

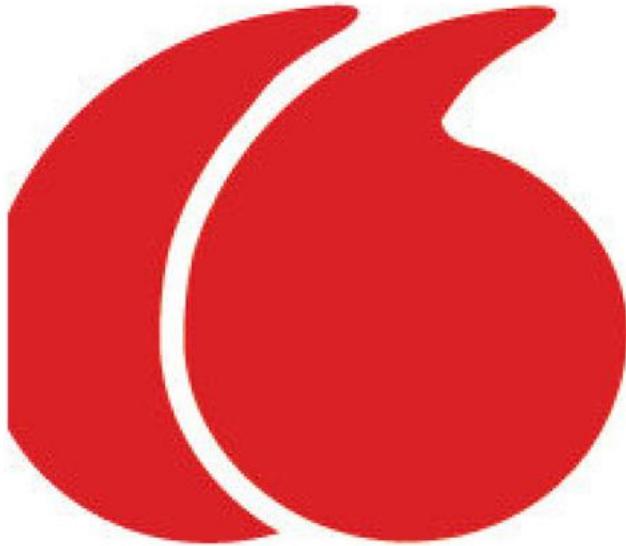
Heavy demand for seats forces govt. school to put 'admissions closed' board

- [S. Bhuvaneshwari](#)



This Government Higher Primary School in Kallambella in Sira taluk of Tumakuru district introduced classes in spoken English, yoga, music, drawing and computer last year.





Demand surged due to free classes in computer education, spoken English

Government schools across Karnataka might be struggling to retain students, but in a heartening story, one school has had to put up an 'admissions closed' board because of the high demand for seats.

For the government higher primary school in Kallambella in Sira taluk of Tumakuru district, the tide turned last year when it offered classes in computer education, spoken English, drawing and music to students from Class 1 to Class 7.

The transformation

The new classes are attributed to the collective efforts of the headmaster, teachers, the school development committee and officials concerned. To take the initiative forward, the committee has formed set up a trust, comprising mostly of parents, supportive locals and a few donors. The trust has been helping the school get extra teachers and additional infrastructure.

The initiative has been strengthened by a US-returned couple – Rajgopal Gubbi and Prabha Rajgopal – who developed a software to help teach English and mathematics for students of Class 6 and 7. Plus, they run the Suvidya Foundation, which has gifted 10 tabs to the school. Volunteers from the foundation are helping out on a day-on-day basis in the school.

The school has 12 teachers out of which seven were appointed by the government. The rest were appointed and are paid by the trust.

The change in numbers

Last year, the total strength of the school from Class 1 Class 7 was 157, but this year it is 280. Of this, LKG and UKG account for 173 students. English is being taught right from LKG, which is attracting many students including from some private schools nearby.

Head Master Anil Kumar told *The Hindu* , "Though we do not have any more seats left, 10 to 12 parents approach us every day asking for seats." He has been publicising the activities of the school by distributing pamphlets in nearby villages. He has assured parents of providing quality education and also help in overall development of the child.

Jayaram, a parent from Kallambella, told *The Hindu* , "My son was enrolled in a private school, but I have admitted him here because spoken English, apart from smart classes and computer, are taught for free." Earlier, he had to pay thousands of rupees as donation to private schools, he added.

The transformation has prompted Block Education Officer Rajkumar to consider making it a model school in the State. "We will admit all the students seeking admission and provide necessary infrastructure with the help of a trust formed by the School Development Committee." Enthused by this example, a government school in Sigalahalli is planning to form a trust to develop the institution on similar lines.

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– Anil Kumar, Head Master,

Government Higher Primary School, Kallambella
