

### **HDFC Bank Himachal Pradesh 3T Teachers' Ideas**

Zero-Investment Innovation for Education Initiatives (ZII EI), an initiative of Sri Aurobindo Society started in 2015. Teachers across 22 states have contributed in devising Innovative Ideas to improve education quality at Zero Investment. These ideas or Innovations are then replicated in lakhs of schools across India.

The Innovations Handbook from the State of Himachal Pradesh is a compilation of such innovative ideas for providing quality education. The 7 best innovations or best practices contributed by 34 teachers from different schools in Himachal Pradesh are summarized below:

**1. Moral Values:** The larger aim of education is to impart moral values to the students. Through various activities, students are taught significance of human virtues like empathy, kindness, and righteousness. Through 'Moral Stories,' they are taught the importance of character building, and applying moral principles in daily life. A 'Lost and Found Box' is set up where students can drop unclaimed items mentioning their names. Through this activity, they are awarded for their honesty. The activity, 'Discipline through Responsibility' entails making a naughty student responsible for maintaining discipline, thus ensuring he's more accountable for his actions. Students also maintain a diary of good and bad incidents and learn from their experiences.

**2. New Age Learning Techniques:** Teachers have to regularly innovate techniques to make learning interesting and keep the children engaged. Recognition and appreciation leads to more engagement and interest in class activities. 'Intellectual of The Week', identifies the brightest student among the class on the basis of a weekly quiz. In another activity called 'Question Bank,' students themselves prepare questions for the quiz. A 'Bag Free Day' is held once a week for revision. 'Learning through Drama', enables students to understand concepts of social science much better. The other activities include 'Student as Teachers' on rotational basis and learning complex topics through fun filled activities in the playground.

**3. Learning through Games:** A natural tendency among children is to learn through activities and games. It is this aspect which is applied to subjects like Mathematics and Science which students may otherwise find difficult to grasp. The activities include learning about circles, mathematical formulas and the concept of buying and selling which includes, profit and loss. 'Commando Parade' is another interesting activity through which concepts of mathematics are explained in a fun manner.

**4. Community Participation:** It involves participation of society in the education process. Parent's interest in their child's education is also enhanced. Under 'Group Participation' various student groups are created with a leader who encourages his group to attend school regularly. Parents and community members also keep a check on students who bunk school. 'Better late than never' is an initiative to prevent students from remote areas or for other reasons from dropping out of school. A relaxation in time is provided to such students to reach school. Teachers also hold continuous interaction with parents to discuss school and children related problems and try to address them collectively.

**5. Girl Child Education, Health and Safety:** Undoubtedly, a girl child's education is the key to her good health and safety. To achieve this goal, parents and community members' participation is of utmost importance. Parents are made aware about the importance of education for children and especially girl child. Under this innovation, parents and community members create a conducive environment for the well-being and safety of the girl child. 'Kishori Manch' is a platform through which girl students using plays, drama and songs create awareness about education, health and safety in school and community. Doctors and nurses are invited to the school to educate adolescents about natural body changes and menstrual hygiene. To address the issue of absenteeism and to encourage regular attendance, sincere girl students are given the title of 'Son Pari'.

**6. Maintenance of School Resources:** Students and teachers must take upon themselves, the maintenance and upkeep of school resources. With proper care and responsibility, durability of items like books and furniture can be increased. Educative children literature books are sorted from among curriculum books and are made available to students in the library. The unutilized mid-day meal food is also recycled by processing the unused rice into chips and wafers to be enjoyed by the students.

**7. Divine Language Sanskrit and Yoga:** Sanskrit is one of the world's ancient languages. Many Indian languages find their origin in Sanskrit. The ancient Indian education system was based on Sanskrit. However, the language is losing its popularity in India. Yoga also has its roots in India. It is through Yoga that we can achieve both mental and physical well-being. This innovation allows students to focus their attention on studies and remain healthy. Various Yoga poses are practiced in the prayer assembly through which they channelize their energies. As Sanskrit is a difficult language, its teaching is simplified using popular songs to memorize it. Stress is also laid on correct pronunciation of words and vocabulary building.