**Subject: Effective Use of School Closure**

Dear School Heads and Teachers

As a preventive measure to curb the spread of COVID-19, the Government of India declared 21-day lockdown from 25 March 2020. The respective state governments and the Kashag have provided timely guidelines to stay safe and healthy at home. Since most of the schools are closed till the end of April 2020, teachers may utilize this period for professional development and make the best possible use of technology to support student learning at home.

Following are some suggested activities which teachers can undertake individually or with their colleagues and students:

1. **Professional development activities:** As a part of professional development activities, teachers may
	1. Read books, articles, journals, etc. on education and pedagogy, and share their learning through social groups online
	2. Do Reflective writing based on teaching experiences, reading books, etc.
	3. Prepare professional growth plans and reflect upon the past plans
	4. Use ELearning Platforms
	5. Write blogs on best practices and teaching experiences
	6. Watch videos, documentaries on YouTube, Khan Academy, etc.
	7. Join online group of teachers to learn and share best practices
	8. Prepare lesson plans and question banks based on learning outcomes
	9. Design activities to enhance Higher Order Thinking Skills and 21st century skills
2. **Supporting student learning:**
	1. Class teachers may form WhatsApp or Facebook groups with subject teachers and students of the concerned classes.
	2. Subject teachers may record audios and videos on different topics and share them with their students on WhatsApp group/Facebook/YouTube.
	3. Teachers should verify the subject contents which are readily available online and then share with their students.
	4. Projects and assignments (worksheets, exercises, etc.) which could be easily completed by students on their own or under the guidance of parents, may be given to the students.
	5. Language teachers may ask the students to read story books, and write stories, poems, songs, etc.
3. **Use of ELearning platform:**
4. **BODYIGLOBJONG**

This web portal is developed and designed by the Department of Education, CTA. It has practice exercise to learn Tibetan language. The video teachings of Science, Math and Tibetan for primary level are also available on the portal to be used by the teachers and students. It also has huge collection of storybooks for primary children.

<https://bodyiglobjong.com/>

1. **VIKASPEDIA**

This portal has been developed as part of the national level initiative - India Development Gateway (InDG), an initiative by [Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)](http://www.meity.gov.in/), Government of India. It has six main areas of study: Agriculture, Health, **Education**, Social Welfare, Energy and e-Governance. Teachers and students can log on to the following links which provides information and knowledge in the domain of social development.

* 1. <http://vikaspedia.in/education/teachers-corner>
	2. <http://vikaspedia.in/education/childrens-corner>
1. **DIKSHA**

It offers teachers, students and parents engaging learning material relevant to the prescribed school curriculum. The app can be downloaded from IOS and Google Play store.

<https://diksha.gov.in/>

1. **EPATHSHALA**

This web portal and mobile app is designed and developed by NCERT. It has audios, videos, e-books and flip books which can be used by both teachers and students.

<http://epathshala.nic.in/>

1. **NISHTHA**

It is an integrated teacher training portal and mobile app. Teachers and educators can access all course modules, videos, audios, text, PPTs and other materials free online anytime, anywhere.

<https://itpd.ncert.gov.in/>

1. **NATIONAL RESPOSITORY OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (NROER)**

Teachers can use this portal to upgrade their knowledge and skills as a part of their teacher professional development. The portal is equipped with best quality informational content on diverse topics including thousands of documents, audio, images and videos.

<https://nroer.gov.in/home/repository>

1. **KHAN ACADEMY**

Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. Students of all grades can learn math, science, computer programming, history, art history, economics, and more.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

1. **VOOKS**

Get a Free Year of animated storybooks to make classroom teaching interesting. It is free for the first year and has animated illustrations, read-a-long text and narrated story. It encourages reading habit among the students and English language teachers can explore this website so that they can use it when classes start in the school.

[www.vooks.com/teacher-appreciation](http://www.vooks.com/teacher-appreciation)

1. **ARCHIVE**

During this unprecedented time in history, access to printed books is becoming difficult and impossible. The internet archive is offering free access to over 1.4 million books absolutely free till June 30th. One can borrow up to 10 books on various subjects.

[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

1. **TEACHER APP**

The teacher app is a free website in Hindi that creates digital learning experience for teachers in India and provides access to a lot of audio visual aids that are interactive and constructive. It breaks the barriers between teachers and quality professional development content free of cost. It also deals with HOTS and pedagogy in general. It has a lot of downloadable content.

[www.theteacherapp.org](http://www.theteacherapp.org)

We cannot predict how long the present situation will extend. Hence, we request all our teachers to make the best possible use of this time with the help of technology and share your learning with colleagues, students and fellow educationist worldwide.

Stay home and stay safe.

Best wishes.

Date: April 7, 2020 Department of Education, CTA