

My School Days

Shri Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri

Former Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Karnataka

Along with education skill development very important to get jobs

Shri Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri is a leader of Bharatiya Janata Party in Karnataka. He is five time MLA and served as the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education in the earlier Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Government of Karnataka. In this interview with India School News, he talks about the state of Karnataka school education.

Excerpts of the interview

70% schools are run by Government. Contribution of private school is appreciated but constant rise in fee must be controlled! In the education system there are four main pillars namely students, teachers, public cooperation and syllabus. In the Karnataka state 50,000 schools are run by the Government imparting education to approximately 1 crore children. The teaching staff is about 3.5 lakh. To provide basic amenities to these students is a very important concern. Besides to run Government schools is always a difficult task irrespective of the political party in power. These schools are part of the society hence public cooperation is a must. Another vital part of education is syllabus. It needs to be monitored as what syllabus is provided to the children in the school. During my tenure I tried to improvise all these four pillars.

Students

Students must go for an educational excursion. It is very important along with studies. I took nearly 1 lakh children

for informative and memorable trips.

Earlier 15,000 – 20,000 students went but more children got the opportunity to go on small tours during my term. Also other than school books they should have a habit of reading, the habit vital to put into practice. Therefore I had made library compulsory in all schools. Crores of

rupees were given to all the schools to set-up their own library. We do have SDMC, School Development Committee but we must get participation from students. To do so we should have innovative programs. One event we conducted was HS Day. In this event different indoor games were organized like chess. High school students should play chess. This game has got its own values.

Teachers

Teachers must have strong teaching commitment as it plays an important role in student's growth. 50-60 years back we didn't have computers, classrooms, smart boards or any other hi-tech facility nevertheless teachers had that commitment that child should study well. Consequently even in all difficult situations they ensured the teaching must go on!

As told to Kartik Isvarmurti, Managing Editor, India School News
Read more at <http://bit.ly/1TZMdri>



Captain G R Gopinath

Indian entrepreneur and Founder - Air Deccan

Youth must discover and realize their dreams, ideas and passion

Million of Indians could live their dream in reality to travel by airplane. It was made possible by Captain Gorur Ramaswamy Iyengar Gopinath, Indian entrepreneur, the founder of Air Deccan. He worked in Indian Army for a decade, served the nation as politician and is inspiring the youth through his writing. Captain G R Gopinath gives 'India School News' a brief walkthrough to his life till date. He highlights on the education for life he received from his father, importance of learning in school than the infrastructure and key to success, passion and enthusiasm.

Excerpts

No school till 5 years

My father, himself a teacher, follower of respected Gandhi and Tagore felt that school was kind of a prison but it needs to be attended one day! So he decided to delay my schooling as far as possible because once I get in then it has its own way that has to be trailed. He told, "You stay at home and play. Anyways whatever is taught in the primary school can be learned about an hour every day at home." Every day in the evening he would teach me at home.

As he worked in a local village school, he would go to the fields in the morning. I would accompany him. We used

to go to the river where he taught me swimming. Everyone in the fields used to work all by themselves including farm owners from Brahmin community. However, my father being a teacher had some labors to help him in the field.

In those days labors belonged to Adi Karnataka Harijan community. He used to tell me pointing at the labor that, "The labors are bare bodied but they get good exercise, air, appetite and sleep well. They eat natural food that is more nutritious than us. Labors have two bags. In the one they keep crabs and in other grains. Cooked crabs are very nutritious. The well-off non-vegetarians ate lamb while the poor people ate crabs and fish that is nutritious food. Education has robbed us off from these good raw aspects of life." Life has a way of punishing the people who are well off, and compensating the ones who are not so well off.

As told to Kartik Isvarmurti, Managing Editor, India School News
Read more at <http://bit.ly/1QQubUo>

