

Report on

**INTEGRATED EDUCATIONAL-CULTURAL
PROGRAMME (IECP)
WITH
OLYMPIC INDUSTRIES LIMITED**

In

Madanpur, Narayangonj

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Introduction:

We can understand from the assessment of almost all the Education Commission reports, from evaluations of almost all educationists and from remarks and comments of parents, teachers and common people that the state of our education is not at all satisfactory. The problems are deep-rooted and complicated with inadequacies in physical infrastructure, drawbacks in the system and lack of ideal cultural atmosphere in the educational institutions.

We cannot address all these problems from our position, especially that of the physical infrastructure. We can contribute to create a lively cultural atmosphere in the schools by including such subjects and inputs that would definitely draw children's interest and engage them in lively sessions of artistic and intellectual exercises. Such activities would teach them to live in the company of fellows, discuss and debate various topics, even to differ and dispute in an intellectually stimulating atmosphere where, they can experience the joy of creating and performing. To give school students such experiences we have formulated a befitting programme called In Integrated Educational-Cultural Programme (IECP) and introduced it in different school.

A true cultural atmosphere is a pre-condition for achieving the goals of education. As long as that remains absent, all our efforts and expenditure in this sector would go almost futile.

General Objective:

IECP primarily aims at creating/ improving the cultural atmosphere of a school and preparing both pupils and teachers to regain, first, their liveliness and receptivity, and then to inspire them to take and give according to their will and capacity which, we believe this programme will raise significantly.

IECP is designed on the one hand to create scopes for children to cultivate their creative faculties, to create an atmosphere of joy and pleasure by facilitating performance of their talents, and on the other it brings to their knowledge important topics, issues and agendas to lead

them to grow as responsible, sensitive and conscious citizens, in a sense, to achieve the main goals of education.

Project goal:

To make schools more attractive, lively and culturally enriching for the pupils.

- To make scopes of creative and performing artistic activities for children to enable them take more interest and perform well both academic and extra-academic pursuits.
- To develop all mental faculties of children with special emphasis on use of imagination and intellectual exercise.

Focus Areas:

To create for students the following scopes:

- a. Study of literature — selected juvenile writings, both classics and contemporary,
- b. Listening stories, poems in the tradition of our oral forms,
- c. Improving standard of spoken Bangla, reading ability, recitation and also writing skills,
- d. Knowing major events of civilization, and objects of art and heritage,
- e. Awareness of human rights and related issues,
- f. Practicing music and visual arts besides growing taste for all artistic forms,
- g. Knowing (and becoming concerned about) environmental issues, both global and local, and other scientific topics to create urge in children to love earth with its bio-diversities,
- h. Awareness of great men/women of outstanding contributions to mankind from both national and global canvas.
- i. Growing up as receptive, sensitive and balanced human being of good taste and proper ethical values.
- j. To be aware of their role and responsibilities in the family and outside.

- k. To know national history including that of liberation war and to achieve also some knowledge of history of civilizations.

The expected outcome:

- a. IECP will inspire students to take interest in all academic and extra-academic activities,
- b. It will raise overall level of children's sensitivity, receptivity and responsibility as regards HR issues and topics of child rights,
- c. It will improve discipline and confidence level of children,
- d. It will promote leadership quality among students,
- e. It will encourage them to perform and enjoy through participation and teach them to live in harmony and togetherness,
- f. It will be helpful in preventing dropout problem.

IECP in Madanpur:

We are deeply thankful to Olympic Industries for taking initiative to introduce Integrated Educational Cultural Programme (IECP) in some selected schools of Madanpur area of Narayanganj.

As we know IECP has been planned as a comprehensive co-curricular programme to help children enjoy their learning, express their creativity and gain confidence as a young learner.

We have started working with your financial support since July 2018 in the area mentioned above.

The basic facts:

- 1. Programme started: July 2018
- 2. Number of school covered: 5 (Five)
- 3. Total students: 1650
- 4. Number of Education Activists (EA) involved: 15
- 5. Number of total classes taken (up to April 2019): 963 in eight subjects

Objectives Fulfilled:

1. Students generally liked the books. Most of them finished reading the books soon after getting those.
2. Some of the pupils developed themselves quickly in recitation, singing, acting, painting, dancing. In cultural events they excelled and amazed fellow students, parents, teachers alike. We expect to prepare an evaluation shut on the basis of our work from July'18 - April'19.
3. Most of students were first time performer on the stage. IECP classes helped them attain courage and confidence in a very short time.
4. Such programmes were unique for the locality and local people. These created a positive attitude of all to both education and cultural activities in general.

Some lasting impacts:

IECP classes inspired many students

1. To practice standard Bengali pronunciations.
2. Keeping classroom clean,
3. Taking interest in group works
4. Grow interest in different art forms and in performing those.
5. To attend school regularly.

Regular teachers are also trying to follow our EA's to make their classes creative and more attractive and lively. Even two of our EA's have been appointed as permanent teacher in one school.

Far reaching influences:

At the present time we see teenager boys are going astray in different ways. Schools or families are failing to guide them in the right way. Many are getting involved in terrorism, some are attracted by drugs, and some are engaged in eve-teasing and different unwanted violent activities. Even some, if not a very big number, are attracted by religious militant ideals. To save children, especially teenagers, from such dangerous paths, broad-based cultural programmes as we practice in IECP, will be helpful. IECP's multilateral activity-scopes can accommodate boys and girls of different interests and skills. When boys

and girls practice and perform some arts together they will know each other through their qualities and capabilities. Such knowing will create in them both respect and regard for each other which will prevent them (especially boys) from violating or disregard the other. If all schools of the country, we believe, can introduce IECP, the overall scenario will gradually change for better. We hope to see some distinct changes in students of the project schools of Madanpur over the years.

Target Beneficiaries at Madanpur

- IECP will cover 900 students of primary and 750 students of secondary schools.
- Total number of students under this programme is around 1,650.
- Almost all the students come from lower middle class and lower income groups.
- Girl and boy students are almost equally represented.
- We try to keep ethnic and religious minorities to represent in good numbers.

Project management & monitoring:

It is managed by a Committee under the guidance of the Board of Trustees of Fulki. The Committee can co-opt any one as felt necessary by any of the stakeholder. The secretary (now president) of Fulki acts as Honorary Chief Executive.

The Regional Programme officer, works under the guidance of the H.O. He keeps contact with the schools of his/her area, arrange weekly meeting with EAs, organize classes of IECP in each school and manage and run respective office. He/she monitors progress of implementation and quality level and report accordingly to H. O. There are supervisory visits from the H.O.

Reporting system:

In case of learning for children, especially when behavioral pattern changes are also expected, we need relatively longer time to see distinct and significant developments. But still we can evaluate their participation numbers, performance levels and could record how they progress both as

a group and at their individual level. This could be done twice a year, while the implementation progress at each institution could be evaluated every three months. The individual progress will be recorded on the basis of their participation and performance, while institutional records will be noted on the basis of implementation level through filling up a prescribed form.

Evaluation

Quarterly reports of each school is prepared to record participation level of students, teachers and EAs. We shall have a year-end evaluation on the effectiveness of the project with regard to students and teachers, the response of the guardians, the strength and weaknesses of the project, challenges and improvements, suggestions for modification or changes etc.

After completion of the second years we could prepare a more detail report on IECP in Madanpur.

Conclusion

Only one year's experience may not be sufficient to form a firm opinion about the programme. However, it could be considered sufficient to have an impressionistic opinion, which is, we feel, very positive and encouraging. And if we judge last year's work in view of our experience of nearly two decades we can firmly say that IECP, with the co-operation of Olympic Industries, will bring qualitative change among the school students of the region in a very short time.
