NDMC assesses students and teachers

EVALUATION 42 council schools chosen for a five-year plan to improve learning levels, train teachers

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NEW DELHI: A large section of teachers and students who were rated lowest in an evaluation programme in schools run by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) showed improvement at the end of the first year of the plan, officials said. Academic performance of students in NDMC schools is being evaluated under a five-year programme.

The civic body started the programme in 2017 to assess 7,170 students from Class 5 to Class 8, along with 423 teachers from 42 of the 45 schools in its area.

For the first time, the civic body collaborated with the Quality Council of India (QCI), as well as a group of subject experts, mostly teachers and principals from Kendriya Vidyalaya and State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT). In the last one year, the selected students were asked to participate in different activities to help them improve their knowledge of the subject.

“We didn’t expect any miracle when the programme was kicked off last year. It was an experiment to understand if things will work this way or not. To our surprise, it did work and about 50-60% of the teachers as well as students falling in lowest category showed an upward trend,” said an official from NDMC’s education department.

An official said the evaluation was being conducted to not just understand the students’ capabilities, but also to look at the skills that teachers may lack such as communication, subject expertise and student management.

The NDMC’s programme is among several schemes launched in schools run by the Delhi government and civic agencies to help weaker students.

From April 2018, the Delhi government called ‘Umati’ was launched by the NDMC.

However, this is the first such scheme in Delhi in recent years that included evaluation of teachers along with the students.

THE RESULTS

NDMC officials shared the result of the programme with HT on the completion of the first year.

When the programme started in 2017, of the 423 teachers evaluated, 156 were categorised in the highest category A. However, after the completion of the first year, only 125 teachers remained in category A. Similarly, there were 2,866 students in the lowest Category D last year. By the end of the first year, this number had reduced to 963. Officials said most students had graduated to the slightly better C category.

The cutting performance of students from high to low. While A was the highest, D was the lowest category. Similarly, the teachers were clubbed into three categories from high to low — A, B and C.

The experts had initially rated the teachers and students before starting the five-year programme and then again categorised them towards the end of the first year.

“We decided to go with teachers and students of Class 5-8 as these years of elementary education are considered to be important for doing well at the secondary and senior secondary level,” said Naresh Kumar, chairman, NDMC.

“Over the last one year, experts visited the classes randomly and observed the teachers and their communication with the students. During this process, below average, Suman Rana, who teaches mathematics to Class 8 students at Navvyag School in Mandir Marg explained the techniques they were taught by experts. “I planned a number of activities which helped improve students’ understanding. Also, I started using examples from everyday life to explain mathematics. For example, to help kids understand how to solve problems on graphs, I gave them the example of fish in a tank. The number of fish is usually negatively numbered like the numbers below the x-axis on a graph.”

For students too, interactive tools were suggested to improve their knowledge.

“Soon became a daily schedule,”


Moving up

A total of 7170 students in Classes 5-8 and 423 teachers were evaluated from 42 NDMC schools. Students and teachers rated lowest showed most improvement.

Under the programme, students are divided into four categories — A, B, C and D — reflecting their performance from high to low. Teachers were divided into three categories (from high to low): A, B and C.

Results of change in performance of students (first year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results of change in performance of teachers (first year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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AN NDMC OFFICIAL

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AN NDMC OFFICIAL

Teachers, experts give mixed reviews

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NEW DELHI: While the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) expects improvement in the performance of students and teachers on the completion of its five-year evaluation, some academicians and teachers expressed reservations about the initiative.

Experts said that the idea of assessing and enhancing teachers’ professional capability is good in practice, but it is more important to understand the teaching methodology in classrooms. “The pedagogical process is an intricate subject. It varies from class to class, student to student and circumstances also. If a teacher has a clear understanding of the subject, students will benefit,” said Madan.

Dinesh Manohar, principal of Navvyag School, Mandir Marg said that instead of just giving more resources to teachers, teaching techniques need to be demonstrated. “It is a go concept, but instead of just giving critical reviews to teachers, experts should also demonstrate our teaching techniques to help the teachers improve,” said Manohar.

Any intervention which can help improve teaching techniques is good, provided it encourages activity-based learning among kids, said Krish Kumar, former educatic...
NDMC officials said the Class 5-8 students were grouped in four categories—A, B, C and D—and they gave suggestions to teachers about study material and methods that can help them improve the performance of their students, a QCI official said.

Under the programme, the experts asked teachers to use simple examples and arrange more group discussions or activities to help kids, especially those of elementary education are considered to be important for doing well at the secondary and senior secondary level.

MAresh Kumar, chairman, NDMC