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**THE GIRL CHILD CARE AT SECONDARY SCHOOLS – A
VALUE ADDITION**



Dear friends, in this article I wish to share some important and significant practice planned and implemented towards the girl child care, which turned to be a vital value addition in our institutions.

When I became the senior principal cum administrator of CBSE\MATRIC schools of our educational society at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, I observed some intrinsic value based problems in the co educational schools. In the initial years my concentration was building a dedicated and resourceful team of teachers with total commitment towards academic excellence and result

oriented coaching. At that time CCE pattern was introduced and so lots of rubrics and follow ups as well as concentration on enrolment enhancement was my priority. There was tough competition in the city due to some popular schools in the region.

After two years, our management encouraged me to do lots of innovative practices with the involvement of parents and teachers. So we formed some technical advisory committee in the schools itself with some selected senior teachers and proactive parents. In those meetings we discussed matters other than academics also to make our school, more children friendly with values. In one such meetins, I asked the parents and teachers stage by stage [primary , secondary and sr.secondary] regarding the constraints , difficulties as well as the infrastructural additions to be considered for worthy ambiance which will be beneficial to all stakeholders.

Some women parents told after initial hesitation about some hurdles faced by girl children during school hours. The observation is that the children are not drinking water during day time in the school and are uncomfortable in using toilets in the school. There was curious interest from all assembled to go in detail about this. Again another parent said a very peculiar case about the initial mensuration difficulties of girl children in secondary classes. That being the reason

for more absence during working days. We started exploring the possibilities exhaustively and arrived at the following conclusions.

1. To provide additional toilets for girls adjacent to lady staff toilets at the end of the waranda in each floor in all blocks.
2. Since one hour period was in practice the last ten minutes, the girls can get permission from the teachers for using that on emergency.
3. If I remember correct it was Mrs.Poorna and Mrs Suganthi senior teachers handling secondary classes said we can plan counseling sessions for girl children on each Saturday afternoon for providing doubt clarification regarding.
4. They also suggested the provision of inscriminators [electrical machines for burning used napkins] and separate containers for fresh usable napkins inside toilets itself so that girls can use without inhibition and shyness. Aayaas could help the needy.
{immediately all the members present stood and clapped for the constructive suggestion and expressed appreciation}
5. It was decided to invite lady doctors to visit the school once in two months to clarify the doubts regarding dos and donts exclusively for girl children

and interested parents. The need for drinking more water as well as hygiene related issues to them.

We apprised the management regarding this and they immediately provided all the infrastructural alterations and amenities required within a months time. We convened a special parents teacher meeting and all the management committee members were also present. All visited and had seen the facilities provided and expressed satisfaction and gratitude to management for this .

As a follow up measure we observed in the following months the attitudinal change among the girl children especially in the secondary school level and above with very happy note of their satisfaction. Class teachers said the children are drinking more water and consuming food without any compulsion. Parents also expressed happiness regarding this behavioural change. The staff in charge for providing napkins said some parents offered voluntarily fresh napkins as donation. The scavengers expressed their concern that toilet washbasins are neat and tidy now without any through outs.

During annual day celebrations some parents volunteered and shared their joy openly in the mike about this wonderful changes in schooling. All present gave standing ovation and this spread in the

town and we had enormous admissions in the following year onwards. Once again it proves a transparent and constructive involvement of parents, teachers and management could make wonders. This I deem a good value addition in building institutions.