



Integrated Educational-Cultural Programme (IECP) Annual Report, 2020

**A brief regional report on school-based Special Cultural
Package planned and organized by Fulki- a Child
Institution and financed by Olympic Industries Limited**

Prepared By

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Name of Programme	: Integrated Educational-Cultural Programme (IECP)
Planning & Management	: Fulki-a cultural world of children and an experimental educational institution. Supported by Vidyasagar-Rokeya Shiksha Trust.
Region of focused	: Madanpur, Narayanganj
Number of Schools	: 5
Number of Education Activist	: 20
Number of Students	: 2000

Introduction

Fulki officially started its journey on January 1, 1976. From the beginning of its journey, Fulki has persisted in the intermingling of cultural practice and education in order to ensure the proper development of children's psyche. This cultural practice is not limited within the fields of singing, dancing or drawing, but rather exposing the children to the overarching aspects of life itself is our main objective.

We work towards developing a comprehensive approach towards literature, history, humanity, logic, taste and recent issues within your children from an early age.

Despite recent modifications in the spheres of education, the education system in our country is still restricted within memorizing patterns and exam-centered lessons. Although there is no lack of graduates and postgraduates in our country nowadays, we are in dire need of truly enlightened, responsible and conscious citizens. In light of Tagore's own thinking, an education system detached from its own culture is incapable of meeting this necessity.

In the succession of this, Fulki has been combining education and cultural practices on both primary level of education and cultural platforms for a long time.

In this way, cultural approach is becoming a variant which can transform education into an interactive and stimulating experience. This process of

combining two mediums and implementing them in schools is what we are defining as Integrated Cultural-Education Program. It is being successfully conducted by Fulki since 2001.

Integrated Cultural-Education Program

This program aims to bring forth a refinement in language use and literary taste, develops aesthetic sense and creativity through ensuring proper exposure to literature, music, science, philosophy, civics and the overall spheres of arts. This awakens their senses to the responsibilities towards their country, society and environment and also makes them aware of their own rights. Albeit these qualities do not flourish to the same degree in every child, the possibilities are presented to them all the same which can eventually help them reach their full potential.

Subjects covered by our Program:

- a. Bangla language and literature
- b. Arts and crafts
- c. Music (and theatre)
- d. Science and environment
- e. Famous personalities
- f. Historical events
- g. Human rights and civic responsibility
- h. Humanitarianism

This project is designed for the students of class 1 to 8. The educational institution is usually approached in December before yearly sessions start, and the program is conducted from February to November. January is excluded due to admission process and other annual activities (e.g.- annual sports event), and December due to preparation of the final examinations. This time frame is also utilized for our organizational planning and preparation period which includes activities such as- evaluating past working sessions, planning upcoming sessions, preparing for upcoming sessions etc. The project is conducted upon the approval of school administration and implemented with help from the teachers. Volunteer instructors are sent subject-wise according of a certain school. The participants are evaluated with the help of the school

administration. The end of the year is marked by cultural activities including singing, dancing, reciting, theatre, story-telling, science projects, art exhibition. The school administration can control the range of the program according to their need and purpose.

With the kind co-operation of a leading industry of the country we have been implementing it in 5 schools of Madanpur, Narayanganj since the year 2018. Here is a brief report of our activities in the region for 2020.

Activities in 2020

It should be mentioned here that due to sudden onslaught of Corona pandemic schools remained closed almost throughout the last academic year. However, despite the unprecedented happenings with huge negative impact on education and public mind, we tried to implement our assigned works as much as we could do. At the very outset of the year on 29th February and 8th March, Fulki arranged cultural programmes in Kaodhala Govt. Primary School and Madanpur Rahmania High School respectively. Teachers, students, guardians and spectators present in the programme were enchanted by the captivating performance of the students. The experience of maiden performance on the stage made the pupils extremely delightful. We can confidently say that cultural programmes of Fulki plays a pivotal role in exploring, grooming and nurturing the talents of children. We have discovered a good number of students who showed their feat in singing, reciting, dancing, telling stories and making excellent drawings and sketches. Teachers, guardians and others became startled seeing their off springs talents and outstanding presentation. We always see that stage performance boosts up their confidence level which was seen here as well.

We were able to begin the "Book Distribution Programme" in the beginning of March, just before Corona outspread happened in the country. As usual, new books and other materials made students exultant. Throughout the year we maintained contacts with schools and to our best of ability as such with students as well. We found that the books not only gave them joy but played as a tool to effectively combat the negative impact of Corona pandemic. We came to know that the students have eagerly read the books of Fulki.

We invoked a Teachers' Meeting on the 27th September, 2020 at Nasim Memorial School & College to discuss about IECP elaborately and motivate

them accordingly. In the meeting, there was also a discussion on how to reach and incorporate more students in the programme in and around Madanpur. In addition to that, there was a discussion on efficient running of online classes. On 17th October, 2020 there was another Teachers' Meeting at Madanpur Rahmania School. Several topics were discussed in the meeting.

Overcoming challenges in 2020

Never the less, we cannot deny that this year we have gone through with some limitations. We were short of adequate educational activists all the year round. We were also in trouble for recruiting new activists as the universities and colleges were either closed or opted for online classes. We found it hard to get a music trainer in the region, which we met with the help of our Dhaka activist group.

However, we have recruited some new activists locally and kept on nursing them through regular practice sessions. We continued our regular weekly EA meeting. We could also conduct training workshops at a regular basis to upgrade their quality. Senior trainers of Fulki as well as some renowned trainers also took part in such training sessions. Through these workshops, the trainee activists gain a detailed idea about IECF and Fulki and gather knowledge in a broad perspective about education, children, classroom management etc. During the training sessions they gather experiences of classroom performance which help them face it in reality. Apart from this, some of the senior activists take demo classes and paves the way for the newcomers.

Despite the shutdown of schools during Corona, we could finally introduce online classes after series of discussions with the school authorities and became successful to reach the students. Students were immensely benefitted with the video contents uploaded regularly in the classes.

When we look back to a hard time we passed over the year, we cannot but agree that many of our regular activities were hampered by Corona pandemic. We know, one could hardly do anything up to his/her expectation in such an unexpected trying time. However, to our great relief we could later reach our students and could at least enthuse and motivate them as much as we could.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we can say that this year was not up to our expectation as it is to every other individual or institution. As educational institutions remained closed throughout the year since mid-March it is obvious that any work relating to the pupils would fall short of original planning. We would however, finally say that despite all the odds we never gave up rather were determined to be in the field, by the students and carry on the task as much as possible in the present neo reality. The positive response of students, teachers and parents could be considered as a great success of the year. We remain really optimistic seeing the enthusiasm of all participants and all stakeholders.

When we clearly see that even if our activities are curbed to a limited scale the impact remained quite high And it is obvious that during a darker time Fulki and its cultural programmes could play a vital role as a source of light – endless light and food for the wounded soul. It could help grow sense of humanity among the students of this region. Consequently, social degradation will also be on the wane and the practice of indigenous culture will keep them positively growing. We firmly believe that the impact of IECP and our activities will help the new generation develop as enlightened citizens of the country and of the world.