



A STUDY ON ENCOUNTERS FACED BY SCHOOL TEACHERS UNDER VIDYAGAMA SCHEME DURING COVID -19

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ABSTRACT

During the academic year 2019-2020, till July regular or off-line classes didn't start due to COVID 19. In the COVID 19 pandemic, the education of the children stopped. For that reason, the Karnataka State Government under the Karnataka Education Department introduced the 'Vidyagama' scheme on 3rd August 2020 for Government and Aided School students. The Vidyagama scheme is a surgical strike against COVID 19 for school children for continuous learning. It is a pride scheme organised by the Karnataka Education Department. In this study, the researcher concluded that the Vidyagama scheme was an excellent scheme, the benefits of the scheme reached 49.34 lakh students. Although, due to the coronavirus positive to a few students and teachers, the Vidyagama scheme has been temporarily stopped.

KEY WORDS: COVID 19, Vidyagama Programme, Teachers, etc.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Corona Virus changed the future of children. In this pandemic situation, Karnataka Education Department introduced the Vidyagama Scheme. The government school teachers started going to the doorstep of the children and taking classes to develop the knowledge of the students. The total number of students in government schools and aided schools are 65.56 Lakhs.¹ Out of this approximately 49.34 Lakhs, students were gaining the benefits from the Vidyagama Scheme.²

The main concept of the 'Vidyagama' scheme, was taking Schools to the doorsteps of children in villages in the absence of off-line or physical classes.³

Objectives of the 'Vidyagama' Scheme:

1. The main aim of the 'Vidyagama' scheme is to keep the students in touch with education.
2. Issue the textbooks, practice book, and basic learning materials to children to their home for self-study.
3. Provide protein food and mid-day meals to students to their homes.
4. To control child labour, child marriage, etc.
5. To improve self-confidence among students.
6. For continuous learning.
7. To stop migration and avoid going for jobs.

Due to this Vidyagama Scheme approximately 4000 children shifted from private schools to government schools at Vijayapura District. Chandavaadi, HD Kote Taluk government school has been closed in the past 3 years because of no admission, but due to the Vidyagama Scheme introduced by the government 12 students joined that school. Out of that 12 students, 7 students were from private schools. In Sonahalli, HD Kote Taluk government school admission increased from 15 to 150. Out of 150 children 135 children from the private school.

Reasons for shifting from private schools to government schools

1. The first reason is the financial burden on parents.
2. Due to COVID 19, many parents lost their jobs.

¹ Vijayavaani (Kannada Newspaper), 11th October 2020, Sunday, 1st Page.

² Vijayavaani (Kannada Newspaper), 10th October 2020, Saturday, 1st Page.

³ <https://starofmysore.com/state-government-launches-vidyagama-scheme-for-school-students/>



3. Many parents incurred losses in their businesses.
4. Due to unemployment and loss in business, many families returned to natives (Villages).
5. Due to the unavailability of android mobile with the parents.
6. Due to inaccessible to the internet in villages.
7. The one more main reason in the government school teachers are teaching to the students at their doorstep.

Table No.1
Admission Shifted from Private Schools to Government Schools' Statistics
are as follows: (Approximate)

Districts	Number of Students shifted from Private Schools to Governments Schools
Shivamogga	1200
Chikkamangalore	1431
Dakshina Kannada	2160
Udapi	1028
Belagavi	3889
Davanagere	4-5 thousand
Rayachuru	1000
Ballari	1591
Koppala	1350
Mysore	150-200
Hasana	3000
Chamarajanagara	590
Mandya	2-4 % increase in admission
Kodagu	50
Vijayapura	4241
Bagalakote	1000
Gadaga	4000
Haaveri	Information not available
Darawada	9903
Ramanagara	10 % increase in admission
Tumakuru	10 % increase in admission
Kolar	5 - 10 % increase in admission
Bengaluru Rural	Information not available
Chikkaballapur	20 % increase in admission

Source: 11th September 2020, Friday, Vijayavaani (Kannada Newspaper), 1st Page.

The Vidyagama Scheme was successfully conducted by the government school teachers but due to coronavirus positive to the few teacher and children on 11th October 2020, the Vidyagama scheme was temporarily stopped by the government.

1.2 NEED OF THE STUDY

Due to Coronavirus, the students are not able to attend the regular classes. The main aim of the vidyagama scheme to engage the students constantly in learning at this pandemic situation and make them learn as much as possible until the regular classes start. Under the vidyagama scheme, Teachers have assembled all the students in one place and make them wear a mask, and maintaining the social distancing. After that, they were taking the classes and clarifying the doubts of the students in this COVID 19 pandemic situation. Since the

introduction of the Vidyagama scheme the admission in government school is also increasing. At this junction, it is very important to study the encounters faced by the school teachers while assembling and taking the classes to the students.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To present the overview of the VIDYAGMA SCHEME during COVID 19.
2. To present the benefits of the VIDYAGMA SCHEME to the students during COVID 19.
3. To present the statistics of the number of students shifted from private schools to government schools due to VIDYAGMA SCHEME during COVID 19.
4. To analyse the encounters faced by teachers under the VIDYAGMA SCHEME during COVID 19.



1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The area selected for the study encounters faced by teachers under the VIDYAGMA SCHEME during COVID 19 is Kolar District only. Kolar district includes 6 taluks like Kolar, Malur, Srinivaspur, Bangarpet, Kolar Gold Field, and Mulabagal. The researcher collected primary data from Government and Aided School teachers only.

1.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Descriptive research is used for this study. The researcher analyses the encounters faced by teachers under the VIDYAGMA SCHEME during COVID 19.

1.6 SOURCES OF DATA

1.6.1 Primary Data

Primary data collected by the researcher through a structured interview schedule and questionnaire from the government and aided school teachers for the study.

1.6.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data collected by the researcher from the websites and newspapers for the study.

1.6.3 Sample Size

The size of the sample consists of 100 teachers from the government and aided school teachers from the Kolar District only.

1.6.4 Method of Sampling

Primary data has collected by using a random sampling method from the government and aided school teachers.

1.7 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The researcher analysed and interpreted the data relating to the encounters faced by teachers of government and aided schools under the VIDYAGMA SCHEME during COVID 19 at Kolar District.

Table No.2
Showing the Gender Classification

Gender	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Male	59	59 %
Female	41	41 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.2 shows that 59% of the respondents are male teachers and 41% of the respondent are female teachers.

Table No.3
Showing the Age of the Teachers

Age of the Teachers	Number of Teachers	Percentage
20-30 Years	03	03 %
31-40 Years	28	28 %
41-50 Years	52	52 %
51-60 Years	17	17 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.3 shows that 52%, 28%, 17%, and 3% of teachers age lie between 41-50 years, 31-40 years, 51-60 years, and 20-30 years respectively.

Table No.4
Showing Whether Teachers Felt Happy to Take Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Whether Teachers Felt Happy to Take Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Yes	97	97 %
No	03	03 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data



Table No.4 shows that 97% of the teachers felt happy to take classes under the vidyagama scheme and only 3% of the teachers didn't feel happy to take classes

under the vidyagama scheme due to afraid of getting coronavirus.

Table No.5

Showing the Parents Reaction When Teachers Approached to Send their Wards to Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Parents Reaction When Teachers Approached to Send their wards to Classes	Number of Parents	Percentage
Feeling Happy	77	77 %
Getting Angry	00	00 %
Afraid to get Corona Virus to their Children	33	33 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.5 shows that 77% of the parents felt happy and 33% of the parents afraid to send their children to

classes under the vidyagama scheme because coronavirus may get their children.

Table No.6

Showing Whether Teachers Faced Problems While Assembling the Students at One Place to Take the Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Problem Faced by Teachers while Assembling the Students	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Yes	91	91 %
No	09	09 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.6 shows that 91% of the teachers faced problems while assembling the students at one place to take classes and only 9% of the teachers didn't

face problems while assembling the students at one place to take classes under the vidyagama scheme.

Table No.7

Showing the People Helped the Teachers to Take the Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

People Helped the Teachers to Take the Classes	Type of People	Percentage
Parents	23	23 %
Local Authority	18	18 %
Senior Citizen	01	01 %
Teachers	22	22 %
Students	36	36 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.7 shows that 36%, 23%, 22%, and 18% of students, parents, teachers, and local authority respectively helped the teacher to take the classes to

the students under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19 pandemic situation.



Table No.8
Showing the Place of Taking Classes to the Children Under the Vidyagama Scheme by Teachers During COVID 19

Place of Taking Classes	Number of Places	Percentage
In School	00	00 %
Under a Tree	28	28 %
At Students House	14	14 %
At Field	04	04 %
Temple	79	79 %
Mosque	04	04 %
Church	01	01 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.8 shows that 79%, 28%,14%, 4%, 4%, and 1% of the teachers were taking the classes to the students under the vidyagama scheme in the temple, under a tree, at student’s house, at the field, in the mosque, and church respectively.

Table No.9
Showing the Availability of Water While Taking the Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Availability of the Water Facility	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Yes	51	51 %
No	49	49 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.9 shows that 51% of the teachers informed that the water facility was there while taking the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19 and 49% of the teachers informed that the water facility was not there while taking the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.

Table No.10
Showing the Availability of Restroom Facility in the Vicinity While Taking the Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Availability of Restroom Facility	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Yes	18	18 %
No	82	82 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.10 shows that 82% of the teachers informed that the restroom facility was not there while taking the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19 and only 18% of the teachers informed that the restroom facility was there while taking the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.

Table No.11
Showing Whether All the Students Were Attending the Classes Regularly Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Whether Students Were Attending the Classes Regularly	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Yes	68	68 %
No	32	32 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data



Table No.11 shows that 68% of the teachers informed that all the students were attending the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID

19 and only 32% of the teachers informed that all the students were not attending the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.

Table No.12

Showing the Reasons for Not Attending the Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Reasons for Not Attending the Classes	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Afraid to Get Coronavirus	86	86 %
Going to Work	08	08 %
Due to Illness	06	06 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.12 shows that 86% of the teachers informed that the parents/students were afraid to get coronavirus if they attend the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19. 8% and 6% of the students were not attending the classes under the

vidyagama scheme during COVID 19 because they were going to work and due to illness respectively.

Table No.13

Showing the Precautions Taken by Teachers and Students While Taking and Attending the Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Precautions Taken by Teachers and Students	Number of Respondents		Percentage	
	Teachers	Students	Teachers	Students
Using Mask	00	00	00 %	00 %
Using Sanitizer Regularly	00	00	00 %	00 %
Maintaining Social Distancing	00	00	00 %	00 %
All of the Above	100	100	100 %	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.13 shows that all the teachers and students were using the mask properly, using sanitizer regularly, and maintaining social distancing

while taking and attending the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.

Table No.14

Showing the Which Students Attended the Classes Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Type of Students	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Only Government School Students	60	60 %
Other School Students	40	40 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data

Table No.14 shows 60% of the teachers informed that only government school students were attending the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19 and 40% of the teachers informed that other school students were also attending the

classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.

Table No.15

Showing the Willingness of the Teachers to Take the Classes in Future Also Under the Vidyagama Scheme During COVID 19

Type of Students	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Yes	78	78 %
No	22	22 %
Total	100	100 %

Source: Primary Data



Table No.15 shows 78% of the teachers are willing to take classes in the future also under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19 and 40% of the teachers are not willing to take classes in the future also under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19 because of fear to get coronavirus.

1.8 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. 59% of the respondents are male teachers and 41% of the respondent are female teachers.
2. 97% of the teachers felt happy to take classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.
3. 77% of the parents felt happy to send their children to classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.
4. 91% of the teachers faced problems while assembling the students at one place to take classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.
5. 36% and 23% of the students and parents respectively helped the teacher to take the classes to the students under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19 pandemic situation.
6. 79% of the teachers were taking the classes to the students under the vidyagama scheme in temples.
7. 51% of the teachers informed that the water facility was there while taking the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.
8. 82% of the teachers informed that the restroom facility was not there while taking the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.
9. 68% of the teachers informed that all the students were attending the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.
10. 86% of the teachers informed that the parents/students were afraid to get coronavirus if they attend the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.
11. All the teachers and students were using the mask properly, using sanitizer regularly, and maintaining social distancing while taking and attending the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.
12. 60% of the teachers informed that only government school students were attending the classes under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.
13. 78% of the teachers are willing to take classes in the future also under the vidyagama scheme during COVID 19.

1.9 CONCLUSIONS

The Vidyagama scheme introduced by the Government of Karnataka reached the majority of the students at their door step. Teachers helped the students to learn continuously in this pandemic situation also. Admission in government schools was also increased due to the implementation of the

vidyagama scheme. No doubt it was one of the excellent schemes implemented by the Government for students. But such an excellent scheme temporarily stopped because at Timmapur, Ramdurg Taluk, 25 children and 6 teachers tested and got positive for Novel Coronavirus. So, the people of Timmapur stopped the teachers from entering the village.⁴ At Ramdurg and Belagavi districts also students were tested positive for the coronavirus. People of Ramadurg and Belagavi districts also restricted the teachers to enter the village and blamed the teachers and government also for exposing their children to the coronavirus.⁵ At the end of the study, the researcher concluded that the vidyagama programme should not stop permanently, because it is a scheme for the students to learn continuously.

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