

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION UNDER 5T IN ODISHA: A

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

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ABSTRACT

Education is the process of learning and acquiring knowledge. It plays a great role in everyone's life by improving knowledge, building personality, attitude and developing skills. It holds great responsibility in providing a person with an enhanced life style. It gives individual diverse career opportunities that increase the quality of life and strengthens society. It also prepares the children to contribute towards the development and improves the economic stability of a country. So, all governments promote and ensure the spread of quality Education. In our country, the government provides free and compulsory education to children up to the secondary level. By viewing this recently, the Government of Odisha is developing secondary schools to provide quality education among students.

Keywords: Transformation, Pandemic, Secondary Education, School Ambiance.

I. INTRODUCTION

School closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic has disconnected from education for the vast majority of students around the world. Two complete academic years has elapsed in this manner. The loss of learning due to the pandemic has affected all children in school. As a result, a gap has been seen in reading and writing skills of students. Schools also play a crucial role around the world in providing and ensuring the delivery of essential health services, psychosocial support, protection and nutritious meals to the students. Thus, school closures have affected children's wellbeing and development, not just their learning. It's not enough for schools to simply reopen their doors after pandemic. Students will require sustained physical and psychological support to help them readjust and catch up after the pandemic. So, every government must help and ensure schools prepare to provide that support and meet the enormous challenges.

To enhance the study atmosphere, infrastructure and modern technology of Government schools after pandemic, the Odisha State Government in particular has decided to launch a unique initiative under 5T for strengthening secondary school education sector called 5T High School Transformation Programme.

The High School Transformation Programme follows 5T (Teamwork, Technology, Transparency, Transformation and Time limit). It mainly encourages the involvement of elected local bodies i.e., SMC/SMDC and alumni for infrastructural transformation in schools, reshape the school processes thereby making the schools better learning places. It seeks to make teachers as leaders, and build self confidence among the students; making them ready to compete with students around the world.

Mainly 5T High School Transformation Programme focuses on two broad aspects. These are i. Infrastructure and ii. Academic enrichment.

i. INFRASTRUCTURE: Infrastructure plays a very crucial role to create a positive learning environment. Recently the government of Odisha is focusing the following factors to improve the infrastructure of secondary schools under high school transformation programme.

1. School ambiance: Ambiance has a great impact on the entire learning process. A particular environment influences student's achievement. To create such type of atmosphere, the Government of Odisha is focusing on child-friendly and safe school campus, internal pathways, garden development, colouring of the school building/gate, electrification, appropriate placement of dustbins, etc. under 5T programme.

2. Classroom interiors: A properly designed classroom interior boosts student's engagement and learning capabilities. To enhance Interior design for an effective learning environment the Government of Odisha is providing adequate lighting and well-ventilated classrooms, coloured walls and ceiling along with tiled floors, durable and good quality desk and bench adequate for students, display space for learners' created content, electricity & electrical appliances, teachers corner with TLM, students DIY corner, etc. under high school transformation programme.

3. Water, Sanitation & Personal hygiene: Water, sanitation and personal hygiene are highly required in secondary schools. Under the high school transformation, now Odisha government is taking steps to ensure drinking water facility, installation of water purifiers, hand washing basin with multi-tap facility, adequate toilets with running water facility, accessories like bouquets/mugs/liquid hand wash/sanitary pads etc. to be provided, napkin incinerators and awareness on menstrual health & hygiene for girls.

4. Smart classroom: Smart class room enhances the teaching and learning process for both the teachers and the students by inculcating audio, images, video, animations, multimedia etc. In order to strengthen secondary schools, Odisha government is providing minimum 2 smart classrooms, new construction- renovation of existing rooms, equipment like computers, keyboards, projectors/ screens/TVs, Internet connection and audio system under the high school transformation programme.

5. E-Library: E-library is a collection of digital resources. These include books, articles, journals, multimedia materials and other types of content. The student can learn easily and acquire outside the book knowledge. So, Odisha government is providing a terminal with multiple desktops, Content curation, procurement and cataloguing of e-books, seating arrangement and a designated teacher to keep an eye on day-to-day needs to make a e-library under high school transformation programme.

6. Science/Math laboratory: A well-equipped laboratory will develop the interests of students in scientific learning and research. So that the student can enhance their reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills. In order to promote these activities, the government of Odisha is providing a dedicated laboratory, procurement of latest science equipment for class IX & X students and Water and gas connections for laboratories.

7. Sports & Physical wellbeing of students: Sports develop the physical as well as mental strength in students. Daily physical exercise helps students to stay healthy and improve their emotional fitness. To promote sports and physical activities among students, Government of Odisha is taking steps like repair of existing sports infrastructure, sports room to have equipment for indoor and outdoor games, schools should organise sports events, for physical well-being practice yoga, exercises, play sports and for mental wellbeing and counselling to deal with adolescent-related issues under high school transformation.

ii. ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT: Academic enrichment refers to steps or measures undertaken to enhance the skills of the HM and teachers through training and exposure. Since the goal of 5T is 'Transformation towards Aspiration', it is imperative to motivate and encourage the teachers who are responsible for improving the lives of students. So, the Government of Odisha is providing regular professional development programmes for all teachers (offline/ online mode), professional learning platforms for teachers, broad excellence programme including mentoring & special coaching for grade students, excellence programme for gifted students and head teachers' leadership development & mentoring programme.

Against this backdrop, the researcher tries to examine the impact of such transformation at the school level. Hence an interview, having ten questions, was conducted with a sample of twenty students of class-IX. Such findings, it is hoped, will strengthen our understanding of the situation.

II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

* Almost all the respondents (100%) reported that the school infrastructure has been developed in an appreciable way after pandemic.

* All students stated that the smart class has brought improvement in school education.

* As many as 100% respondents reported that the process of education in school has been changed after instillation of e-library.

* A large number of students (90%) reported that the personal hygiene was given emphasis after the implementation of 5T.

* Most of the schools gave importance to activities related to sports after pandemic period as reported by 80% of respondents.

* The post pandemic period has brought effectiveness in teaching learning programme.

* Almost all the students (100%) stated that the Science/Mathematics laboratories have been developed after implementation of 5T.

Following are the areas which have been developed after implementation of 5T:-

- Construction of laboratory buildings (100%)
- Provision of latest science equipment (100%)
- Water and gas connection (100%)
- Internet connection facilities (80%)
- Provision of observation table (90%)
- Electrification (90%)
- Interactive board (100%)
- Provision of charts, models and chemicals (100%)

* As many as 70% respondents reported that the teachers changed their teaching style after the implementation of 5T.

* All respondents (100%) experienced that the learning environment of school has been developed in post pandemic period.

III. CONCLUSION

The study confirmed that the secondary level school education in Odisha has undergone a sea change after the implementation of 5T project in the post pandemic period. The Government of Odisha's 5T initiative has strengthened so as to facilitate the holistic development of student. It also endeavours to minimize the learning gaps among the students. It provides a platform to the student across their background to achieve excellence.

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