

YOGAKSHEMA – A Scholarship Program for bright students

Subject: Digital Lesson Plan based Teaching Videos for “Yoga-Khshema” students.

Inspiration- “**Education, education, education alone!** Travelling through many cities of Europe and observing in them the comforts and education of even the poor people, there was brought to my mind the state of our own poor people, and I used to shade tears. **What made the difference? Education was the answer I got.**”

~ Swami Vivekananda

- A. Yoga Khshema is a scholarship offered by Sri Har-Kasturi Memorial Trust to Twenty Students every year.
 1. Those who have cleared Matriculation examination with 80%, or more marks.
 2. Those whose family incomes are below the poverty level.
 3. The selection is done in collaboration with Retired Central Excise & Customs officers association.
 4. The schools are mostly from small towns.
 5. The scholarship offered is for two years, that is for class XI and class XII, to cover the expenses for studies, some nutritional needs, and a Mediclaim policy for the family.
 6. The scholarship is Fifty thousand Rs per student per year.
 7. There is a clause of discontinuation in case of unsatisfactory academic performance and maintenance of some basic level of discipline.
- B. A monthly meeting of all the students and their guardians is held on a predetermined Sunday mainly to oversee the progress or discuss problems if any. Some career-counselling sessions are also organized for the students from time to time.
- C. The scholarship was started from 2018, and in 2019, the second batch has been inducted. Henceforth forty students will be getting the benefit of the scholarship at anytime till some changes are made.
- D. Review, discussions and deliberations over one year’s experience brought us to following conclusions-
 - a. Looking at the insufficient and poor quality of teaching offered by most schools, especially in vernacular medium of education, and nutritional need of the targeted group of students, who have shown their seriousness and focus to get educated by scoring the qualifying marks in Matriculation examination, the afore mentioned scholarship is instituted.
 - b. Now it is found that, in absence of quality teaching at the schools, the lion’s share of the scholarship money goes into the coffers of the tutorials, which have mushroomed to fill the gap created by deteriorating teaching standard offered by the schools, but quality offered by most of them are no better too.
 - c. **We became more and more convinced that the core challenge is how to arrange good teaching for these students.**
- E. The concept of Lesson Plan (LP), and Digital Lessons offered by sites like Khan Academy in Y tube inspired us to conjure up following approach-
 - a. We select first the Science Subjects.
 - b. The course prepared by WBSE, and offered through their prescribed textbooks are adopted as the Text matter.
 - c. Every Chapter becomes the subject matter of the Lesson Plan.
 - d. Domain experts with Teaching experience create each LP.
 - e. Teachers with effective teaching capability are selected to deliver the LP with explanations on a Writing Board, which is video recorded.
 - f. Students are provided with Tablets loaded with these LP recordings.

- g. Similar Recording of Exercises in important Question-Answer form are also made and made available in the Tablets for practice sessions to clear the concepts, and also prepare the students to score good marks, which is essential for getting admission in good Govt. run Institutions of higher studies.
- F. At this juncture we came in touch with Dr Dipak Ghosh, Prof Emeritus, Jadavpur University. He is not only an eminent physicist but a great teacher and bequeathed with the missionary zeal to spread quality teaching. Meeting him was godsend.
- G. He readily volunteered to create the LPs, select right teachers to deliver the lectures, and direct the recording, having highly rich experience in all these areas.
- H. Three trial recordings are made, one in Chemistry, and two in Physics for assessment for further value addition.
- I. The Project is envisaged by Har-Kasturi Memorial Trust as “Service to the Nation through Education” following the path shown by Swamiji. Hence in that spirit
 - a. It is decided by the Trustees of the Trust to bear all the cost to be incurred for the Project and will be made available in the Y Tube free of cost for the students.
 - b. The Project will bear the acknowledgement of the Voluntary Participation of participants like Prof. Ghosh and the Teachers, who would deliver the lectures.
- J. Future Plans-
 - a. Create an Advisory Board to
 - i. Suggest improvement in implementation of the Programme.
 - ii. Spread it for other streams like Commerce, Arts etc
 - iii. Lessons to improve command over English, both written and spoken.
 - iv. Career Planning advice.
 - v. Review the progress.