



# CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

## 'MY SCHOOL FROM MY PERSPECTIVE'

The holistic progress of students is the main goal of education, for which inculcation of duties and responsibilities along with democratic values is of paramount importance. In addition, if the students understand the significance of unity and harmony at a young age, all through their lives they will develop an affinity for teamwork and community participation instead of egoistic self-interests. Also, if they perform in tandem and cooperation with their fellow students, they will find an expression to their innermost thoughts. They will develop leadership qualities. Formation of children's parliaments in schools will lead to these children becoming responsible citizens. Even for the promotion of individual skills and proficiency, the Children's Parliaments can play a significant role in fostering an atmosphere of healthy competition.

### NAMES OF INNOVATOR TEACHERS

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### FOCUS AREAS

1. School Management
2. Community Participation

**APPLICABILITY:** This innovation can be implemented in all schools.



## SUMMARY

Children's parliament plays a key role in the development of management ability and leadership qualities of students. In case of shortage of teachers, it can even help in academic and co-curricular operations of the school and issues such as discipline, quality of education, health and hygiene in school, etc. can also be solved. By joining various committees established as part of the parliament, students start finding solutions to problems affecting the schools and their lives by themselves. As a result of Children's Parliament, a very well-organised functioning of the schools has become possible.

**Implementation:** It can be utilised to find solutions to the problems 'of the students, by the students'.

**Children's parliament can be put into operation through the following points:**

**Pre - planning:** Through the nomination procedure, students desirous to participate can get themselves nominated. After this process, all the students, teachers, people from school administration departments, parents can assemble together and select the members of the student parliaments through one of the following procedures:

1. On the basis of election process;
2. On the basis of students' interests and abilities, the teachers can use self-discretion; and
3. Through the medium of competitive examinations .

**Formation process:** The following office bearers can be selected for the student parliaments:

- Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister;
- Speaker and Deputy Speaker
- Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Members of Committees of Associated Ministries;
- According to the requirements, some teachers can

be selected to provide guidance to various committees;

- The number of committees can be decided based on the organisation of the school, number of students, and on the number and kinds of problems faced by the students;
- Through this innovative practice, attempts can be made to develop and promote the interests, skills, and talents of the students;
- Parents and guardians can play an important role in the formation of a children's parliaments. Therefore, in every committee, a post can be created for a parent too.

After the foundation of children's parliament, an oath-taking ceremony can be organised, wherein all the committee ministers and office bearers can be honoured with badges of their designations.

**Oath:** Taking an oath is a part of our democratic practices. Thus, it is important to make the children parliamentarians aware of their responsibilities by administering them an oath. An example of an oath is given as follows:

*As a Member of the Children's Parliament we take this oath, to perform our work with utmost honesty and sincerity and without any discrimination. We will always strive to make our school and community become better educated, beautiful and clean.*

**Types of committees:** As a part of the Children's Parliament, the following committees can be set up:

**Committee on Home Affairs:** This Committee will coordinate the work of all the committees and the maintenance of discipline in the schools will also be the responsibility of this Group. With the help of the teachers, the members after close observation can dispel the problems of the school.





**Committee on Education:** This Committee will make efforts to help improve the quality of education in the school and assist in correctional academic endeavours, wherever required. Running student newspapers, decorating the bulletin boards, creating and maintaining information boards, and facilitate understandable and interesting teaching will be the responsibility of this Group.

**Committee on Health and Hygiene:** This Committee will work on personal hygiene of the students, cleanliness and beautification of the school, and environmental protection. Checking nails and uniforms of the students during the assembly, and ensuring cleanliness and hygiene of the school canteen will be the responsibility of this Committee.

**Committee on Sports :** This Committee will support sport, gymnasium, and yoga and conduct various sports competitions in the school. And it will help in making activities like scouts and guides easy and smooth. It will also be responsible for looking after the maintenance of sports goods.

**Committee on Culture and Art:** This Committee will organise and manage the morning assemblies, students birthdays, various festivals and cultural events such as rangoli, fancy dress competition, debate, calligraphy competition, dance and music, mehendi competition, poster-making, and singing activities.

**Committee on Mid-day Meal:** This Committee will take care of the cleanliness and seating arrangement for meals. It will also guide the children to wash their hands with soap and recite food mantra or prayer

before meals. Preparation of Mid-Day Meal and growing green vegetables as part of the meals will also be the job of this Committee. The Committee will assist in preparing food according to the quantity and standard menu of mid-day meals.

**Committee on Guardians Group:** This Committee will assist parents and the guardians in contact with the residents to ensure social awareness and participation. This Committee will create a consulting group of parents for their active participation in Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and School Management Committee (SMC). A group meeting will also be held from time-to-time. This Committee will organise training period workshops according to the special expertise and efficiency of the parents so that the next generation can benefit from these lessons. Parents will also get an ideal platform to showcase their art.

**Committee on the Library:** This Committee is formed to streamline books in the library. It will also take care of allocating books in the library and ensure their timely return. Cooperating in writing and publishing children's newspaper, children's journals, etc. will also be the responsibility of this Committee.

**Committee on Alumni Students:** Members of this Committee get their own and other previous year students' books collected for the students studying in the school and also get involved in school activities. From time-to-time these alumni attend the school and guide students currently studying there, share their experiences, and motivate them to move forward in future.

**Time Limit:** Children's Parliament can be implemented within a week.

**Meeting of Children's Parliament:** The meeting of the Children's Parliament is held on the weekly or monthly basis and presided over by the President of the Parliament in which the Prime Minister shares the stage, with teachers and guests as representative of the students. These meetings are also necessary to review problems of the work done weekly and monthly and to plan further.

**Description:** Issues faced by the students are observed in the meetings by which they listen to each other's problems and try to motivate them by brainstorming ideas.

## BENEFITS

### (A) Benefits to school

1. Streamlined school management;
2. Improvement in student's attendance and enrollment;
3. Disciplined environment,
4. Optimum use of available resources;
5. Implementation of educational and co-educational activities in a systematic manner as advised by state education department;
6. Better remedial teaching; and
7. The contribution of students in school management.

### (B) Benefits to students

1. Increase in confidence;
2. Development of leadership skills;
3. Improved expression and communication;
4. Hands-on knowledge of democratic values;
5. Awareness of human values in students, staff, and community;
6. Development of topic-based skills; and
7. Environment for healthy competition;

### (C) Benefits to the community

1. Awareness of voluntary contribution, health, and environment in the community and the students;
2. Society and guardians' participation possible in school activities;
3. Knowledge beyond the limited environment and awareness of available opportunities;
4. Exploration of opportunities for livelihood through limited resources;
5. Solidarity against social evils; and
6. Encouragement towards environment protection.

## EXAMPLES

### 1. Mid-day Meal (MDM) Plantation

During the distribution of Mid-day meals (MDM), some students only ate selected vegetables and did not like green vegetables such as spinach and mustard. To solve this problem, the MDM Committee encouraged the students to grow green vegetables. As a result, they started loving and

eating vegetables grown by them.

### 2. Creation of Permit Letter

Often, two or more students go out of the classroom at the same time due to which they miss what is being taught in the class. To solve this problem, a Permit Letter (hall-pass) was created, which is made available to only one student at a time. The Permit Letter also makes it mandatory to enter the class within a specified time.

### 3. Birthday Tree Plantation

It is important for students to understand the importance of trees and environment conservation. To inculcate the love for trees, they plant trees on their birthday and are in charge of protecting those trees. With the introduction of this tradition to celebrate birthdays with trees, the students' attachment to the trees increases and it also helps in developing human values.



### 4. Reference Group

Members of this Committee create awareness among the villagers of various types of problems from time-to-time, such as Government's upliftment programmes, explaining appropriate measures to avoid diseases such as dengue, malaria.

**Note:** After the formation of the Children's Parliament, all the meetings can be recorded and reviewed using a Children's Parliament Register. Work allocation charts can be displayed in the class; Students may also be encouraged to make charts showing the functions of the parliament. ■