I appreciate action-oriented people who try to bring change in those who go on complaining about things around them. So, during my visits to schools, I had been coming across several teachers who were creative and applying innovative methods at their schools. However, such innovations were limited only to the schools where these teachers were posted. I had mixed feelings for the situation — while I was happy that teachers were coming up with several effective ideas, I also saw the lack of sharing of ideas with other schools.

Then, when I attended the ‘Leadership by Consciousness’ training of ZIIEI, I realised that there is a way to scale up the innovative ideas to a greater level. Two things that I liked the most about ZIIEI are the program’s ‘simplicity’ and ‘doable approach’, which takes away the need of huge financial investment.

The major boost came when five ideas from our district found their place in the top thirty ideas! It was a great achievement for all of us in the district. Teachers either owned the ideas or could relate with the ideas as they knew the innovators. This sense of belongingness played a crucial role in successful roll out of ZIIEI in all 2,957 Government Schools of Barabanki. I too had regular meetings and interactions with teaching fraternity and motivated them in this direction.

Students and teachers are also supporting each other in their efforts during the implementation. Due to this, there is visible change from ZIIEI ideas.

One of the best examples in this regard is Gularaiya Primary School. Under guidance of teacher Sushil Kumar, a Children’s Cabinet has been formed and students are involved in day to day activities of the school like health and hygiene, gardening, attendance and quality of mid-day meal.

Now, if you visit the school, it will definitely change your notion towards typical government schools. Gularaiya Primary school resembles any of the well managed private schools of the district. And, the change happened in just few months of students-teachers involvement under ZIIEI.

In my opinion, ZIIEI, if implemented with true spirit and integrity can alter the quality of education in government schools anywhere in India.

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