

Project: Raising Standard of Education by Going Digital

Re: CHILD FORUM CEREMONY

Date: 17th and 18th February, 2017

Place:

1. Primary school-1, Barola, Noida
2. Primary school-2, Barola, Noida
3. Junior High School, Barola, Noida

The RAISED team wishes to introduce in students the qualities of leadership, accountability for their actions and a sense of responsibility and ownership towards their school. After brainstorming sessions within the team on ways to tap into the mindset of students to improve the above mentioned qualities, the team agreed on the idea of introducing a child forum in each of these schools. We believe that giving responsibilities to students will create a positive effect on them by strengthening their self-importance, which would directly show in their behavior and make them more involved and interested in the happenings of the school. At the same time, we also believe that the forum will create a healthy competition for other students and encourage them to perform better for potential future roles in the forum, if managed the right way.

With this agenda in mind, the team started preparations for introducing these forums in the schools. The initial step was to talk to the headmasters about their opinions on the idea proposed. The idea was welcomed by them with great enthusiasm. We then prepared a draft proposal for the committees which would constitute the forum and the roles for each of these committees. This was followed by a discussion of the proposal with the teachers and headmasters and its corresponding modification.

It was decided to hold a formal ceremony in the schools to induct the members to the forum so that the forum is considered to be a serious body with responsibilities that the members are highly accountable for, henceforth. We conducted three ceremonies on two days: Primary School - 1 Barola and Primary School - 2 Barola on the 17th of February, and Junior School Barola on the 18th of February. With slight customization in some schools, the forum largely consisted of a Head Boy and a Head Girl for the entire school who were elected by the students and two Class Monitors and two Food and Cleanliness leaders from each class, who were selected by the teachers.

The flow of events for the ceremonies was as follows:

The RAISED team helped the school management conduct elections to vote for the Head Boy and the Head Girl. This event familiarized students to the process of elections and ensured to the students that the induction is a fair process. Interestingly, in Junior School Barola, the vote counting came down to a nail-biting moment with two contenders for the post of the Head Boy going even till the end. Since we wanted to make the election fair to a T, instead of randomly picking one of the two contenders, we found two students who had not casted their votes yet and thus managed to elect the student who received a majority.

The elections were followed by the teachers reading out the roles and responsibilities of these committees to the school. This ensured that the entire school was aware of the purpose of making these committees.

Then, the committee members were called on to the stage one by one, and felicitated by pinning them with badges and huge rounds of applause. This was done to instill in the students a feeling of responsibility and ownership. It was very easy to notice the ecstasy in the students when they were being felicitated. One striking moment was when in Primary School – 1 Barola, the joy of one of the students did not go unnoticed and the constant spark in his eyes spoke for the happiness and pride he was feeling at that moment.

The pledge to serve for the school which followed was another defining moment with the resonance of the words reflecting the confidence of the students.

A senior member of the team then addressed the forum and encouraged the members to take up their roles with good enthusiasm and work for the betterment of their school.

This was a very satisfying experience for the RAISED team. This satisfaction only increased when the headmaster of Primary School – 1 Barola mentioned to us the very next day that the committee members had started taking up their roles with utmost sincerity. The team hopes that the forum continues to contribute to the overall development of the students and the schools.