

EFFECT AND RESULTS OF SCHOOL ASSEMBLY IN EDUCATION

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Abstract

Morning assembly is very important ritual of a school. It is our age old culture of country. Every new work starts with prayers to our gods. So it happens in schools too. Schools are like our temples. Morning assembly is a time of peace and quiet. Students stand in rows on assembly ground. They say prayers before starting day's work. The scene is very calm and peaceful. All students stand in rows in school uniforms. Important information is also given to the students like good thought, National and International News, sports news etc. regularly. Great personalities, amazing facts and quiz are also presented weekly in the schools. Someresearchershave shown that when students properly present, organize and observe the prayers in the school, it creates motivatedenvironment in the school and students are capable of doing work effectively throughout the day.

MEANING OF ASSEMBLY-

An assembly is when the school community, or a part of it, meets together to share aspects of life that are of worth. It acts as a medium for communicating matters of significance from one generation to another. A high quality school assembly is one of the most important aspects of a school's curriculum. Its potential to nurture a positive school ethos that stresses care for the self, others and the pursuit of all forms of excellence should not be underestimated. An assembling or coming together of a number of persons, usually for a particular purpose is called assembly. It powerfully nurtures the development of intrapersonal intelligence. School assemblies can make a positive contribution to pupil self-development and therefore be at the heart of raising achievement and standards. The examples given are based upon a form of assembly that has been developed by planning to encourage pupils to reflect upon a set of universal values, such as love, peace, truth, co-operation and respect. These values act as the foundation not only for religious education but for the development of personal, social and health education, citizenship and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum. By school assembly we mean the gathering of the whole school pupils and staff together. Prof. Freewill calls an assembly 'Town meeting of the school.' In the words of W.R. Smith, "School assembly can serve as a focusing center of all forms of extracurricular life." According to Flora T. Cook, "The morning exercise is a common meeting ground to which each brings his offerings, the fruits of his observation and

studies or the music, literature, and art that delight him, a place where all cooperate for the pleasure and well-being of the whole."

REQUIREMENT OF SCHOOL ASSEMBLY-

- Creating disciplined environment-Every child must become a full-fledged citizen of the school. In a school assembly, the students should be told about the traditions, rites and ideals of the school.
- To enhance confidence level-in an assembly the students who is presenting in front of whole school, that child is gaining confidence and this quality helped him/her in making personality.
- Create unity among all students-An assembly is very helpful in developing a community spirit among the students. They get occasions to see, feel and know the school as an organized group. An average student remaining in his class does not appreciate his relationship to the school as a whole.
- To develop listening capability- every child must know how to sit in a gathering. Social etiquette demands that children must listen to the speakers with courtesy and patience. When and how to applaud is another quality that must be developed the school assembly trains the students in this art.
- To appreciate others-Prizes to the students for outstanding accomplishments of any nature, curricular or co-curricular should be given before the entire school. This action will motivate other students to perform outstanding accomplishments.
- To give chance to students to face the audience. It gives training to a large number of students in effective appearance and expression before a critical audience.

DISCIPLINE THROUGH ASSEMBLY-

The most important thing is wholeness - a whole community. This is not a place that is only devoted to teaching pupils things. The function of the school is that the pupils learn their academic stuff more effectively because they learn in a valued, structured environment. The quality of learning is better, and life skills and values are absorbed in ways they are in few other schools. No detail about people, individuals, or the conduct of the school, is considered unimportant. There's a clear sense of vision. Assemblies should aim to create, nurture and sustain a sense of community. They can serve to develop a positive school ethos that affirms the school's identity and aspirations. The result being that the school lives in cohesive harmony that sustains the pursuit of excellence in all its forms. The physical setting for an assembly is important and when possible care should be taken with such detail as heating, ventilation, comfort and the aesthetic nature of the room. To achieve an assembly of excellence the appropriate atmosphere and tone can be created through the sensitive use of a central focus, such as a display, that can help pupils think about the theme of the assembly; music that can help create a calm and reflective mood; black-out and spot lighting (if available) help to make assembly time special; the leader of the assembly being seated in an attitude appropriate for a reflective experience as

the pupils arrive for assembly; all adults in an assembly modelling the behaviour that is expected of the pupils; pupils being actively included in all aspects of the assembly.

ORGANISATION OF ASSEMBLY IN SCHOOLS-

What should be demonstrated in an assembly is a reiteration of the value of each individual pupil including their individual thoughts and abilities. There should be a reiteration of the importance of those elements to the community and the secure place of each pupil within the school. The pupils should be invited to consider their inner capabilities, their positive worth, their place in the community and their purpose for the week, and to do it from the touchstone of that month's positive value. Pupils respond in the affirmative, so that they are focused, positive, calm, and ready to start. The school community starts from the individual pupil and the value of each one, and allows them to see their part in their own world.

PLANNING BEFORE ASSEMBLY-

The importance of planning cannot be underestimated. Last minute thinking does not create meaningful assemblies. Assemblies can be based on a yearly plan that incorporates monthly values and weekly themes. This plan is the subject of staff discussion and amendment because it is important that all staff feel comfortable with the proposed themes. This process gives a sense of ownership of both the process and content of the assemblies. This is vital as it stops assemblies from being seen as elements of the curriculum for which headteachers are solely responsible. In a good school, all students assemble at the beginning of the school day in one place, usually in the school hall where prayers are held, news is read out, and instructions are given. Sometimes, students are required to make a speech or the principal makes some announcement if necessary. School assembly clarifies school activities and programmes and focuses on co-curricular life. It strengthens work of the school. School assembly should be conducted with complete and active participation of students. Morning assembly should be well-planned.

PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

- i. To develop a feeling of affiliation and unity among students.
- ii. To acquaint students with the school programme more clearly.
- iii. To develop in students a sense of identity with the school.
- iv. To enable students to share their experiences, stories, anecdotes with others.
- v. To provide them training in good social behaviour desired in public life.
- vi. To motivate students by positive reinforcement in the form of praise or rewards awarded in public.
- vii. To celebrate national festivals, Independence Day, republic day, birth days of great leaders and so on. These leaders could be political leaders, scientists, poets, writers and so on.
- viii. To facilitate moral and religious development of students.
- ix. To facilitate national integration and secularism through all-religion prayer meetings among students.

It is a common practice to begin day's work in school with a morning assembly, wherein the entire bodies of school population assemble for common prayer or talks from teacher. The Morning Prayer has become a useful activity in all the schools. Besides prayers of

devotion to God, we can have patriotic songs, the flag-songs and songs in praise of our country and nation. There should be a rich variety in the songs; otherwise one prayer song for the whole year will create monotony. The important objective of the collective gathering of the entire body of pupils is to make announcements regarding the daily work or the school routine. Announcements regarding tournaments, functions, elections, extension lectures, and changes in the time table, holidays, changes in the hour of work etc. can conveniently be made at this time. The pupils get an opportunity to feel that the school is an organized group and they develop a sort of community spirit that is not possible if the classes remain isolated from each other and do not meet collectively. The school assembly provides opportunity to the headmaster and teacher to give talks on various topics of general interest, health and hygiene, reading habits, rules of the road, Panchayati Raj etc.

REFLECTION ON ASSEMBLY-

Careful thinking about the physical setting for an assembly leads on to the consideration of its form and content. The practice of reflection, sometimes known as creative visualization or stilling, is probably at least as rare in schools as it is in the larger world. Reflection helps pupils focus upon the positive aspects of themselves that they can value and build on.

Silent reflection should be a key element in an assembly. It has several crucial elements that include: creating an appropriate atmosphere in the assembly that is conducive to leading the pupils in a reflective exercise;

encouraging pupils to sit in a relaxed, comfortable and still manner; developing the ability to use the inner eye of imagination; the person conducting the assembly using appropriate words to stimulate the creation of a picture on the screen of the minds of the pupils; pupils developing the skills necessary to go within themselves, thus being observers of their thoughts in order to nurture positive images that support positive behaviour. The ability of the leader of the assembly to be able to set high expectations in terms of appropriate pupil behaviour and attitude cannot be over emphasized. The pupils will model themselves on this person whose behaviour must be sincere and authentic. However, the crucial aspect is to maintain an honest approach that avoids making any pretense at what is untrue in terms of personal beliefs and values

ADVANTAGES OF SCHOOL ASSEMBLY-

- ❖ The school assembly works as a unifying force. Students feel the school as an organized group and every student realizes that he is part and parcel of the school community.
- ❖ Assembly works as a source of inspiration and its experiences widen and deepen students' interests.
- ❖ It works as a platform for propagation of commendable work. Outstanding performances and achievements of students in curricular and co-curricular fields get recognized before the entire school. Badges, certificates, cups etc. should be awarded to the winners in the presence of entire school population.
- ❖ School assembly serves as a place for developing audience habits. Respects for others' feelings, courtesy towards speakers and guests, sensible applause at the proper time, appreciative attitude are some of the good audience habits that the students develop through school assembly.

- ❖ Celebration of some of the important national and international days help in broadening the mental horizon of pupils and acquainting them with the life of great scientists, discovers and statesmen.
- ❖ The pupils must come, sit and go in a disciplined manner, gossiping and taking are checked and the atmosphere is made calm and serene. No abusive remarks to students and no unpleasant things are spoken on the scared occasion of total gathering of the school.
- ❖ Morning assembly in schools is one of the most important elements of the school curriculum. This may not be generally understood. Well planned assemblies can contribute greatly to academic and behavioural excellence in any school and wise principals and administrators make full use of this potential.
- ❖ Morning assemblies can include the entire school community or they may be partial assemblies which pertain to year groups, gender-based groups or any special interest groups in the school. They all have similar characteristics and outcomes but this post focuses mainly on full morning assembly.
- ❖ School assembly should start on time. Staff and students should be present and students should be attentive, quiet and in their allotted places. This speaks to the issue of discipline. Assembly provides a calm, settled start to a day of learning. It puts the students into a reflective mood and prepares them for the classroom.
- ❖ Assembly fosters a sense of community and a positive ethos. During the ceremony values are passed on to students. They learn, among other things, cooperation, honesty, respect for self and others, diligence, perseverance, punctuality, the importance of excellence in all school activities, respect for rules and they are given moral and spiritual guidance for everyday life as well as an awareness of pressing social issues.
- ❖ School assembly is not just about the reading of announcements, news, instructions and prayers (in countries where public prayer is allowed in schools). Wise administrators communicate high expectations to the students and they celebrate significant school achievements. Excellent performances by students, in all school activities, are showcased during this time and meritorious student efforts are publicly recognized and reinforced with praise and awards. This takes place in the presence of the full student body and the younger ones are given goals to aim at.
- ❖ Students develop an understanding of what their school stands for and they identify with it. They see what makes their school stand out from the others. The singing of the national anthem and the school song and the celebration of days of national significance, like Independence Day celebration, inculcate national pride, good citizenship and school pride. They do not want to let down their school.
- ❖ Expert speakers and distinguished Old Scholars who are invited to speak to students at assembly support the principal in sensitizing students to the rich culture, history and legacy of the school. They are inspired to emulate the high achievements of past and present students of their institution. Themes chosen for school assembly and quotations from famous persons set the bar even higher. Students should be allowed to participate in the assembly and the principal should always state the mission and goals of the school.
- ❖ School assembly should not be seen as a routine to be run through quickly and taken for granted. It creates a sense of unity and belonging and leads to excellence in achievement. It is also great for setting the right school tone.

CONCLUSIONS-

Conclusion Following conclusion has been drawn from the study:

1. Most important thing is how schools are conducting assembly, school should not take this important task casually, and its standard should be to be improved.
2. Researcher has observed that teachers remain talking with their other colleagues which create indiscipline in the school. Teachers should not ignore significance of the assembly.
3. In the assembly time teachers should check students' uniform, shoe polish, haircut and nail cut etc., it creates discipline attitude and punctuality among students. Students should understand the importance of cleanliness and health through these activities.
4. It is very effective part of school tenure to teach variety of social skills and to develop level of confidence of pupils which may help them during their future practical life.
5. In some schools morning assembly is considered as a training session for teachers and students due to their abilities and long experience of the service in schooling.

RECOMMENDATIONS-

1. In some schools assembly starts after 2-3 periods or in break time, which doesn't fulfill assembly objective. Morning assembly must be start of the day, however if space is not available for the assembly then it should be conducted in the respective classrooms.
2. Head teacher should address to the students with moral stories or moral lecture because it is a good opportunity for them to share their vision for students future improvement.
3. Teachers should plan assembly some day before with concern students because it is very necessary to conduct nice and interactive assemblies in the school.
4. Morning assembly should be a part of all teacher education institutions, it should be made a part of their curriculum, trainee teachers should know how to conduct assembly in the school, and they should practice it also when they go for their school experience programme or during their practice teaching.
5. Participation of the maximum students and provide opportunity to all students is major thing to think. Teachers should develop leadership quality through assembly.

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