

Hyderabad Report

Sensitising Students to Understanding and Transforming Society through Social Sciences Approach

500 students from 33 schools of Hyderabad displayed Project Work Reports on 21st March 2023 on topics of Care for Elders, Participatory Budgeting, Problems Faced by Parents in Educating Children, Dangers of Plastic Usage and Public Services that were seen and appreciated by dignitaries and scores of students from different schools.

The Project Works Display Program was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Anand Raj Varma, Past President of COVA and an educationist and chronicler of local histories

This Pilot Program is a collaborative initiative between School Education Department, Government of Telangana and Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA) to undertake implementation of the Compassionate Citizenship Program in 122 schools in 4 districts of Telangana State during the year 2022-23. The objective is to explore and assess the implementation and impact of this Program in sensitizing students to social issues and equipping them to undertake micro level social transformations in their communities and environment.

Ultimate Endorsement: After attending the first lecture of the Program, a teacher of Vandana School of Warangal obtained permission to enable participation of her daughter (who is studying in another school) in the Compassionate Citizenship Program.

She says there is marked change in the girl's behaviour towards her grandparents, has become more active in school activities including bringing issues to the notice of school management and her extravagance is turning to frugality with consciousness for need to budget!

The program will be extended to other schools in Telangana over the coming years to make the students across the State sensitive human beings motivated to transform society for better- through individual and collective action

Four Districts are selected for implementations of the Pilot Project: Hyderabad; Mahabubnagar; Warangal and Vikarabad. In all 122 government, private and residential schools from both urban and rural areas participated with 25,000 students attending the lectures on social issues that were organized in the schools in each districts.

DECCAN Chronicle

PROJECTS ON SOCIETAL ISSUES SHOWCASED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MARCH 21

Over 500 students from 33 city-based schools displayed projects on elderly care, participatory budgeting, problems faced by parents in educating children, dangers of plastic and public services, on Tuesday, in a pilot programme. The collaborative initiative, between the state's school education department and the confederation of voluntary associations, aimed to implement the 'Compassionate Citizenship' programme in 122 schools of Hyderabad, Warangal, Mahabubnagar and Vikarabad. The programme aims to explore and assess the implementation and impact of sensitising students to social issues and equipping them to undertake transformations in their communities. Each district selected five of the seven social topics, with a basic introduction to social sciences and social advocacy offered to all students in all districts. As many as 44 experts delivered 1,000 lectures on a total of 10 topics to 25,000 students 10,700 of whom participated in 230 field visits for the project work reports.

Topics Covered: 1. Care of Elders 2. Public Services 3. Environment: Plastic usage; 4. Problem faced by Parents in educating children 5. Participatory Budgeting for children; 6. Social Media: Fake News 7. Child Labour; 8. Eve Teasing; 9. Basic Introduction to Social Science and 10. Social Advocacy Each District selected five of the seven social topics listed above and Basic Introduction to Social Sciences and Social Advocacy was offered to all students in all districts.

44 experts delivered 1000 lectures on the 10 topics to 25,000 students and 10,700 students participated in the 230 Field Visits to equip themselves for preparation of Project Work Reports on the social issues covered.



Submitting Representation to the Secretary, Education

Resource Material and PPTs

Leading experts who prepared the Framework and provided Resource Material for orientation of students on different topics were

1. **Introduction to Social Science Research:** Mr. Harinder Mekala (Roda Mestry College of Social Work with Inputs from Dr. Ritesh Khunyakari Dr. Shika Takkar & Dr. Srinivas Suriseti (Tata Institute of Social Sciences- TISS) and Dr. Satyam Sunkari ((Council for Social Development- CSD)
2. **Social Change & Advocacy:** Dr. Gnana Prakasham (Former Director CWS) and K. Bharatesh
3. **Using Google Search as a Research Tool:** Framework Provided By Moinuddin Ali Khan
4. **Communication through Media:** Prof. Padmaja Shaw
5. **Participatory Budgeting:** Dr. Poulumi Bhattacharya (TISS) , Mr. Mohammad Sajid (CSD) and Ms. Meghana Narasimha (Management Consultant)
6. **Care Of Elders:** Dr G.Sobha Perindevi
7. **Problems Faced by Parents in Educating children:** Framework Provided Sanjay Vomkarey, Potter's Wheel and Dr. Mazher Hussain
8. **Child Labour:** R. Venkat Reddy
9. **Environment: Plastic Usage:** Sreecharan & Sumeet , Mahbubnagar Municipality
10. **Social Media – Fake News:** Siddhartha Vookoti.(Founder, Hoaxorfact.com)
11. **Eve-Teasing:** SHE Team, Vikarabad



Lecture With PPT

Please **CLICK** the Link for The Resource Book, List of Topics and PPTs for 2022-23, Project Works Reports, Impact Assessment, Video Testimonials and Media Coverage:

<https://www.covanetwork.org/in-school-curriculum/>

COVA devised pilot project to sensitize students about transforming society



School students can be seen representing the Secretary School Education Department to apprise her about the formative experience they hands-on during the Compassionate Citizenship Program being organised by COVA in collaboration with the department.

In collaboration with the School Education Department, Government of Telangana, a pilot project called ‘Compassionate Citizenship Program’ has been organised by the Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA) in the state to sensitize school students about social issues faced by the society and help them develop a sense of purpose to transform communities and social environment thereby to promote a better society to live-in.

During the program, it is said that around 500 students from 33 schools in Hyderabad city picked-up an array of the topics to work over the project being initiated by the COVA, an NGO working for the upliftment of the society through ensuring peace and harmony and literary promotions across the country.

According to Mazhr Hussain, the Executive Director of COVA Hyderabad, “Four districts such as Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, Warangal and Vikarabad have been selected for implementation of a message oriented ‘Pilot Project’ that stretched over five months.”

During the five month long program, he said, around 25,000 students from 122 government, private and residential schools from both urban and rural areas of the four districts took part in the pilot project and picked up different themes that include Care for Elders, Problem faced by Parents while Educating Children, Social Media: Fake News, Child Labour, Eve Teasing, Public Services, Environment: Plastic Usage, Participatory Budgeting for Children, Basic Introduction to Social Science and Social Advocacy.

While working on a theme ‘Care for Elders,’ the students found that most of the elders suffer loneliness, ill-health and financial constraints in their serenity. After finding this, many students said they have started spending more time with their grandparents and enjoying their compassion. The students even submitted representation to Ministers and officials concerned demanding special counters or timings for elders in government hospitals. They felt that elders should be with their families in serenity instead of Old Age Homes.

As part of the program, an event was organised today at Boys' Town High School in Jahanuma area under Bahadurpura constituency experts delivered lectures to the students who participated in field visits and earned a formative experience while interacting with the society through working over the project.

It is said that so far, 44 experts delivered 1000 lectures on 10 different topics and sensitized a volume of 25,000 students out of which 10,700 have carried out nearly 230 field visits covering the pilot project spread over five long months.

“The pilot project will be extended further to other districts of the state in the days to come with a sole purpose to sensitive the students and help them turn a better human and transform the society through their individual and collective demeanor. Similar programs will be held in Warangal on March 25, Vikarabad on March 27 and Mahboobnagar on March 29,” informed Mazher Hussain

Experts who delivered lectures on social issues and guided students for field work and preparation of Project Work Reports in Hyderabad came from leading academic institutions of Hyderabad and included: Dr Satyam Sunkari and Mr. Mohammed Sajed (Council for Social Development); Dr.Danish Khan and Musheera (MAANU; Arushi Riddhi and Pratik Mishra (TISS); Chandrakalavathi Marsakatla and B.Vinay Kumar (Osmania University and Dr.G.Sobha Perindev and C.Archana (Gerontologists).

Yacharam Johny, Shaik Omer, Mohd Saif Uddin Muzammil; Siraj Ul Mustafa and K. Anjaneyulu along with teachers of schools and Program Officers of COVA escorted and supervised the students for preparation of Questionnaires and outreach to communities for Field Work.

Hyderabad Project Works Display Program on 21st March 2023

In all 165 project works were displayed by 500 students from 33 schools at St. Marks Boys Town School and 135 Prizes were awarded. in the 1st , 2nd and 3rd Categories

TMREIS Yakutpura Girls I received **B.M. Kutty Award** for outstanding Project Work for **Participatory Budgeting**, Hyderabad Mission School was conferred **Swami Agnivesh Award** for **Public Services**; **Praful Bidwai Award** for **Environment and Plastic Usage** was bestowed on TMREIS Charminar Girls 1, **Naheed Banu Award** for Project Work on **Care for Elders** was received by Oshin High School; **Egbert Samraj Award** for **Problems Faced by Parents** was given to TMREIS Khairatabad Girls I



Bro. Thomas, Member of the Executive Committee of COVA Inaugurated the Project Works Display Program and Aparna Adhikari presided at the Valedictory Function Dignitaries who inspected the Project Works displays, interacted with students and distributed prizes to students and Mementos to schools, resource persons and judges were Bro. Show Reddy, Dr. Mehtab Bhamji, Mr. Mubashir Ansari, Prof. Padmaji Shaw, Prof. Srinivas Suriseti, Dr. Poulomi Bhattacharya, Mr. Sanjay Vomkary, Ms. Amina Hussainh, Ms. Aziz Sultana, Sardar Sajjan Singh, Maulana Jaweed Qasmi and Subedar Major Lazminarayana Appa



Bro. Thomas Inaugurating the Display



Inspecting Project Works

Students Anchored the Program:



While D. Gayatri of 9th class of Oshin High School and Ayesha Mamoon of 8th class studying in Udbhav School conducted the proceedings of the Inaugural Function, Sana Siddiqua of 7th grade of TMREIS Khairatabad Girls 1 and Gunjan pf 8th grade from Sharada Vidyalaya efficiently managed the Valedictory Program.

Seventeen students of Dhvani Group of St. Anns College for Women provided wide ranging voluntary support that included stage management, guest relations, facilitate judging of Project Works, photography, videography and Live Streaming of the Program on Facebook.

Earlier in the day Ms. Syeda Tabassum receiving the Memento on behalf of Diamond Jubilee High School expressed great appreciation for the concept of Compassionate Citizenship, spoke about the invaluable knowledge and understanding gained by the students about different social issues of concern and acknowledged the attitudinal transformation that has cme in the students: that they can take action anf transform society for better.



Highlight of the Day: Play on Elders Enacted by Students of Oshin High School.

Homage to Dr. Anand Raj Varma



Shradhhanjali by Prof Masood Ahmed



Guests Paying Tributes

The Project Works Display Program was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Anand Raj Varma who was a Past President and Member of the Advisory Council of COVA. Dr. Varma was an educationist and a chronicler of local histories and passed away suddenly in the morning of 16th March 2023 due to cardiac arrest.

Recalling his close association of over 25 years with Dr. Anand Raj Varma, Prof. Masood Ahmed remembered Dr. Varma as a mentor and guide and paid rich tributes to his dedication to the cause of education and enviable qualities as a teacher.

Born in 1937, Anand Raj Varma completed his Masters at Osmania University and began his career in teaching to retire as the principal of Anwar Ul Uloom College in the city. He also designed curriculums, and anchored an Urdu television game show Quizline for almost seven years on ETV Urdu.

He had a passion for Urdu language and spent a major part of his life nurturing this fascination through literary articles. Over the years, he has written several history and education books among which was 'Hyderabad: Mohalle, Gali aur Kooche'. The book was an amalgamation of local history of 30 localities in the old city which he also translated into Urdu. Dr. Varma was also a long-time contributor of articles on Hyderabad's history and culture in 'Telangana Today'. An inspiration for many historians, his demise is a great loss to Hyderabad. His association and crusading zeal will continue to inspire many. His son Vinay Varma is an eminent Dramatist and Actor popular in the Dramatic & Cinematic circle of Hyderabad.

Some Key Perspective and Attitudinal Transformations in Students

(Please see Annexure for detailed Report)

Students have started posting videos on YouTube on all the 8 Topics talking about the change in their perspectives, attitudinal transformations and actions taken by them to address and resolve issues. The videos can be seen at: <https://www.covanetwork.org/in-school-curriculum/#1667992675634-0f1e5718-3ec1>

Care for Elders:

1. Most elders suffer from loneliness, ill health and financial distress
2. Many students have said that they have started spending more time with grandparents and have become more respectful in their interactions.
3. Students have submitted Representations to Ministers and Officials to have special counters or timings for elders in Government Hospitals
4. Elders should be in Our Homes and not in Old Age Homes!



I. Problem Faced by Parents in Educating Children

1. Heavy Fees and many other charges by Schools are a big challenge for parents
2. Government should provide text books, notebooks and uniforms to all private schools as provided to the students of government schools.
3. Not make demands on parents that will be difficult for them to fulfill- Students should learn to compromise



A Social Scientist in Making



Conducting Field Interviews

II. Social Media: Fake News

1. Children are using smart phones and playing games that can affect your grades
2. There is also danger of Fake News and Frauds on Social Media
3. Preparation of Posters for awareness programs

III. Child Labour

1. Children want to study but their parents are facing financial problems and sending them for child labour.
2. Children engaged in child labour are also becoming addicted to drug abuse and other bad habits and are spoiling their life's
3. Ban Child Labour.



Representation to a Pastor about Eve Teasing



Child Labour

IV. Eve Teasing

1. Women experience physical and psychological harassment
2. No awareness about harms of eve teasing and how to prevent it among girls and boys
3. Representations to Faith Leaders to spread awareness against Eve Teasing in their weekly congregations
4. Government should include lesson to prevent Eve Teasing in School Curriculum

V. Public Services

1. Disposal of garbage is getting worse because bins are not available.
2. Irregular and unclean water supply

3. Most people are not aware of how to make complaints and about the Call Centers and Apps of GHMC, Water Works and Electricity departments
4. Reaching out to people to help download Apps and use Helpline numbers



Judges Evaluating Project Works

VI. Plastic Usage

1. Excessive use of plastic-based things by the people.
2. People are aware about the harms of using plastic but continue to use for convenience
3. Seal plastic bags manufacturing factories.
4. It is reported that one girl student in Warangal threw away all plastic items from the house and asked parents to use items of steel and other non- plastic material. Similar Reports from other cities

VII. Participatory Budgeting

1. Students and people in society have less knowledge about budgeting.
2. The future of students will be better if the students get knowledge about budgeting leading to better society.
3. Government should give direction to all schools for inclusion and participation of students in school annual day, sport day and other events.
4. Government should include lessons on budgeting in school curriculum



Dignitaries inspecting Project Works and Preparing to Award Prizes

The Architects

The entire Compassionate Citizenship Program is the result of the tireless efforts of the following staff members of COVA: Moin Uddin Ali Khan, M. Ajay, Mohd Abdul Kaleem, Mohammed Ashfaq Hussain, Mohammed Azam Mohiuddin, Naziya Begum, Naseem Begum, V. Amareshwar, B. Gopal, M.A Rahath, M. Rajkumar, B. Narsimulu, M.Kamalakar who were guided by Dr. Mazher Hussain, Executive Director, Strategic guidance was provided by Dr. K. Ravi Kanth Rao,(SCERT, Telangana State),Prof. Rekha Pappu,(Social Scientist), Mr. R. Venkat Reddy,(Education Activist),Prof. T. Vijay Kumar, (Academician) and Dr. Mazher Hussain, (COVA) all Members of the **State Coordination Committee**

Coordination Committees were also constituted in the 4 Districts for advice and implementation of the Program.

The Four District Coordination Committees were:

Hyderabad District

Mr. S. Chiranjeevi (Dy.EO), Mr.Mohd Khaled Ansari (Principal , Madina Mission High School), Mrs K Renu (HM, VenkatRao Memorial High School), Mrs Najma (SMC, Govt Moghalpura 3 School),Mrs Sharda (SMC, Govt Chandrayangutta School), Dr.Mazher Hussain (COVA),Mr.Mohd Abdul Kaleem (ICAN)

Warangal District

Smt. D Vasanthi (DEO Warangal), Mr.Narsimha Reddy (HM Rangashaipet),,Surender (HM Wardhannapet), Ms.Asma Sultana (SMC , GHS Shambunipet), Ms.Jinna Kumaraswamy (SMC, ZPHS Gorrekunta),,Sudhakar Reddy Secretary (Shanthi Service Society NGO), Dr.Mazher Hussain(COVA Hyderabad)

Mahbubnagar District

Mr. A Ravinder (DEO Mahbub Nagar), Mr. G Hemachandrudu (GHM, ZPHS Yedira),Rehman (GHM, ZPHS Manikonda),Mr.Naresh (SMC , ZPHS Yedira), Mr.Yadaiah Goud (SMC, ZPHS Manikonda), Mr. M.A. Saleem (Lead NGO),Dr.Mazher Hussain (COVA Hyderabad)

Vikarabad District

Mr Ravi (DEO Representative Vikarabad), Ms.Renuka Bai (DEO Representative Vikarabad), Mr.Ananth Reddy (HM), Mr. B Mallesham (HM),Mr.Kumaraswamy (SMC),D. Yadaiah (SMC),Dr.Mazher Hussain (COVA Hyderabad)

Education Department of the Government of Telangana

Ms. Karuna Vakati, Secretary Education, Ms. Radha Reddy, Director SCERT, Prof Tahseen, Dr. Suresh Babu and Ms. Karuna Shree of the Education department endorsed the vision of Compassionate Citizenship Program and accorded permission for initiating the Pilot Project in 4 Districts of Telangana State.



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