

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 performances of teachers and students in NDMC schools are 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 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 subjects.

"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 categories 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 gov-



■ The programme assessed 7,170 students from Class 5 to Class 8 in NDMC schools. BURHAAN KINU/HT FILE

called 'Unnati' 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 its first year.

When the programme started in 2017, of the 423 teachers evaluated, 156 were categorised in the lowest C category. However, after the completion of the first year, only 10 teachers remained in category C. Similarly, there were 2,366 students in the lowest D category last year. By the end of the first year, this number had reduced to 932. Officials said most students have graduated to the slightly better C category. The

cating performance of students from high to low. While A was the highest, D was 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 Navyug School in Mandir Marg explained the techniques they were taught by experts, "I planned a number of activities which helped understand my students better. Also, I started using examples from everyday life to explain mathematics. For example, to help kids understand how to plot numbers on graphs, I gave them the example of lifts in malls showing negative numbers for basement and positive on upper floors. The parking below the ground floor 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.

"It soon became a daily sched-

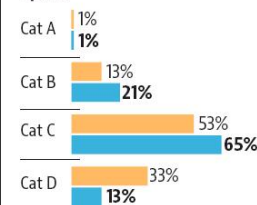
Moving up

A total of 7,170 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 in 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.

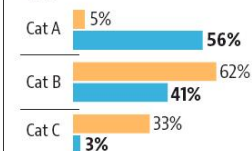
Results of change in performance of students (after first year)

■ 2017 ■ 2018
7,170 students in Class 5-8



Results of change in performance of teachers (after first year)

■ 2017 ■ 2018
423 teachers



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 capacity 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 no clarity about the subject or context of students to whom she/he is teaching, no technique will help improve their perform-

who go on long vacations. The do not participate in many classroom activities. How can we expect them to become geni overnight by one programme said an NDMC teacher, who did not wish to be named.

Dinesh Madan, principal of Navyug School, Mandir Marg said that instead of just giving reference materials to teachers, new teaching techniques need to be demonstrated as well. "It is a good concept, but instead of just giving critical reviews about teacher experts should also share an demonstrate new teaching techniques to help the teacher improve," said Madan.

Any intervention which can help improve teaching techniques is good, provided encourages activity-based learning among kids, said Krishn Kumar, former education

they say

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AN NDMC OFFICIAL

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ernment and three municipal corporations—North, South and East Delhi Municipal Corporation—launched 'Mission Buniyaad' to improve the students' basic learning levels. In 2016, the state government had launched a scheme called 'Chunauti', to assess students of Class 6 to Class 9. Also in 2016, a similar scheme

number of students in the top category—A—remained the same. Only 72 students were placed in A category.

FOCUS ON TEACHING METHODS

NDMC officials said the Class 5-8 students were grouped in four categories—A, B, C and D—indi-

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

ule. We first read each chapter in class; we then shared the meaning of difficult words and then encouraged students to recite it in a rhythm. To make learning fun, we even asked them to play role of various characters from book," said Glory Mary, Class 5 English teacher from NP Co-Ed Senior Secondary School, Lodhi Estate.

of elementary education are considered to be important for doing well at the secondary and senior secondary level.

NARESH KUMAR, chairman, NDMC

ance," said Poonam Batra, professor, Delhi University. "As the same time, the testing and assessing tools can't work unless the teachers' professional requirements are addressed," said Batra.

Other teachers said that a uniform format to access and train everyone can't be implemented everywhere. "We have students

director, North Delhi Municipal Corporation. "Those who started teaching in the 1970s or the 1980s can't relate with various sectors of the Right to Education Act 2009, which focuses on activity-based learning. Such long-term programmes are good and help teachers relate to today's students," he said.