizing the community resources.
- [3] Arrange awareness campaign in Print and Electronic Media, publish paper on the scheme.
- [4] Schools infrastructure / premises should be made available for organizing community development programmes during vacations or after school hours.
- [5] Provide study place and library facilities for students in the vicinity during examinations.
- [6] Establish career and vocational guidance center in schools which can provide all information to the community.
- [7] Organise special coaching for private candidates, distance learning, adult education programmes etc.

## VI - CASE STUDIES

### [1] B.J.P.C. Institution (Charni Road )

- a. B.J.P.C. Schools is run by Parsi Community. The Parsee Panchayat has an Education advisory committee which sponsors Educational seminars, workshops camps for better results, career and vocational guidance lectures aptitude test programmes etc.
- b. Their Ex-students association is very active. They provide scholarships to meritorious students maintain all laboratories and schools band, provide free milk, books and fees for poor and needy students.
- c. The “World Zoroastrian Organization” has helped the school in the renovation of their auditorium and are in the process of soon providing the school a very sophisticated and professional sound system.

### [2] Saif Tyabji Girls' School (Bellasis Road)

- a. American center in Mumbai donated 10 lakhs for buying 25 Pentium IV Computers, Printers, and Peripherals.
- b. One Ex-student donated 1 lakh seventy thousand towards printing of the historical document and other developmental activities.
- c. P.T.A. organizes remedial classes for weak students. They contribute in the poor fund which takes care of all the requirements including books, stationary, uniform, fees, shoes, umbrellas and also meals to poor and needy students.
- d. One P.T.A. member has donated a three camera security system to the school.
- e. The local MLA has renovated the compound of the school with the MLA Fund.
- f. Saif Tyabji School has also provided furniture (desks & benches ) to a village school (Satavli Urdu School, District Lanja ) in Ratnagiri. Old library books, magazines, Teaching aids etc. are also sent to that schools regularly.
- g. Donors/ Philanthropists helped in the construction of a new 6 storeyed building for starting English medium section in 2002. They also provided all furnitures and fixtures for the entire building.