

## **APPENDIX VI**

### **LETTER TO EXPERTS TO FINALISE SAMPLE**

Dear Sir/Madam

Greetings!

I am pursuing doctoral study under the guidance of Professor N. Pradhan, Head, Department of Educational Administration, Faculty of Education and Psychology, The M.S. University of Baroda. The Title of my study is "Concept, Nurture and Influence of Academic Culture in School".

The objectives of the study are:

1. To evolve the concept of Academic Culture
2. To find out the process of nurturing Academic Culture in school
3. To study the influence of Academic Culture on school

As per the first objective, I have developed the concept of Academic Culture. It has four constructs: freedom, respect, equality and a sense of responsibility. These four constructs have been delineated in the context of three stakeholders: Learner, teacher and principal. The delineations are rooted in empirical reality of a secondary school.

For objective number two and three, sample needs to be identified.

It is assumed that a rich/ good academic culture would lead to quality in schools. Thereby schools which already have rich/ good quality are likely to pose a rich/ good academic culture. The concept of quality in education, leads to varied understanding and interpretations. Notwithstanding this constraint, an attempt has been made to identify quality schools in Baroda city. A baseline of twenty six schools has been developed on the following bases:

1. The award winning schools for the year 2007-2008 identified by the Gujarat Secondary Education Board, Gandhinagar in Collaboration with the Office of the District Education Officer, Vadodara.

The process for this involved a self evaluation report to be submitted by Individual school based on the school matrix provided and a third party evaluation. The parameters were activities conducted in 2006-07; human resource; management and financial resources; and infrastructure facilities at school.

The purpose of this exercise was to improve quality in schools. This survey was restricted to only grant-in-aid schools of Vadodara District.

Ten schools were listed as the effective school.

2. The schools from Vadodara which were identified as the most respected schools by the national survey commissioned by Education world magazine and conducted by the Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) in 2007.

Two hundred and fifty schools were surveyed across the country. The survey had a sample of nine hundred and eight respondents whose average monthly household income was Rupees sixteen thousand two hundred and fifty five. It spread across fifteen cities of India. The parameters for the survey were:

Academic reputation,

Co-curricular activities,

Sports education,

Quality of teachers,

Teacher-pupils ratio,

Value for money,

Leadership/ management quality,

Parental involvement,

Infrastructure,

Quality of alumni,

Reputation for integrity and

Selectivity of admission.

Three schools from Vadodara featured in the list of top ranking schools in the Western Zone.

3. The effective schools identified by two District Education Officers (former and present)

Both are closely associated with schools. They also have exposure to various types of schools across the state during their tenure in different districts. They thus possess a perspective to identify effective schools of Vadodara. The researcher presented them six criteria for the selection:

Opportunities for overall development of students

Infrastructure facilities

Leadership quality

Achievement of students in class X and class XII

Public perception of school/ reputation in society

Quality of teachers

On compilation of both the lists, twenty eight schools were listed

All the above lists were compiled as one common list. Owing to repetition of names of some schools, the final list comprised twenty six schools.

Profiles of the quality schools of Baroda city, thus identified, have been developed. Aspects of the profile include vision, mission and objectives of schools, the infrastructure facilities and financial soundness, admission policy, fee structure, result of Board examination at Standard X and Standard XII, teacher Qualification and development and I need to identify twelve best schools from the profiles of the schools presented. The list of schools is enclosed with this letter.

In view of your vast experience and insight in the field of education, I humbly request you to rank the schools in terms of quality on a five point scale. The schools are listed alphabetically and do not convey any order of merit.

If you feel that any of the school/s does not qualify to be identified as a quality school, then please indicate so.

This is only an academic exercise to identify sample for my research. This information will not be used for any award /recognition for schools. It will be kept confidential and will not be informed even to the respective schools.

With humble regards

Yours sincerely

Vandana Talegaonkar