

Issue 9 | Haadibadi, Roopena Agrahara, Bangalore-68 | October 2021 Newsletter

Four day workshop with Fedina

Haadibadi conducted a four-day workshop in association with the the Fedina Organization. The workshop was organized for the children of the members of Fedina Organization. This workshop aimed at bringing out the creative side of every individual through various sessions like colouring, craft, music and theatre. The sessions inspired the young minds to hone their imaginative skills and exhibit their imaginative skills which were extensively inhibited due to lack of offline classes during the lockdown of schools.



Haadibadi project in global platform



Architecture-in-Development is a global platform connecting 60,000+ architectural professionals actively exploring new meanings and opportunities in architecture. Tejaswini Krishna Padindala, a Bangalore-based architect and a volunteer at Haadibadi, had submitted her design project to rebuild Haadibadi Community Library to Architecture in Development. The project has been selected as one of the finalists. The design process of the building has been a result of the clay storming workshop conducted for the young minds of Haadibadi by Tejaswini Krishna.

If you wish to donate or would like to know more about the project, click here.

Mental Health Awareness Month

October is Mental Health Awareness month in India, and we saw ample of posts on social media platforms. While we had few people raising awareness of mental health issues, we also had others who exposed the toxic environments that surrounded the life of an individual; be it work or home. Some even criticized the government for the lack of responsibility. While we are talking about apathy and lack of structure and responsibilities from the government, we also need to see what is happening in schools, colleges, and universities. Communications and human relations are more complicated in virtual platforms. Many schools and colleges may have reopened but there are still many that are running classes online. The students are living in an uncertain and anxious times making it difficult to attend classes with so much happening around their lives. Teachers have been burdened with additional responsibilities to their already hectic work schedule. An external perspective many make it seem like the teachers teach for 3-4 hours and relax for the rest of the day, but you ask any teacher of the 21st century, and they would agree to the fact that teaching isn't as easy as it looks. It takes at least two hours to prepare thoroughly for an hour's class. So, 3-4 hours of classes requires immense amount of preparation. Added to this, there are the usual assignments and examinations (and the mock tests and the surprise tests and class tests and home tests; you wouldn't have to put yourself through these many tests to be declared safe from COVID). The online medium has increased the work and therefore the stress many folds on the teaching faculties as well. Can education – teaching, learning, teachers and students adapt and evolve to accommodate the most horrifying times of our generation? There are several questions we need to ask about mental health of the educationists:

- 1.Are the schools/universities/colleges doing enough to factor in the stress, trauma and challenges of students under these circumstances?
- 2. Are the syllabi, work for students decided after factoring in these struggles in their everyday lives?
- 3. Are the faculty members who are undergoing trauma and uncertainty due to the pandemic treated with consideration?
- 4. Do the institutions have enough professional counsellors who are available to teachers as well as students?
- 5. Just like the grievance cell set up for students, do teachers have the same support system for their grievance redressal?
- 6. Is enough care taken to ensure that the additional assignment corrections and classes are burdening the teachers as well?
- 7. Are the institutions asking the faculty members if they are doing fine?
- 8. Is the teacher community trained to cope with such drastic changes, especially being kinder and sympathetic, more than before, specially in the virtual platform where basic communication itself is a challenge?

- Ravikiran Rajendran, Founder and Creative Director, Haadibadi Trust