



IMPACT STORY



Project UMANG - Exaltation of School life

Background

L&T had adopted 5 schools at Hazira in Surat district. Initially the basic literacy and numeracy program were run as remedial classes to bring the students in the sync of the curriculum as per the age. Simultaneously it was observed that overall students had a loss of interest in coming to school and it was a high absenteeism at elementary level. L&T approached D-square for the consultation, of this pain area.

The D-Square Solution team did the survey of the school delivery methods and took feedback of students and parents and found that common reason to drop out or absenteeism from the school is the monotony of the textbook oriented curriculum, students need to be skill smart to be adaptive to different situation in life *and hence life skill curriculum was required to be placed in school. This curriculum shall help students in engaging their academics with the real world.*

Implementation Partner

L&T is India's leading builder of major infrastructure projects. Being one of the biggest fortune 500 companies it supports the functioning of many government, rural, tribal schools, along with various schools in L&T campuses. Their mission is to augment school infrastructure, provide a holistic learning environment, and prepare children at all age groups for the future.

Knowledge Partner

D-Square Solution is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company our presence in each of the education verticals is marked with technology-enabled products, high quality people, structured processes and entrepreneurial leadership, that come together to deliver unmatched value. Our vision is to provide *'Learning that delivers measurable outcomes'*.

The Need of Life-skills in classrooms

Holistic education aims to call forth from people an intrinsic reverence for life and a passionate love of learning. This is done, not through an academic “curriculum” that condenses the world into instructional packages, but through direct engagement with the environment. Holistic education nurtures a sense of wonder.

Though the GER in terms of dropout from primary school is decreasing considerably every year, but then one of the common reason to drop out of the school is the monotony of the textbook oriented curriculum, students need to be skill smart to be adaptive to different situation in life and hence life skill curriculum was required to be placed in school.

Researchers have indicated in past that meaningful experiences with life skill at primary level contribute to the development of valuable thinking skills and attitudes whose benefits extend beyond the classrooms.

Project UMANG is an activity resource center designed with the aim of providing a holistic learning environment for children. The L & T's CSR Philosophy is to help them acquire proficiency in activities that are outside the normal curriculum of the school.

It is one such initiative taken by L&T in consultation with D-Square Solution where they provide teaching assistance, train teachers and students, and organize during school life-skill program classes.

THE APPROACH:

D-square Solution consulted this project for L&T in five schools of Hazira District – viz. Tenanirang, Dhanshen, Bhandut, Lavachha, and SondaMitha.

Under the project, children along with teachers were given training to develop important life-skills, creativity and imaginative skills, self-confidence by overcoming stage fear, and improve communication skills through various activities.

The strategic focus of the project was to:

- Improve access to extracurricular activities and enhance *creativity, imagination, and self-confidence* of students from a less privileged section of society
- Boost the teaching capability of teachers through activity-based training program and play-way method
- Provide students and teachers a platform to exhibit and execute learning through customized programs and events
- Create partnerships and collaboration with various stakeholders for project sustainability

CHALLENGES:**The main challenges faced by schools in these districts were:**

- The teaching methods were confined to academics with a little or minimal introduction to learning via play method.
- There was no focus on extracurricular activities to teach everyday survival skills or life skill program
- There was a lack of creative development, confidence, and overall growth/personality development in children.
- Lack of trained teachers, learning materials, and curriculum or educational products
- Lack of expertise to prepare the students for the future in terms of life-skill and vocational training

SOLUTION:

To prepare the students for the future they will need a whole spectrum of knowledge and skills to deal with the world. If education is confined to books, students will not become agile, flexible, and smart to adjust to the continuous economic and social changes. To overcome these challenges and to equip students with cognitive and social tools, D-Square Solution came up with the following solution:

The CSR team from L&T consulted D-Square Solution to come up with a project that can empower children with sound judgment and good habits for long-term stability, wellness, and success.

- The academic experts at D-Square Solution came up with pro-active planning for standard-wise curriculum design and other life skill programs. The course was designed for students from 1st to 8th standard with a total strength of 560 students across all 5 schools, books were distributed for the whole year and proper time-table was strategized.

- Efforts were made to hire educators and train them to provide students with the required knowledge. 5 educators, 1 project coordinator, and 1 project manager were hired for the overall curriculum and life skill program management.

THE IMPLEMENTATION

There was transparency throughout the project which even encouraged students to learn with full enthusiasm and motivation. The project activities were programmed as follows:

SOCIAL SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



ART & CRAFT - CREATIVITY IN ITS' BEST FORM



CHITRAKALA (DRAWING) – IMAGINATION BUDDING ALONG TEAM WORK



LIBRARY – INCULCATING READING HABITS



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



STORY TELLING



INTRA-SCHOOL COMPETITION



The curriculum was executed as:

- Life Skills – 10 topics
- Art & Craft – 10 topics
- 1 GK program each day
- 300 plus books were given to the Library
- Sports day was organized
- Motivation Training was provided
- More than 50 motivational documentaries were showcased

The annual intra-school competition was organized providing a platform to all the children and teachers from selected schools to showcase their learning, creativity, and participate in the various programs. Competitions were held to encourage more participation, improve pronunciations, and build stage confidence. The program encouraged opportunities to learn traits like teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and so on.

The IMPACT:

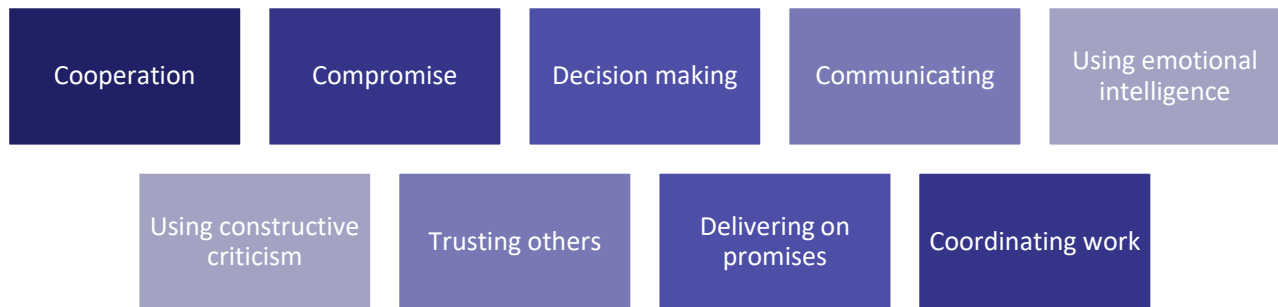
The project turned out to be a huge success and the schools are still running successfully after two years of implementation. The centre at Lavashha was a huge hit. Proper training along with proper curriculum management made it possible.

Focus was made to keep all the teachers happy which would, in turn, keep all the students happy. The interaction between teachers and students improved drastically. The group projects and mega fair encourage students to take up leadership responsibilities.

The students were benefitted with the following opportunities:

- Demonstrated independence
- Demonstrated self-advocacy skills
- Engaged in social interaction with confidence
- Access to community resources
- Acquired and maintained vocational placement
- Participated in various recreation and leisure activities.
- The mega creative fair and inter-school competition allowed them to showcase their learning through presenting their creation

The best way for students to develop social skills is to collaborate with others. When students work together on a project, they have common goals and interests; student worked on the following key skills:



Educators' Feedback:

“

Workshops were full of learning through which we realized we had to focus more on our pronunciations, confidence, team building, expressions, and language.

We were able to learn various techniques like storytelling, voice modulations, art & craft and more. Books and library were set up at various centres which helped us and kids a lot.

”

Parents' Feedback:

“

My child was lacking on confidence level to attend the school and often denied going to school on regular basis the Team UMANG had great teachers and he was made to work on reading skills and creative art forms, now he is willing to rush to school and perform

”

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