

The Collaborators for Transforming Education

4th Collaborators Meet- Event Report: 31st August, 2020

On 31st August 2020, the Collaborators for Transforming Education meet was organized virtually to celebrate the 4 years of achievements of our journey with the support of the funding partners and implementing partners and discuss the way forward of 2020-21 in the COVID19 situation. It was an immense pleasure for us that all the funding partners and implementing partners participated in the meeting and shared their experiences and understanding.

The meeting started with the sharing of significant achievements of the program in year 4 and thanking all the funding partners and implementing partners for the support and making this journey fruitful.

Naghma Mulla, President and COO, EdelGive team shared the growth of the program since inception 2016 to 2019. The model has scaled from 5 blocks in 4 districts to all 65 blocks in 6 districts. Around 25,000 children to 1.3 million children, 272 schools to 11,826 schools, 990 teachers to 45,388 teachers, 150 Govt functionaries to 1,044 Govt functionaries. The program model with the three-phased intervention (clusters to districts to state), focused on:

1. Enhancement in learning outcomes of children
2. Building stakeholders' capacities and engineering process improvements
3. Community engagement for strengthening demand for quality education

In 2021-21, the program has extended to a new district Hingoli and adding Quality Education Support Trust (QUEST) as a new implanting partner for the same.

Naghma expressed that owing to the pandemic, more than 1.6 billion children and youth has been out of school in 161 countries. In India, COVID 19 Pandemic not only has unfolded a health and economic crisis but a social crisis too. In the chaos, "education" is losing its priority and focus. Without the planned intervention there is a possibility to lose what has been gained in terms of access, quality, and equity in education in the last two decades. There is a high probability that there will be losses in terms of learning, nutrition, engagement, and safety, also most importantly on Equity.

In this context, rather than planning a full-scale State Transformation under The Collaborator, a step by step approach is required to be taken. Therefore, focus will be on planning for the year 2020 while the program stays on course to achieve the portfolio objectives. After discussing the broad aspects, virtual medium will be used to reach all the stakeholders while keeping the objectives intact.

To understand how the Collaborators should work, there are various rounds of discussion between the organization and stakeholders like District CEO, DIET, KPs, HMs, BEOs, SMCs, Gram Sabha, SCERT. Additionally, multiple rounds of conversations with each organization including a review of their earlier plans were discussed. EdelGive also facilitated the cross-sharing of experience and what other portfolio organizations are doing with each of them. On the basis of that a plan was made by acknowledging the following points.

Understanding the present situation, challenges, and uncertainties, the three implementing partners have prepared a suitable plan for the year 2021. There is no change in the objective of the program and intervention levels which means the program will be working towards improving learning outcomes and working at district, block, cluster, and community aligning with the government plan. Because of the inconvenient situation, the program space may be slow and the nature of the activities may differ and the focus will be at two levels mentioned below:

- Preparing the system when the schools open by focusing on foundational learning and enrolment.
- Reaching to children through community and teachers wherever possible, in whatever ways

The intervention will continue to work by focusing on improving student learning outcomes and harness the gain in terms of access, quality, and equity in education.

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All the three implementing partners, Gyan Prakash Foundation, Kaivalya Education Foundation and Quality Education Support Trust (QUEST) shared their ground experience and program intervention strategy in 2020-21 COVID19 situation. Both the old implementing partners GPF and KEF also shared program achievements of 2019-20 and shared the valuable learnings of the STP and how it is getting incorporated in the DTP. Strengthening of district and block cluster level processes, data driven decision making, preparing child wise action plan and SMCs and Gram Panchayat involvement are significant. All the three partners have shared the challenges of COVID19 on ground and the impact of New Education Policy on the Collaborators program.

All three partners including QUEST explicitly shared the intervention plan for the year 2020-21 and highlighted three aspects of the intervention which are intensive use of technology in the program operation, capacity building of government functionaries and teachers, and intensive community engagement by connecting SMC and Gram Panchayat. The mode of operation will be 60% virtual and 40% on-field depending on the requirement of the ground needs. All the government forums, DRGs, BRGs, SPs and SMC meetings will be conducted virtually through zoom calls. The government has identified the number of children having digital resources which states that only 30% of the children comes under the influence of digital resource. Implementing partner come up with an alternative approach where they are influencing youth volunteers to hold small group classes for children in the community maintaining government and social distancing guidelines. Presently the focus is completely on foundational learning and preparing schools for opening post COVID19 situation. Different capacity building sessions are getting organized for mid-level government functionaries and teachers through virtual platforms. The plan also explains how through SMCs and Gram Panchayat, will be helping school to reach out 70% of the children who are out of digital influence.

All three partners addressed how the Collaborators program is supporting the agenda of the New Education Policy (NEP). The New Education Policy is addressing the holistic development of learning, equity, and sustainability, and the Collaborators' objectives are completely aligned with it and the interventions for the past couple of years reflecting the change. NEP is also addressing the use of local language for teaching, which the Collaborators program has already demonstrated in the tribal belt the use of tribal language in Amravati, Gadchiroli, and Nandurbar. For the government to make NEP fully operational will take 3 to 4 years as the system also need to develop its capacity to manage the scale and hence EdelGive will act as a catalyst.

From the viewpoint of the funders, Harsh Dhanuka from SDMCT expressed to avoid duplication of government the processes and focus on what's working well can be adopted in the scale-up process. Subhamay Chattopadhyay and Kailaspati Jha from SDMCT also expressed that the implementation of NEP will be required for redesigning of program strategy and the scope of managing the merger of early childhood care education in the school system. Susanne Grossman from the Dalyan Foundation expressed as the digital reach of the children is only 30%, an alternative strategy of the organization for reaching the rest 70% of the children.

The meet ended in a positive note and was able to resolve the concerns collaboratively. The meet has strengthened the programme to work collectively towards sustainable impact in education.

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Attendees:

Organization	Representatives
Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Trust (SDMCT)	Paresh Pradhan
Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Trust (SDMCT)	Harsh Dhanuka
Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Trust (SDMCT)	Subhamay Chattopadhyay
Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Trust (SDMCT)	Kailaspati Jha
Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Trust (SDMCT)	Shivani Mehta
Dalyan Foundation	Susanne Grossman
Great Eastern CSR Foundation	Nirja Sheth
Great Eastern CSR Foundation	Swarnima Tamang
Credit Suisse	Lalina Vaz
H T Parekh Foundation	Sweetie Thomas
H T Parekh Foundation	Suvidhi Khurana
Kaivalya Education Foundation	Aditya Natraj
Kaivalya Education Foundation	Arun Poddar
Kaivalya Education Foundation	Neelima Pandey
Kaivalya Education Foundation	Shiksha Gupta
Gyan Prakash Foundation	Daljit Mirchandani
Gyan Prakash Foundation	Ashok Pingle
Gyan Prakash Foundation	Pallavi Mukhedkar
Quality Education Support Trust	Nilesh Nimkar
Quality Education Support Trust	Preeti Shenoy
Quality Education Support Trust	Vaishali Wathare
Quality Education Support Trust	Vrushali Phatak
EdelGive Foundation	Vidya Shah
EdelGive Foundation	Naghma Mulla
EdelGive Foundation	Atul Gandhi
EdelGive Foundation	Paramita Ghosh
EdelGive Team	