

# A strong network of teachers is an asset for quality education in Jharkhand

Teachers are becoming a guiding force for each other to standardise zero investment innovations in schools across the states

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*3 Min Read*



*Parivartan Dal teachers taking part in the ZIIET training*

Jharkhand, one of the backward states in the country, has set an example in creating a network of teachers who will be the flag bearers of the education revolution in the state.

With having one of the lowest literacy rates in the country, the state is making efforts to improve the quality of education by introducing schemes that focus on improving the enrolment and attendance in schools and making education accessible for the girl child.

Moving a step closer in achieving this goal, the government has formed Parivartan Dal (transformation group) of 96 teachers (4 each from the 24 districts of the state) who would carry the baton to change the face of education in the state by identifying and supporting best practices in teaching.

Through this move, the state government aims to empower teachers to take up a lead role in motivating other teachers and facilitate sharing of small, innovative ways to simplify the teaching process and make learning easy and relevant for students.

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Aaradhna Patnaik, former secretary of school education and literacy department and also the founder of Parivartan Dal, said that the objective of forming the group was to create a network of self motivated people who can act as leaders and guide teachers to produce good results.

This group will nominate teachers for leadership training who will in turn nominate their set of teachers for the purpose and the chain will go on.

Patnaik said that during her field visits to government schools, she came across some teachers who due to their sheer dedication and commitment were incorporating small, innovative ideas in their teaching but they were scattered.

“I wanted to give these teachers a common platform so that they come together with their ideas and work as a team to spread them in schools across the state,” she said.

In the words of Patnaik, this strong network of teachers will simplify the technical pedagogical aspects to other teachers because, “implementing these ideas through direct contact with teachers has more positive impact. There remains the communication gap when any order regarding the studies or teaching methods comes from the administration.”

According to her, this kind of motivation to the teachers by the teachers leads to peer pressure and positive competition among the members of the teaching community.

Formed in 2016, the group has now over 4,000 teachers connected with each other and the network is growing with teachers showing their keenness to improve teaching and learning standards in their schools.

However, there still remain a few concerns to be addressed like less involvement of parents and community members in education, low learning outcomes and absence of moral and human values.



According to an analysis of Parivartan Dal teachers who attended a special training conducted by the Sri Aurobindo Society last month about adopting and sharing best practices in teaching under its project Zero Investment Innovations for Education Initiatives (ZII EI), lack of community participation and decrease in class attendance were reported by 2/3rd of the Parivartan Dal teachers as the top most challenge faced by them.

All the teachers shared their own innovative ideas with ZII EI team, which they have been implementing in their schools. About 47 per cent of the teachers revealed that they have been using their ideas, for more than a year, in their school. Few teachers were also implementing their ideas for the last 10-20 years

The ZII EI training's top priority was to empower the group with better leadership skills and orient the teachers on how they can incorporate innovations that require no monetary

investment in their teaching, making education creative and joyful for students.

Smith Kumar Soni, teacher at Rajkiya Madhya Vidyalaya in Simdega district, said that these best practices are most needed at the grassroots level in the state.

“It is our duty to take these innovations to nook and corner of the state encouraging other teachers to adopt a holistic approach in teaching for the overall development of students,” he said.

The analysis revealed that there is a need to document the best practices of these teachers and up skill them with leadership skills. It noted that the teachers need resources and support to take their innovative methods to other teachers.

"This training is designed to work with participants on manifesting their best self in their work, leading through inner guidance, and applying these skills to improve their classrooms and communities. The Parivartan Dal has yet again shown that teachers have immense creative energy and are driven to provide quality education to students," Ashok Sharma, Training Head, Sri Aurobindo Society.■

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