

# Quality Education in Tsoknyi Gechak School

A report on the workshop conducted



17 July 2015

## Background

Rato Bangala Foundation (RBF) in collaboration with Tsoknyi Gechak School (TGS) aimed to provide academic services to improve the overall quality of education in TGS from April 2014 to January 2015.

RBF trainers, in pairs, visited the school twice a month to conduct workshops and facilitate teaching learning. The primary subjects focused on included Math, Science, English, Language Arts and Social Studies.

Following a yearlong intervention, substantial changes were witnessed in the teaching learning process, classroom environment, teaching learning practices, attitude of teachers and general behavior of children, all towards the better.

During each visit observing teachers, providing valuable inputs and ideas, conducting subject wise workshops assumed priority over all else. Conducting need based workshops and eventually helping teachers and students organize an educational exhibition also took prominence. Both RBF and TGS were satisfied with changes witnessed in the TGS.

This year, TGS has asked for interventions such as in depth morning meetings, subject wise discussions, Project work, formation of subject teachers and class teachers groups etc. Early Grade Reading Integrated approach, theatre activities and ideas associated with the same have been suggested by RBF.

## Aim

The one day subject wise workshops were conducted with the aim of continuing activities introduced last year and implementing new activities to enhance better quality in teaching.

## Objectives

The initial workshop hoped to achieve the following objectives

- Review activities from 2014-15
- Give orientation on new activities
- Planning workshops for academic year 2015- 16

## Activities conducted during the day

### 1. Warm up ( Human Bingo)

Participants were provided forms and were given instruction to play human bingo. All participants then went around the class, interviewed each other to check off one box that applies to them and signed up. Eventually there was a winner declared from amongst the participants.

## **2. Review of academic year 2014\ 2015 and presentation of activities for the year 2015\2016**

Review of academic year 2014\2015 was done by the Director of TGS, who also presented the expected activities to be addressed during the year 2015\2016.

## **3. Activities and Innovative ideas implemented last year**

Sitting in groups of 4, participants filled up the form in which they listed activities and innovative ideas implemented last year in their teaching learning process and the challenges faced while implementing the activities. Meaningful discussion within a group was held. All groups presented their ideas and ways to face the challenges faced were discussed.

## **4. Drama in teaching learning Process**

This section was divided into two parts. The first part included helping the participants loosen up through warm up exercises and the second part included techniques/styled that could be used to incorporate several subject matters into forms.

## **5. Warm up activities**

Basic warm up exercises were conducted to help participants loosen up and slowly break away from their comfort zones.

## **6. Breathing exercises**

To help participants feel relaxed and energized.

## **7. Walking exercises**

This exercise helped participants catch up with the pace of other activities and helped pay attention through active listening.

## **8. Eye contact**

This activity was done to increase student level of participation.

## **9. Role Play**

Certain situations such as while inside a classroom, being bullied, keeping the environment safe and helping the elderly were put in front of participants. They were made to act out the scenario so as to learn what may happen in each case and to help them empathize with one another.

## **10. Dramatic Story Enactment**

The idea of reenacting a known story with an alternate ending/ doing the same story through dialogues, actions and other techniques for better recall was discussed.

## **11. One word story**

With the aim of helping students excel in sentence formation and speaking grammatically correct, the session ended with participants making a story through one word (in a circle by taking 4 turns).

## **12. New Academic Interventions**

### **a. Three people in a room ( A hands on activity )**

Participants learned the preliminary concept for addressing base ten and ways to adapt in classroom teaching process through hands on activities.

### **b. Importance of morning meeting**

Participants were divided into groups of 4 and were asked to read and clarify the points. After sharing their ideas they were clear on 4 vital areas (Greeting, sharing, group activities and morning message \News and announcement).

## **6. Plan for the year 2015\2016**

At the end of the session, all necessary materials to be used in the new year were accumulated. These are entered into the calendar to make a systematic working arrangement.

## **Outcome**

- Participants had been able to talk about and address some of the challenges faced by them during the last academic year.
- Participants learnt hands on activities in a joyful manner. Taking part in drama provided participants with additional ideas on divergent ways to teach using the power of theatrical activities.
- Steps to implement morning meetings right before classes, were shared with participants.
- Setting a plan into the academic calendar helped both side (academic and administration) to manage activities accordingly.

## **Conclusion**

The one day workshop concluded by giving every participant a chance to express the challenges faced by them, during the last partnership, simultaneously opening doors to address lackings faced by both trainers and trainees.

Due to viable interaction, it had was feasible to allocate numerous activities within the working calendar.

# The Day in pictures



Participants busy in playing human bingo



Participants taking part in Planning