

Review Article

Review of the Article - Importance of School Management Committee in Managing Schools

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It is the fact that the Government of Indian and the Education Boards of our country controlling the elementary education have made the provision of having the school management committee compulsory. The idea behind this is that the schools should have the involvement of their stake holders in decision making process in order to have 'the best of the best of all of them. Therefore, the author's emphasis of having effective school management is quite well founded.

I go with the author that the complete responsibility of running a school should rest on a dynamic leader, its Principal, supported by a School Management Committee. There is a need to adapt right strategies and strike a balance between the expectations and aspirations of the stakeholders and the services to be provided by the school. The Principal should make it happen. It is the principal who should chalk out strategies and get them ratified in the School Management Committee and run the school.

I agree with the author that the SMC should meet at least 3 times in an academic year. The first meeting in the beginning of the academic year is to discuss on priorities of the institution. It involves setting of annual targets and working out on the arrangement of resources. The second meeting which is held sometime in the middle of the academic year is to review the suitability of strategies adopted to achieve the goal. The third meeting, as suggested by the author, should be at the later part of academic session for review of the complete achievement and find out any lapse in accomplishment of the task. It goes without saying that in every meeting some alteration may be considered in strategies to ensure achievement of goals. The spirit of the SMC system should be that the all major decisions and of the school emerge from the floor of SMC Meeting.

The objective of a school is to prepare the students instilling in them the all necessary qualities which would lead them towards making them good citizens of a country besides their achievement in academics. Further, the school should aim at imbibing patriotism among the students in their tender age itself so as to channelize the younger generations to move in the right direction in future. The author brought in his discussion various factors to provide a complete understanding about the elementary education of our country in the

present time. He brought in the matters such as state of elementary education, private schools in India, affiliating bodies of schools, leadership in private schools and he has dealt with well on all of them within the purview of this article.

About the private school management the author talked about two types of human components namely the owner's component responsible for creation of school with their vision and the functionary component consisting of principal and the school staff. It is desirable that both components make concerted efforts together to achieve the cherished goal of the school. For that the SMC plays a very vital role. As it is brought out, the composition of SMC should be of about 11 members who should have representation of the Trust as well as the other stake holders, chairman of the trust or society or his nominee being the chairperson of the SMC. In this committee the principal should be given the important position as the Secretary of the committee.

Ideally, the principal of a school is responsible for all activities in the school and hence he should be given authority to go with the responsibility. I agree with the author's point of view that the frequent changes of principal, changing the decisions often by SMC, will definitely derail the growth of the school. At the same breath I would say that the Principal should possess adequate leadership qualities so that can take the institution forward. As a saying goes, "An army of a thousand sheep led by a lion is more powerful than the army of thousand lions led by a sheep".

Though the article is quite comprehensive but still the following should have been incorporated in the article: -

- The functions of SMC, its merits and demerits of functioning, its effects on school and its staff, difficulties while implementing the decisions taken by SMC could have been elaborately discussed.
- Management principles dealt with in the article are mostly business institution oriented but the schools should take only the relevant and limited principles which can be adopted and applied to the schools.
- Certain topics could have been minimised and stress on SMC's should have been given more importance as the article is on the importance of SMC.

I strongly believe that the reading of this article would be of immense value for the people who are associated with the management of the schools. Let the schools of our country improve in their quality and let our young generations have improved performance for better progress of the country