Charcha Patra as a tool to generate academic discourse

Challenges/Issues:
- Different Joint Review Missions recommend Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of Teachers
- Long duration training is not possible with existing number of Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs)
- There are budget constraints for organizing face to face training
- There are transmission losses at different levels
- Our TEIs at present are not capable enough to design online courses for teachers
- Many GOs stuck at different levels and don't reach till grassroots
- **Lack of academic discussions at cluster level meetings**
- There is a need of Low-cost models for CPD of teachers
- State should use technology to reach teachers directly
- Teachers should get exposed to different teaching strategies
- A platform should be developed where sharing of good practices happen
- Opportunities to motivate & scale up grassroots level innovations

- Clusters to have different agenda points to generate academic discourse

Thus came the idea to share "Discussion Papers " with clusters on a continuous basis with the following objectives-
- To facilitate discourse during monthly cluster meetings
- To act like a resource book and share expert teaching resources and ideas with teachers
- To incentivise other teachers to perform better to be able to get recognition through newsletter
- To recognise teachers for their best practices

The beginning:

The Pedagogy cell of State Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Chhattisgarh took this challenge and started this program in 2014. It was decided to have ten issues evey year starting from June to March.

Every month total ten agenda were identified on which there was a need to have proper discussion and after arriving at some conclusion, some specific initiatives on the part of schools and teachers were expected.

Earlier soft copies of these papers were shared with district offices through mail and they were expected to share the hard copies with blocks and clusters for monthly meetings. But thanks to the networking sites, state immediately made use of these and formed different

whatsapp groups through which this got transferred on the same day to Clusters.

Now this is the sixth year which is complete and these Charcha Patra were developed and shared on the very first day of every month without fail.

Features of Charcha Patra:

- Written in simple language with illustrations
- Directly speak to the teachers to initiate academic discussions
- Suggestive not prescriptive with think globally act locally mode
- Efforts to make every space useful
- Ignites minds to participate in academic discussions
- Used during saturday without disturbing schools' regular studies
- This is completely zero cost initiative by the state with maximum impact at the grassroot
- Reaches directly to teaches now through telegram groups and our wubsite- cgschool.in
- All the six years issues are available in this website
- Teachers share what they did after discussion through social media. For example, the example of kerala model where a teacher from Malappuram used augmented reality in classroom was discussed in one of our monthly Charcha Patra. When teachers got interested, we arranged a training session on how to make use of augmented reality in our online

classes to make teaching-learning more interesting. In order to motivate teachers to use this technique, state identified best teachers doing good job in this field for writing their blogs in Hamare Nayak, one of the popular column where teachers want to get their blogs published. Hundreds of classrooms are now using augmented reality in our state.

Some of the topics covered:

Every month ten issues are covered with time relevance and priorities of the state. Some of the topics covered are:

- Simple science experiments -Teacher of the month
- Pictures talk -Mothers' orientation
- Classroom strategies -Cluster level planning
- Small educational stories - IGNITE/Inspire Awards
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Shiksha Gunvatta Abhiyan
- Action researches -Child cabinets
- Zero investment innovations - PLCs
- Higher Order thinking questions -Learning Outcomes
- Theteacherapp -Systems approach
- NAS & its follow up -School Development Plans

- In one of the issues, we shared the details about how to fill the swatchhta format and our state stood first in the number of schools filling that format for swachchta award
- Sharing details of inspire award helped us reach to maximum students' participation and getting selected to grab this prestigious Ignite funds
- Different offline models suggested along with their standard operating procedures helped the teachers to select the best offline model suitable for them in their circumstances during school lockdown
- The idea of print-rich village/ward is being used extensively

Suggestions based on the field experience:
- State should institutionalize this mode of CPD
- This mode should be used to support subject-wise PLCs
- Educational Administrators should also get such quarterly newsletters through SIEMAT
- TEIs should also support/ promote such initiatives
- During every training program, TEI should form a PLC group for continuous follow-up and peer learning
- Budget for printing and sharing of such newsletters should be ensured
- Budget for cluster level academic discourse should be provisioned
- Proper mechanism to review the use of these Discussion papers required

- Continuous sharing of simple doable ideas for teachers