



## “Masti Ki Paathshaala” Mr. Rakesh Patel

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### **Innovation Brief**

Mr Rakesh Patel has applied an innovative methodology of teaching and learning through practical approach while empowering children with all rights equal to those given to a teacher. In his “Masti ki Paathshala”, children take important decisions and are allowed to shape their own future. The school also publishes a monthly magazine “Bioscope” that is read by around 2250 people across 35 countries.

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**Age:** 38 years

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**Innovation Details:** Mr Patel had joined the NavaNadisar Primary School, Godhra in 1998. He decided to do something innovative with the school’s activities. He wanted to ensure that education does not remain only in the books but create the atmosphere in the school that connects knowledge with children’s life. Mr Patel started changing the way the school operates by applying the ideology that “Subject are created for the children, children are not made for subjects.”

Some of the innovative modifications to apply this ideology in the school’s functioning and teaching are:

- Two kids are chosen from each class who decide the kind and type of activity to be conducted

- Children’s opinions matter even in the construction of school building.
- There is no table or chair for the teacher in the “Masti ki Paathshaala”. The teacher sits on the floor alongwith the children when he/she is in the classroom. Also the students have the free will to sit wherever they want to.
- Children are given the freedom to such an extent that they are free to ask the teacher why he is late to school.
- Experts from the village such as carpenter, barber, blacksmith, farmer etc are invited to the school to explain their work as part of the school’s morning assembly. They also indulge in activities like recognizing the food grain and creating drawings using leaves.
- Children also visit the elders of the village to know about the history of the village. They visit various places to learn about its history and functions.
- The school has conducted an activity named “*Nagarik Ghadatar*” that helps the children to reflect over the democracy and their rights and roles.
- A bag library is created where the leader of a certain street carries the books of children from his street.

- A portfolio of the each student is created to maintain a file of all the knowledge the child has acquired.



Apart from changing the school's teaching and learning methodology, Mr Patel and his team have used technological innovations to spread awareness of his new approach by creating the school's blog <http://nvndsr.blogspot.com>. It is the first of its kind that discusses the pedagogy, activities and learning patterns of children from 2008. They also publish a monthly E-magazine "Bioscope" since 2010. Using Youtube they also broadcast small videos that can be helpful to teachers as well as students.

The magazine Bioscope has been accepted by around 2250 people across 35 countries. It reflects the schools achievements and helps the school to improve and change according to the responses.

Through Bioscope the school shares its successful and even the not so successful experiments undertaken so that it can help other schools and teachers to replicate them or improve on the experiments and apply it in their own schools.



Apart from this, 38 year old Mr Patel has contributed for textbooks in English, has been Member of State Monitoring and Planning Committee and Member of State Committee for Educational training. He has also been awarded as an innovative teacher by IIMA, Ahmedabad and GCERT in 2014.