

Estd. 1944

KASTURBA BALIKA VIDYALYA
A Unit of Harijan Sewal Sangh
(Recognised & Aided by Government of Delhi & Affiliated to CBSE)

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Dated.....

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New Initiatives and Annual Report for the year 2020-21

The school belongs to Harijan Sewak Sangh and was established in 1944. The school and the hostel are constructed on a plot of land of 2.5 acres in Ishwar Nagar on main Mathura Road. It is a girls school with classes from nursery to 12 and currently has 900 girls on its rolls. It comes in the category of aided schools under Delhi Govt and has affiliation with CBSE. It is a charitable venture and no fees or any other charges are taken from the students in the school or the hostel. There is heavy annual deficit in the Profit and Loss A/C of the school every year which amounted to 40.25 lacs in 2019-20. It is met by resources generated by the school under the management of Harijan Sewak Sangh.

For the last 12 months the corona virus hit the education of the girls very hard. The school was closed under Govt instructions and was opened in Feb 2021 for classes 9 to 12 (closed soon after that). Teachers were expected to conduct online classes to teach the children. This created a huge challenge for the teachers and the students. The teachers traditionally had never worked with computers and were not required to do so. They did not have computers or laptops at home. But as is common in India, they had good smart phones and were good at doing WhatsApp. They gave their lessons on WhatsApp and sent videos and instructions on lessons to the students. They were also sent worksheets. But this had a problem. Considering that our girls belong to very poor families most girls did not have access to smart phones and there was a problem of connectivity. Less than 20% girls were able to get the desired benefits of online classes.

The school has always been able to get CSR funds from the companies because of its leadership under a retired IAS officer who is manager of the school, a high reputation for good infrastructure and very good standard of education. And companies realize that we are doing a very noble service of giving a high standard of education to girls from poor families.

Considering this situation, the school diverted all its attention to strengthening education through technology (EduTech) facilities and asked all our CSR benefactors to give money for it. The response has been very good both from public sector and private sector companies. We have raised 1.15 crores of funds for these facilities and have purchased 310 laptops (of Acer and Lenovo brands), 230 tablets of large 10 inch size and 100 smaller tablets of 7 inch size. We already had 150 tabs for primary classes of 2 to 5 and had achieved 100% coverage for them over the last four years. Now we have already achieved 100% coverage for classes 6,7 and 8 with 10 inch tabs. We are giving laptops to girls of class 9 to 12. This is also because all our students of class 11 and 12 in both Arts and Commerce streams have computer Science as their compulsory subject. We don't have Science stream. Counting girls, though small in number and accounting for about 10% of the total, who have a laptop from the family we have already achieved 80% coverage for laptops for all girls of class 9 to 12. We shall take it to 100% by October 2021. That will make 100% coverage for all the students in the school. We don't know if any other school, in Govt, aided or private category have achieved this kind of technology facilities for its students. Maybe some private schools but with gadgets provided by families of the students.

We had provided smart class infrastructure to all our primary classes from KG to 5 which includes a 55 inch smart TV and a laptop. Now we have covered 8 more class rooms in the secondary section and will cover all class rooms of the school by end of 2021. These 8 class rooms have cost us 4.16 lacs from CSR funds.


Warden

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Manager

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We are aware that mere providing of gadgets may not be enough. EduTech also needs training and academic inputs in the digital format. We have appointed a technology coordinator for this job who has many years of experience in this area. She will be giving individual training to all students and teachers in working of tablets, laptops and smart classes, as also to make the best use of technology in education. Technology in education is being considered the future of education. Even after the pandemic is over and online classes may not be needed, there will be need for blended education, blending traditional methods and technology in enhancing the value of teaching and learning. The new education policy issued by the Govt of India has also talked about it. The following paragraph from the NEP sums it up.


New platforms and techniques of teaching-learning

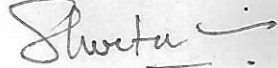
Digital revolution and pedagogical innovations are perpetually creating new platforms of learning and techniques for teaching. NEP 2020 will further open the field for creativity. The educational institutions will have to overhaul their infrastructure to accommodate new facilities for the implementation of the curriculum as envisioned in NEP. NEP envisions an autonomous body named National Educational Technology Forum to provide a platform for exchanging ideas and using technology to enrich teaching-learning experience. E-learning platforms such as DIKSHA, SWAYAM & SWAYAMPRAKASH will offer teaching and learning e-content. Blended learning is going to be the complementary mode of education. Teachers will have to equip themselves with the digital knowhow to create synchronous and asynchronous lessons.

Other areas of CSR grants

Considering that about 900 gadgets may be working in the school, about 700 at one time, all needing internet, we are spending 16.5 lacs on strengthening the internet infrastructure in the school and the hostel, from CSR funds. We have also received 24 lacs grant for other renovation projects in the school, 35 lacs for construction of three class rooms, 10 lacs for deficit financing in our annual accounts and 10 lacs for salary of ad-hoc teachers. This totals up to Rs.1.95 crores of CSR funds from different companies in 2020-21, including private and public sector. We are aware that CSR funds are not sustainable and may not be repeated year after year. But we have some regular donors who have faith in our working and are committed to help us in need based projects.

These developments in the school were highlighted in the recent meeting of the Managing Committee of Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya held on 12 March 2021. It was attended, among others, by Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal, President Harijan Sewak Sangh, Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President, Shri Naresh Yadav, Vice President, Dr Rajnish Kumar and Dr Ramesh Kumar, Secretaries of HSS. These dignitaries were pleased to distribute some tablets and laptops to the girls of the school.


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