

Guardian Point

Name of the Initiative:

Guardian Point

Impacted School Community:

Ekhlasur Rahman GPS school community, Chittagong, Bangladesh. (Grade 3)

Challenges/Contexts:

Starting the year in a global pandemic, I was thinking of different ideas to reach the students unconnected through the internet. Two of the mothers or guardians agreed to share their internet access with nearby students to send the weekly lessons. Successfully started sharing the internet, I started to communicate with other guardians to make the importance of collective learning and internet sharing. Gradually, a total of eight guardians, specially mothers, agreed to share their internet connection with nearby unconnected students. It has helped to connect about 35 unconnected and underprivileged guardians where only about 15 had consistent access to internet connectivity among 84 students at the beginning of the year 2020.

Working Model:

Selected eight mothers are marked as 'Guardian Point' who voluntarily take the ownership to make their smartphones available on any of a weekday for other nearby unconnected students. Guardians are selected based on their interest, availability of time and smartphone and covering at least two more students from my classroom nearby. Students or parents not having internet access come to the 'Guardian Point' and send the lesson photos. The students can get lesson-related updates, extra-lesson updates and urgent communications. The guardians take the ownership to communicate any communications from their own feeling of community collectivity.

Teacher ⇌ Guardian Point ⇌ Students

Initiative Nature:

Individual

Starting and Ending:

August 2020- Present

Impacts:

The initiative has created several level impacts in the school community, the classroom and the region.

- Where only about 15 had consistent access to internet connectivity among 84 students at the beginning of the year 2020, this initiative has helped to connect more 35+ unconnected and underprivileged guardians.
- The initiative has exchanged about 40 week's lessons and other updates so far (Till June 2021).
- This step has helped to plan, arrange and execute the capstone project named "Sather Sather Kothe or A Talk with Your Hygiene from September 24, 2020 to November 12, 2020. With the help of the Guardian Points, I successfully completed three phases of the project i.e. educate and motivate, activate and advocate phases.
 - See the details of the project here: [Link](#)
 - See the photos and videos of the project here: [Link](#)
- The eight mothers helped to list down, distribute and communicate while providing different food items, basic necessities, learning materials, wellbeing materials, menstrual tools etc. during the pandemic.
- The guardians helped me to plan and execute the project 'Rongin Ghuri: Project 1.O', a emergency response project with my school Co-Fellows during pandemic, in my school community which ensured to provide basic necessities, learning materials, wellbeing materials, menstrual tools etc. to at least 80 students and their families from my classroom.
 - Click the [Link](#) to know about the project proposal.
 - Click the [Link](#) to visit the Photo Gallery.
- It has opened the door for other long-term community-based plans and programs.
- The initiative is currently helping to connect the students via Google Meet in regular weekly classes by keeping the unconnected students informed about it.
- It's also helping to exchange the regular government worksheet provided by the school.
- This initiative is successfully connecting the unconnected students from August 2020 when school and the community was completely under strict lockdown.
- This initiative has already been adopted by two other Fellow teachers in my school and at least two teachers in other schools who are also using the same idea. Indirectly from other classrooms and schools, this idea has empowered many other teachers and guardians in the region of Chittagong, Bangladesh (approximately 120 students and guardians) giving a solution to connect unconnected students through a community link.

Future plan with the Initiative:

The mothers are now super supportive and have a sense of ownership very strongly. Hence, I have to take further steps with the initiative.

- **Establishing Community Web:**

I have plans to develop a community web by November 2021. Community web means a society-based circle to share all the common concerns including all the stakeholders. This step will be led as community leader by the mothers or guardians of the students who are

currently working as 'Guardian Points'. This initiative will cover health and hygiene, education, social business and other aspects socially. The connected stakeholders will regularly meet for "Uthan Boithok (Premise Meeting)" to plan, arrange and execute their steps regularly.

- **Community Library:**

I am working under a project named Book Friend with my Co-Fellows which will help to establish a community library in my school community. This initiative will be looked after by the 'Guardian Points'. This step will help the students and the teachers to exchange books, learning materials and other useful tools using a box named Jadur Baksho or Magic Box.

- **Other Plans:**

Besides the above mentioned two, I have plans to do some more community-based activities with the help of 'Guardian Points'.

Features:

This initiative was also featured in the regular Teach For Bangladesh newsletter and addressed by the CEO of Teach For Bangladesh Maimuna apa. Here is the [link](#) to the feature.

Photo Gallery:

Link is here (some of the glimpses): [Click](#)

Case Study:

‘Rupa has No One’ to ‘Rupa has Guardian Point’

Rupa is a student of grade 3, living at Baraipara, Bahaddarhat, Chittagong. She lives at a densely populated colony there with her family. Her family has five members including her father, mother, a sister and an aunt. Her father is a driver by profession and her mother is a house-help to other's houses. Because of the professions, both the parents are unavailable at home. The only phone, a feature phone, belongs to her father who leaves the home at 6.00 am and returns at 12 am. So Rupa can't get any learning and other support from the teacher. One of the mothers nearby acting as 'Guardian Point' informed the situation to the teacher. So he immediately communicated with Rupa with the help of Baijid's mother, the aforesaid 'Guardian Point'. She voluntarily agreed to extend her help for Rupa to get regular communications and learning support. At present, Rupa is well connected with her teacher and gets regular lessons, updates and other communications with the help of Mrs. Hasina Begum, a mother of a third grader and a proud 'Guardian Point'.

Photo Glimpse:



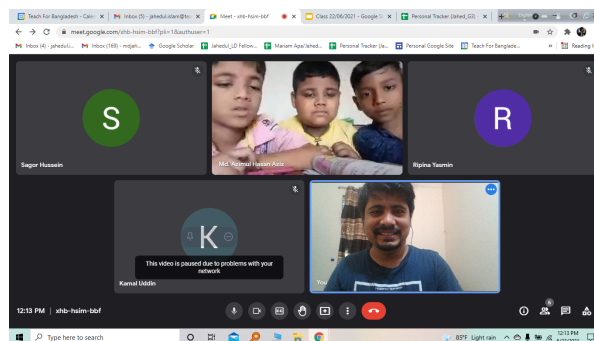
An emergency meeting with the Guardian Point after declaring the second phase lockdown in Bangladesh.



Digital literacy session with the Guardian Point on using Google Meet in April, 2021



Bajjid and Fabiha from Grade 2 (in 2020) are sharing their smartphone for joining the Capstone Evaluation and Celebration Meeting.



Arpan, Joy and Sizan (Grade 3) are sharing one device from Guardian Point to join regular online classes via Google Meet in May 2021.