

Project: Raising Standard of Education by Going Digital

Re: Ambition Workshops - Phase 2

Place: Junior School, Barola

Date: 15th and 16th February 2017

The Headmaster and the teachers of junior schools in Barola and Sadarpur expressed the need for an external intervention to motivate the students to study. They feel that the students are normalized to what the teachers have to say, and people from the outside will have an impact on their mindset towards studying, and believing that they can secure a good profession by putting in the right amount of hard work. The RAISED introduced different professions to the kids, conducted quizzes and discussed the means to achieve different professions. The next phase of the workshop was targeted at better engagement with the kids, and therefore, a movie - 'I am Kalam' was showcased which had similar learnings but through a different medium. Two workshops were conducted in total, one each for 50 students of class 8 and 60 students of class 6, on 15th and 16th February, respectively.

AGENDA:

- Ice-breaker activity
- Activity - **"All that we share"** - The aim of this activity was to dissolve the preconceived divisions in class; girls vs boys, performers vs non-performers, and highlight the strengths of different groups; dancers, painters, kids who are afraid of public speaking, etc. The kids belonging to different subgroups came in front of the class and got a photograph clicked, leading to the formation of a new identity
- Introduction of A.P.J Abdul Kalam: A few slides of A.P.J Abdul Kalam were shown and the students were asked to identify him followed by a discussion about his achievements.
- Movie screening plus mid-movie-prompts: After every half an hour, the students were given a prompt from the movie and asked to share their own experience or learnings from the movie so far.
- Feedback: The students were asked to provide a written feedback of their learnings from the movie, what they liked, what they did not like, and feedback about the overall workshop.

Key takeaways from the workshop:

The students engage better when:

- The perspective is that of a child, like the main protagonist in the movie **I Am Kalam**.
- When you pause in between the movie to reinforce the learning.
- When there is visual engagement.
- When you make them write down their thoughts, there is a sense of commitment to what one writes; it is difficult to engage students of this age group in bidirectional verbal conversation so it is more fruitful to make them write to understand what they actually gain from a workshop.

The team hopes that this workshop can be conducted in more schools especially junior schools as their age is critical to concentrate on studying and think about their ambitions. The media used in the workshops; quizzes, movies, and ice breaker activities all come together to create a holistic tension free experience for the students, where they can learn, and discuss.

The image shows a feedback received from a group of class 8 students of Barola junior school:

