# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF TEACHERS RESEARCH PROJECT, 2018-19 



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# Magic Slate: An Innovative Strategy for Enhancing Writing Skills among Upper Primary School Students 

English language has been commonly accepted as an active global language. People who learn and master the English language consider it as their personal proficiency. Therefore, nowadays many people, particularly students, wish to master English language. Mastering English Language is really significant in this era of globalization. By mastering the language, the students can improve themselves both in academic and life skills. English is the language widely used as a means of communication all over the world. So it is important for people to learn it. English is taught as a second language in Kerala. By learning English, the students become equipped to keep abreast with the developments in all fields. The teaching of English is focused on enabling the learners to acquire the four language skills, namely: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Writing is the most important and difficult of the four language skills. The writer must be able to organize the ideas, to construct sentences, to use punctuation and proper spelling . English is a language taught in Kerala and the Government has taken several efforts for increasing its proficiency in learners. Still, there is certain scope left for enhancing the writing skill of the students. It is in this context that the researchers decided to make innovative interventions through Magic Slate to improve the writing skill of the students.

## Objectives

1. To identify the difficulties faced by the Upper Primary students in writing English
2. To enhance the writing skill in English of Upper Primary students in English through an appropriate strategy
3. To build up the students' confidence in writing English

## Methodology

## Method

For the present study, experimental method was adopted.

## Sample

The sample consisted of 87 seventh standard students, 63 from upper primary school, Thanikkudam and 24 from Govt. National Boys High School, Kodakara of Thrissur district.

## Tools and materials

1. Rubrics
2. Writing skill test
3. Module to enhance writing skill

## Procedure

A writing skill test was used to assess the initial level of writing skill of Upper Primary school students. Then the experimental group was exposed to the 'Magic Slate' module in order to improve their writing skill. Riddles, picture descriptions, narrating past events, picture stories and creative writing strategies were included in the Magic Slate. After completing the module, the same writing skill test was used as post test.

## Findings

- While comparing the scores of Entry Behavior Writing Skill test and those of Exit Behavior Writing Skill Test, it was found that so far as vocabulary is concerned, after intervention the sample learned to use more accurate, entertaining and meaningful vocabulary in tune with the textbooks and coherence with the task. The findings revealed that more than half of the sample showed excellence in the use of active and passive vocabulary.
- After the necessary interventions made by the researchers, it was found that the sample learned to display ideas in a unique, interesting, clear and novel way. They learned to integrate ideas. They learned to present abstract ideas in a concrete and entertaining way.
- After the implementation of magic slate, it was found that the students learned to use tenses with consistency and to use different forms of verbs as well. The errors committed in with subject- verb agreement were reduced to some extent. Almost half of the learners learned subject-verb agreement.
- After the interventions, the errors in punctuation were minimized. The habit of beginning sentences with capital letters and the use of proper nouns showed improvement. Paragraph alignment and spacing showed considerable improvement after the intervention. This helped the students to improve their confidence in writing skill in English.


## Suggestions

- The strategies employed through Magic Slate may be incorporated with the normal teaching learning process in the classroom.
- All the students of the elementary section may be benefited from this innovative project.
- The study may be continued throughout the academic year
- More activities at par with the objectives may be included while transacting the discourse.
- Students may be given small writing assignments daily.


# Kaleidoscope: A Science Learning and Nurturing Project at Upper Primary Level 

It is essential for all learners to attain each learning outcome effectively and meaningfully. The project 'Kaleidoscope' is an enquiry into how far the improvisation and use of the apparatus or equipment related to the learning outcomes are helpful in the attainment of the concepts and process skills at a higher order level. Scientific skill and scientific creativity must be developed in each child. . Children find it difficult to reason with rational thinking and reasoning and many children are unable to apply the acquired scientific concepts in other contexts. It is essential to overcome such limitations.

Teachers need to have more experience in preparing cost-effective learning materials for all students in the class. It was found that the learners face certain difficulties in concept development without any learning gaps. In these circumstances,the researcher felt the need for providing the opportunity to carry out experiments and observations so as to overcome the scientific limitations of teachers, students and parents and to help the development of scientific attitude.

## Objectives

1. To enable the children to prepare appropriate and effective innovative learning aids in science using the waste materials available in the surroundings.
2. To develop concepts and process skills in children.
3. To develop learning activities that are appropriate for conceptualization.
4. To develop in children the ability to experiment with precision and accuracy.
5. To develop the ability to apply the acquired scientific concept in another situation.
6. To enhance the readiness of children to engage in research activities.

## Methodology

## Method

Experimental method was adopted for the study.

## Sample

750 students of Seventh standard, 120 teachers and 120 parents from the selected 16 schools from all the 14 districts of Kerala constituted the sample.

## Process

The module construction workshop for the project was conducted in phase one. As part of this, the Manual of Teaching was developed along with worksheets, assessment formats, and power point presentations. The module was improved by try-out sessions conducted in five schools in Malappuram district. Sample schools were selected. Students who were selected to participate in the project were informed beforehand of the preparations they had to make. A teacher and a parent were assigned to mentor each group and were provided a list of equipment to be collected. Before the implementation of the project, a pre-test was administered. After the implementation of the project, a post-test was conducted to assess the development of the concepts and process skills in the children.

## Tools and Materials

Worksheets (used as pre-test and post-test), module which comprises of manual of teaching, worksheets, assessment format and power point presentation.

## Findings

1. All children were able to develop appropriate and innovative learning aids in science using waste materials from the surroundings
2. The children were able to conduct experiments with precision and accuracy which shows that they had developed the ability to conduct experiments with precision and accuracy.
3. The ability of the children to apply the acquired scientific concept to another situation enhanced.
4. The readiness to engage in research activities was found to be increased.
5. Development of concepts and process skills had taken place in children.

## Suggestions

1. A large number of learning tools are required to enable a child to attain the learning outcomes without any learning gaps.
2. Teachers need to develop new learning tools that are not included in the textbook and teacher text. Such classes will make it possible for children with disabilities to read and write and to imbibe scientific ideas.
3. 3.As part of continuous evaluation, quality assessment work must be integrated into the classroom process. It enables children to approach a learning outcome more deeply and to better assess the achievements of each term.
4. The Teacher text and the textbook need to include more activities, which is sufficient to help each science student to rise to the level of a researcher.
5. All essential learning tools must be utilized in the classroom in order to achieve the highest quality of all learning outcomes.
6. Learning materials need to be formulated as part of classroom process itself.
7. Some classes in the form of workshops are to be provided.

## The Solar System : Innovative Pedagogical Paradigms

Study of the universe starts with the study of our solar system which begins in the primary classes. The study focuses on the issues regarding the transaction and acquisition of concepts related to the solar system in standard 5 and 6 under Kerala Curriculum. This study sums up a pedagogical intervention to solve the existing problems in Basic Science and Social Science classes. The course books of Social science and Basic science, up to standard 10, address more than 30 concepts on the solar system. Most of these concepts are very simple and are related to earth, moon, sun and their movements. These very basic concepts need to be transacted effectively. Though the concepts of solar system in the fifth and sixth standards are simple, many teachers are not confident enough to transact them. For transacting more than 30 concepts addressed in our curriculum, the only available device for demonstration is the globe and that too has its own limitations in the areas of directions and planes. Teachers are not adept at the proper use of the globe as a tool for effective transaction. This being the present situation, it is indeed necessary to conduct a study on the concerned issue.

Study of the universe is the base of Mathematics, Physics, and Social science. Our students should acquire a concrete knowledge related to the solar system from the primary classes itself. A few issues have been identified in this field by means of informal interviews with teachers and students. Students are unable to get a clear idea about concepts related to the solar system. So the acquisition of these concepts remain a mere exercise of the words given in the textbook.

Teachers lack confidence in the transaction of these concepts and this is the main issue to be addressed. Though the concepts of solar system and its movements are abstract and complicated, they can be made simple with appropriate teaching aids. Each concept can easily be demonstrated with appropriate models. The problems related to the complication of plane and directions can be overcome by synchronizing the classes with teaching models that synchronize with the real sky. The present study is an attempt by the investigator in this regard.

## Objectives

1. To identify the areas that create difficulty in the transaction and acquisition of concepts related to solar system in standard 5 and 6
2. To find out the reasons of the difficulties in the transaction and acquisition of concepts related to the solar system in standard 5 and 6
3. To develop innovative teaching learning materials for transacting concepts related to solar system for students of standard 5 and 6
4. To find out the effectiveness of the innovative teaching learning materials related to solar system for transacting the concepts by comparing the pretest and post test achievement scores of students of standard 5 and 6
5. To find out the benefits for teachers while transacting solar system using innovative teaching learning materials.

## Methodology

## Method

Survey and experimental method is selected for the conduct of the study in order to find out the effectiveness in the transaction and acquisition of concepts related to solar system.

## Sample

460 students of standard 5 and 6, 47 upper primary school teachers and 5 high school Social Science teachers were selected for the study.

## Tools, Techniques and Materials

1. Unstructured interview
2. Assessment test of solar system related concepts among students. (Pre and Post)
3. Assessment test of solar system related concepts among teachers. (Pre and Post)
4. Innovative teaching learning materials comprising of interventions with activity cards

## Learning process and activities

- Pre-assessment Test was conducted for collecting data from students of standards 5 and 6.
- Pre-assessment test was conducted for data collection from UPSAs, HSAs (selected for the study) and from Other HSAs of the project schools.
- Analysed the Pre assessment data and identified the problem areas.
- Prepared innovative teaching learning materials for transacting the identified difficult areas.
- Selected 60 students of class 5 and 6 from each project school as Solar System Pioneers.
- 30 hour ( 30 minutes daily for two months) interventions using activity cards along with supporting aids on each topic for the Solar System Pioneers and teachers in project schools.
- Transaction of the concepts in peer groups by the Solar System Pioneers in each division during free hours. (Std 5 and 6) with the support of innovative learning material.
- Conducted Video classes
- Familiarised the students and teachers with new equipments.
- Familiarised astronomy apps and software. Conducted Night sky watching camps for all enthusiastic students in project schools. (Teachers, public, parents and former students were also included in the night sky watching camps.)
- Post assessment test after interventions.
- Comparison of pre and post assessment test scores

Extension activities were planned as per the request of high school teachers.

## Extension activities implemented related to the project

- Designed innovative teaching learning material for high school topics.
- Introduced the new solar system learning materials to teachers of project schools in Malappuram districts and nearby schools
- Implemented a try out of the extension activity - 'Solar System Activity Center' -at DIET, Thodupuzha.
- Conducted creative workshops for teachers in order to familiarise them with the newly developed solar system learning material.


## Findings

- Students face difficulty in answering analytical questions such as the waxing and waning of the moon, tilt of the Earth's axis etc even after intervention.
- Innovative teaching materials based on the concepts of the solar system have been found to be effective .
- The greatest improvement in standard 6 is noted in the concept of Earth's rotation and revolution ( $32.4 \%$ ). And the least progress is noted in the area of Moon's rotation and revolution (9.89\%).


## Findings of Pre and Post Assessment Test Comparison: Standard 5

- It is found that the knowledge relating to earth's rotation, revolution, plane and directions has enhanced in $34.8 \%$ students
- Knowledge on moon's rotation, revolution, plane and direction has enhanced in $68.5 \%$ students
- An increase of $19 \%$ is observed in the knowledge regarding the concepts of plane and size of solar system
- It is found that $22.8 \%$ students were able to analyse and interpret the solar system related phenomena
- In standard 5 the greatest improvement is noted in acquiring the concept of Earth's rotation and revolution (34.8\%). And the least progress is noted in the area of Moon's rotation and revolution (6.85\%).


## Findings of Pre and Post Assessment Test Comparison: Standard 6

- It was observed that an increase of $32.41 \%$ regarding on knowledge relating to earth's rotation, revolution,plane and directions after the interventions in standard 6
- There was an increase of $22.1 \%$ among the students regarding the knowledge about the concept of plane and size of solar System
- There was an increase of $17.46 \%$ among the students who were able to interpret solar system related phenomena.


## Benefits to school teachers

- Among the teachers of the project schools, there was an improvement of $35 \%$ regarding the knowledge of concepts like rotation, revolution, plane and direction of earth .
- There was an increase of $55 \%$ among project school teachers in the concept of moon's rotation ,revolution, plane and directions.
- There was an increase of $39 \%$ among the teachers of the project schools in the concept of plane and size of the solar system .
- While analyzing and interpreting solar system related phenomena, it was found that there was an increase of $53.6 \%$ among the project school teachers.
- It was found that the transaction with the innovative teaching learning materials were effective in developing the concept of solar system.


## Suggestions

- Modifications need to be incorporated in the Basic Science and Social Science textbooks based upon text book analysis
- While revising the textbooks, the planetary movements should be illustrated indicating plane and directions
- Textbooks should introduce innovative methods to describe the sky maps.
- Training should be imparted to UP and HS teachers to familiarise them with the findings and the products of the project
- A special programme may be organised by the government or the SSK to transform teachers into friends of solar system
- Solar System Activity centers can be created by the SSA to give the students the opportunity to work with learning devices related to the solar system during their free time.
- Concepts related to the solar system should be explained with the help of teaching aids and all classes should have a globe.
- Planetary movements should be demonstrated in anti clockwise direction with the help of visual aids.
- Training should be given to students for sky observation.


## Conclusion

The innovative teaching resources on solar system helped the students to improve their quality of learning. This also enhanced the conceptual clarity of teachers on solar system and they were able to transact the concepts more clearly and effectively. Learning will be more effective and meaningful if innovative teaching learning materials are used while transacting abstract concepts like solar system. Hence special care should be given to this during curriculum planning and text book revision.

# Development of an Instructional Package for Promoting Vocational Interest and Achievement in Biology among Students at Secondary School Level 

Education is needed for every human being not only to become a literate and a scholar, but also to lead a better and happier way of life. As a child enters the adolescent stage, he/she has a desire to achieve self-sufficiency and to be independent like the adults. The complete education for an individual must be both for 'making a living' and for 'making a life'. The role of science and technology in rural development and the need for employment creation in rural India is duly recognised in recent times. In the Indian scenario, the rate of unemployment is tremendously increasing day by day. The status of employment in government statistics are based mostly on the industrial and government workers. Agricultural workers are ignored, which means that the bulk of the rural population is ignored. To ameliorate the situation, many thousands more of agriculture based jobs need to be generated in the rural sector and in agriculture related industries. In order to lead the life of an effective citizen in the society, each individual should be able to choose the right type of vocation beneficial to him, enter into it and improve competency in it. For an effective programme in science, it is beyond doubt that adequate instructional package can promote the orderly and controlled development of an individual's skills and interest in different occupations or vocations. Lack of instructional packages in biology curriculum in integrating occupations or vocations for the simultaneous learning of academic subjects and promotion of vocational interest is a crucial problem for which solutions should be sought with immediate effect. Thousands of students leave the secondary schools every year and they start the long and arduous process of looking for higher studies, but very often, a good majority of them are unsuccessful in getting a suitable job. In this context, the investigator made an attempt to develop an instructional package for the simultaneous learning of Biology and the promotion of Vocational interest in students at Secondary level.

## Objectives

1. To collect the opinion of teachers regarding the need for developing Instructional Package for promoting Vocational Interest among students at secondary school level.
2. To develop an Instructional Package for promoting Vocational Interest and Achievement in Biology among students at Secondary school level
3. To test the effectiveness of the Instructional package.

## Methodology

Survey cum Experimental method was used for the study. Normative survey was used for collecting the views of secondary school teachers regarding the need for developing instructional package for learning Biology and promoting Vocational interest among students at secondary school level and the availability of such instructional package in their schools. In the present study, Pretest - Post-test Single Group Experimental Design was used to test the effectiveness of the instructional package developed on the topics Rabbit Farming, Medicinal Plants Cultivation and Food Preservation which were meant for learning of Biological concepts and promotion of vocational interest in students at secondary school level.

## Sample

The sample selected for the survey constituted the representative groups of secondary school teachers $(\mathrm{N}=80) .40$ students of class IX $(\mathrm{N}=40)$ were the samples for the experimental study.

## Tools and materials used for the study

- Questionnaire for Teachers: The questionnaire for teachers was specifically meant for collecting the views of secondary school teachers regarding the extent of suitability of the Biology curriculum for promoting vocational interest in students, advantages of learning Biology related to different agriculturebased vocations and the need and relevance of instructional materials for learning Biology and also for promoting Vocational Interest in students.
- Vocational Interest Inventory: It is used to identify the vocational interest of secondary school students in Rabbit Farming, Medicinal Plant Cultivation and Food Preservation.
- Instructional Package in Biology: It was developed for learning of Biological concepts and promoting Vocational Interest on Rabbit farming, Medicinal plant cultivation and Food preservation.
- Rating Scale for the Subject Experts: It was meant to obtain the assessment of subject teachers on the suitability of the instructional package developed
- Achievement test in Biology: It was usedto determine the achievement in Biology of secondary school students.


## Procedure

The investigator scrutinized the contents of the Biology textbooks at secondary level and syllabi in order to assess its ability to develop vocational interest in students. Using a questionnaire, the investigator collected the views of teachers regarding the need and relevance of instructional package for learning Biology and promoting vocational interest and the extent of availability of such materials in their schools. Based on the views expressed by teachers under study, an Instructional package was developed based on three topics viz., Rabbit Farming, Medicinal Plants Cultivation and Food Preservation. Regarding the validation of the package, majority of the teachers in Biology (70\%) responded that the instructional package is suitable to a great extent for learning biological concepts and promoting vocational interest in select topics in Biology such as Rabbit Farming, Medicinal Plant Cultivation and Food Preservation. Teachers are satisfied 'to a great extent' about the other aspects of evaluation of the package viz., scope of the instructional materials for interacting with the community $(80.00 \%)$, feasibility of equipping the student for self-employment $(70.00 \%)$, scope of the instructional package for stimulating independent thinking ( $70.00 \%$ ), and scope of the instructional materials for developing scientific attitude (60.00\%). The experimental group was taught using the instructional package developed. The Vocational Interest Inventory and Achievement Test in Biology were administered as pre-test and post-test on the experimental group before and after the intervention to test the effectiveness of the package.

## Findings of the study

- Majority of the teachers (77.5\%) opined that the present secondary school Biology curriculum is not adequate to promote Vocational Interest in students.
- More than fifty per cent of the teachers $(53.75 \%)$ are of the view that the contents of the present secondary school Biology curriculum are not suitable for promoting vocational interest in students.
- Majority of the teachers responded that learning will become more effective, if Biology may be taught by integrating it with different agriculture based vocations (70\%) and they also responded that integrating Biology with agriculture based vocations is helpful for promoting Vocational Interest among students (82.5\%).
- Majority of the teachers ( $83.75 \%$ ) opined that the present Biology curriculum at the secondary school level is to be modified in order to enable the students to engage in self- employment.
- Majority of the teachers ( $81.25 \%$ ) opined that there is a need for the instructional materials that can be helpful in promoting vocational interest in students along with Biology learning.
- In the case of vocational interest, it is found that the 't' value obtained for vocational interest in Biology based vocations such as Rabbit Farming, Medicinal Plants Cultivation and Food preservation is 30.69 , which is significant at 0.01 level. This revealed that the instructional package is effective for promoting vocational interest in students ( $\mathrm{t}=30.69$., $\mathrm{p}<0.01$ ).
- The ' $t$ 'value obtained for achievement in Biology was 18.59 which is significant at 0.01 level. It revealed that the instructional package developed is effective for learning the biological concepts (theoretical and practical aspects) related to vocationssuch as Rabbit Farming, Medicinal Plants Cultivation and Food preservation ( $\mathrm{t}=18.59 ., \mathrm{p}<0.01$ ).


## Educational implications

- The study is a pointer to the imperative need for developing instructional package in Biology at Secondary school level, which specifically aims to promote vocational interest in students in the rural sector.
- Such Instructional materials would be helpful to the students to activate their senses, open up new avenues of learning, get them involved in activities that promote their curiosity and interest in engaging in worthwhile vocations for earning a living.
- The students who choose to continue/discontinue their studies after the secondary course can be equipped to engage in these agriculture-based vocations, so that they can secure some form of gainful employment, which will enable them to face life with confidence.
- When the students learn using such instructional materials, it will help them imbibe the value of dignity of labour and shed their inhibitions on the methods and processes of 'doing' things.
- It also enables the student to simultaneously learn subject matter, traits of personality, work habits, attitudes and appreciation.
- If Biology is taught by integrating with different agriculture-based vocations, it will be helpful for developing in students the interest to seek self-employment, and create awareness about different agriculture-based vocations and their employment prospects.
- Instructional material will guide teachers to link the biological concepts with agriculture-based vocations, and thereby develop vocational interest in students.


## Suggestions

- A similar study can be attempted among students at Higher Secondary School level.
- Similar instructional packages can be developed for the dual purpose of learning and promoting vocational interest in students, so that the student will acquire the skills or confidence necessary to find himself a vocation, which will in turn, help him to stand on his own feet and grow into an ideal citizen.
- Similar package can be developed in other subjects which will be helpful in making learning meaningful, relevant and stimulating and rewarding manner.


## Flipped classroom: A talent Lab Project

The word education is a very common and popular word. Education is a lifelong process. Continuous training will bring about changes in the individual as well as the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the individual. Education is not limited to classrooms or schools. Education is the transformation of an individual through the experience and knowledge acquired from different stages. Attaining this can be formal, informal, or incidental. Kerala is one of the most important educational and cultural spheres in India. There are major changes in the education sector in Kerala.

As part of the Nava Kerala Mission, the Government of Kerala is implementing General Education Rejuvenation Programme to strengthen the educational institutions and uplift the schools to the international standard. It is a comprehensive educational reform program that modifies the learning of children based on their abilities. The main objective of the project is to ensure that all students in classes I to XII have gained the skills and knowledge they need to attain at each level and to ensure that they complete the schooling in the international standard within the next five years.

The Flipped Classroom is a learning strategy different from the traditional one. In this method, the skills acquired by the child outside the classroom using digital resources or the use of information technology, are assessed in the presence of the teacher.

Each child possess unique aptitudes. It is essential to identify the skills associated with the aptitude of our children at primary level itself. The identified skills need to be enhanced through proper training. Parents also need to be made aware of the aptitude of their children. Hence their presence also need to be ensured in these training programs. ICT possibilities are to be used in these training programs. Abilities like singing, drawing, craft, literary writing ,acting, general knowledge etc., need to be identified as part of learning activity and enhance them through training and provide opportunities to express and exhibit their talents. This study envisages the training of these skills through Flipped learning strategy. Learners practice themselves outside the classroom with the help of digital resources. Learners can make use of the expertise of parents, teachers, other stake holders or technology for enhancing their skills. The skills thus attained is assessed in the presence of teacher in the classroom. Equal importance is to be given to the curriculum and development of skills related to the aptitude of learners.

Each child will be an owner of unique abilities. These abilities or skills need to be maximized and moulded to suit his individual life. The same level of attention and consideration given to curriculum needs to be given to the development of individual skills. In addition to this teachers have to develop more digital resources catering the needs and abilities of learners, The flipped classroom aims to transform schools into centers of excellence by providing dynamic situations of learning and nurturing each child with creative skills along with textbook knowledge.

## Objectives

1. To foster aptitude among learners with respect to :
i. Singing
ii. Drawing
iii. Literary writing
iv. Acting
v. Craft
vi. Dancing
vii. General knowledge
2. To enable parents to involve directly in learning activities.
3. To develop learning materials as digital content.
4. To disseminate the use of digital content and digital documentation to the public.

## Methodology

## Method of study

Experimental method was adopted for the study. Self taught skills are shown and assessed in the presence of the teacher. In order to delve deep into the skills information technology was used to the maximum. Workshops were organized in areas where direct experiences were needed. The teachers review the skills that children attain through continuous evaluation. Each child identified their areas of interest and excelled in their respective areas.

## Sample

The sample was taken from the students studying in class one to four at M.I.L.P School, Kakkodi in Kozhikode district. These were children in the age group of 5 to 10 years and were trained in seven areas of singing, literary writing, drawing, craft, acting, dancing and general knowledge. Try out was carried out in these seven areas taught through flipped teaching method. 34 students in the singing area, 22 students in the literary writing field, 67
students in the drawing field, 19 students in the acting field, 29 students in the work experience field, 38 students in the dance field and 27 students in the general awareness field . Thus target group of the project are 119 students in class 1 to 4 and their parents.

## Tools and Techniques of the study

Digital learning, assessment in the presence of the teacher, and workshops for proper learning are the core of Flipped learning. The various areas selected for giving training through flipped classroom learning method are singing, drawing, literary writing, acting, dancing, craft and general knowledge. The changes in children in these areas are identified through observation.

## Procedure

Digital content is prepared by the teacher in singing, drawing, literary writing, acting, dancing, craft and general knowledge, so that they can be self trained or be trained with the help of parents. These can be delivered via e-mail, CD, pen drive or whatsapp to any child in the school. The child receives training from home using the received digital content. The assessment of the entire child is done at the school on a pre-determined day. Based on this assessment, the areas of interest of the children are identified. With regard to this, children are grouped into different groups. Some children may come under more than one group. A limit is fixed where a child can join any three areas. It is beneficial to set limits to a child to be included in any three areas so as to receive continuous training and to maximize the growth of the child in his chosen field.

The next step of the process was the organization of workshops. Workshops were organized for children in their areas of interest. Workshops are conducted either in the schools or in any other comfortable places. Holidays are best suited for workshops. Children develop their skills through the training they received from the workshop. As the service of the experts are utilized in the workshops, children can authentically identify their areas of interest and also to clarify their doubts.

The digital content prepared by the teacher in the next level will be based on the next level of training. The child who is practicing these materials from home is presented in the next stage of the school assessment. The teacher evaluates the child's progress. The child receives a better understanding of his area of interest before the next workshop. Then, through workshops and digital contents prepared by the teachers the child becomes an expert in his chosen field of interest.

If the child who is not involved in the first grade of selection interested in participating in a particular area, then a second phase of screening is introduced for them. For children who are unable to show their ability for any other reason at the time of selection, they are to be given another chance. Teachers should provide the children opportunities to exhibit their micro skills. The teacher should anticipate the slots in the textbook to express these skills and the teachers should make sure whether the children use these imbibed skills for academic purposes.

## Findings

- Observations have shown that students in classes one to four have enriched their skills in singing, drawing, literary writing, acting, craft, dance and general knowledge.
- Each child was able to identify their areas of interest and thereby develop the identified skills through training. It was observed that some children were excellent in many areas. Some children were able to do two activities simultaneously. For example Singing along with drawing, doing craft along with singing etc
- The students who excelled in these seven areas were also given due recognition by teachers and peers just like a child who excelled in English, Maths and Malayalam.
- The transaction of the activities of each subject was more comfortable as the trained aptitudes were associated with the learning activities. The atmosphere of the classrooms were more creative when the poetry lessons were handled by children skilled in singing, and those who are skilled in painting and craft will prepare pictures and craft in connection with the lessons and those who are skilled in acting will engage in the performance of skit in relation with the lessons.
- Children get an opportunity to express and showcase their areas of interest as they get training in enriching their tastes just like they get training in their academic subjects. The importance of the training and the opportunities to express their skills enhance a child's confidence.
- All the students in the class were found proficient in any one of their areas of interest. It is recognized that all the children were excellent in their areas of interest just like the academically brilliant children.
- The participation of parents in learning activities has been increased through training of skills, workshops and the follow up activities are associated with them. Every parent could identify his/her child's areas of interest. The parent understood the excellences in the areas of interest
enriched by his /her child. The training received from the workshops was beneficial for both the parent and the child.
- The digital contents used for the training related to the seven areas and the products of children thus evolved in the training were showcased. This invited public attention and thereby helped for carrying out further follow up activities.


## Suggestions

- Public Education sector is going through a crucial phase.
- All the skills/aptitudes of the children need to be identified in the primary level itself.
- Identified skills/aptitudes need to be fostered through proper training.
- Parents are to be made aware of his/her child's areas of interest. They should also be included in the training.
- The possibilities of ICT need to be employed for the training of skills/aptitudes.
- The child needs to develop his/her confidence by developing his /her ability and showcasing them before the public.


## Conclusion

All students in the class were found proficient in any one of their areas of interest, when they were trained in singing, painting, literary writing, acting, dance, craft and general knowledge. It is seen that all the students are smart in their field, just like the academically brilliant student. If similar learning activities are carried out on behalf of the institution like SCERT, it would be an added contribution to the public education sector. The classrooms are to be converted to learning centres where identification and development fof creative aptitude of each learner is to be made along with the acquisition of knowledge. This can be effectively attained by Flipped classroom

# Orukkam : Innovative Learniing Activities and Progressive Teaching Manuals 

Careful planning is the first step of all activities. Each person should plan the work well before starting the activity. Lesson plan is a framework of creative activities that facilitate learning. It is essential to improve children's learning interest and level of learning by incorporating innovative activities in their lesson plans.This serves like a guide for coordinating the attainment of processes and objectives. Not only that, they help us to plan and execute the instructions to be given and the learning objectives to be transacted in the classroom.

For teachers, lesson plan is a guideline to the knowledge and skills that students are given in the classroom. The teaching manual is an important document that the teacher holds in the classroom. Teaching manuals can be implemented successfully when they consider the different views about children. While preparing teaching manuals, maximum attainment learning outcomes is to be ensured .

Teaching manuals always undergo change. It is essential to identify and include activities according to the needs and standards of the learners. Good planning increases the confidence level of teachers. Varied and diverse activities need to be identified and implemented depending on the infrastructure facilities of the classrooms and the learning potential of children.

The learning activities prepared accurately and carefully making use of all the possibilities of the assessment page is of utmost important. An arrangement should be made in the lesson plan to make sure how far the learner has achieved the learning outcome. If innovative activities are also included in the accurate and precise lesson plans, then the learning outcomes become noteworthy.

It is found the children in the fourth grade faced difficulties in environment studies and were lagging behind in the activities such as experiments. It is a fact that this tendency can adversely affect student's learning. Innovative activities will help the learners to approach the class without fear and increase interest in learning. The lesson planning of environmental studies can be made effective by evaluating the teaching manual of
yesteryears and including novel activities. Therefore, an innovative lesson plan should be prepared and implemented in the classroom after identifying the level of learning of children in environmental studies. . This highlights the necessity of a study in this field.

## Objectives

1. To analyze the features of previous lesson plans.
2. To find the level of the learners in Environmental science.
3. To make lesson planning of environmental studies effective through innovative learning activities
4. To find out the effectiveness of the innovative teaching manual in classrooms

## Methodology

Survey and experiment methods are used for the study.

## Sample

The sample for the study consisted of 46 learners of class four, 5 experts, 35 primary teachers and 46 parents.

## Tools and Techniques

Various tools are used for the collection of data.

- Questionnaire for teachers
- Questionnaire for experts
- Document analysis
- Questionnaire for parents
- Questionnaire for learners
- Group discussion
- Achievement test


## Procedure

A questionnaire was duly filled and collected from expert educators in the field of education to assess the specificity of previous planning of lessons. In addition to this, those teachers who completed 20 years of service were provided with questionnaires
and their opinion was collected. Various teaching manuals for 14 years from 2005 to 2019were assessed to identify their features. It was followed by group discussion using the discussion points prepared before hand with teachers and innovative learning activities were listed out. Using the innovative learning and teaching techniques evolved from discussion, lesson plans were prepared.

An achievement test (pre test) was administered to assess the existing level of students in Environmental science. After that, a post test was conducted to identify the learning outcome. Questionnaires were distributed to learners and parents to identify the changes in the level of learning of their children. The collected data was consolidated, analyzed and suggestions were evolved.

## Findings

- Micro planning was not made during the preparation of teaching manuals in 1980s
- From 2005 onwards, 'process page' has changed to 'activity page' and the 'response column' has been transformed into 'assessment page'.
- In 2012, the scope for inclusion was given importance. The learning activities received a special place in the lesson plan.
- In 2015, learners' notebook and portfolio became part of continuous evaluation and it gained significance in teaching plans.
- By the advent of innovative learning activities, student's interest in learning environmental science has increased considerably.
- Majority of learners' interest in the making of experimental materials and preparing reports increased.
- Parents opined that all the students are engaged in experiments and in preparing materials at home.
- By providing the innovative learning activities in the classrooms, learners found it easy to conduct experiments in class.
- In 2016, the process and response in the assessment page is replaced by reflective note taking.
- From 2012 onwards a lot of processes considering each child as a unit became a part of the lesson plan. Even before the learning gaps were formed in the classroom, the learning outcomes were minutely analyzed and activities were included in the teaching manual.
- In the pre test for environmental studies, only four learners could secure ' A ' grade but after the introduction of the innovative techniques, 15 learners got ' A ' grade.
- C grade has come down from 20 in the pre test to 10 in the post test, D grade decreased from 10 in pre test to 5 in the post test and only one student obtained E grade in the post test.
- The learners who obtained C, D and E grades were considerably less in the post test compared to pre- test.
- There had considerable increase in getting A, B grades in the post test. It was found that 15 students got A grade in the post test compared to 4 in the pre test. Likewise grade B increased from 10 to 15 from pre test to post test. Therefore considerable increase was found in grades $\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B}$ in the post test.


## Suggestions

- Training should be given to teachers to fix the learning outcomes by identifying the innovative learning techniques.
- Teachers should be moulded as researchers who could identify innovative activities in the classrooms.
- Teaching manuals need to be further developed using innovative ideas to enhance the learning readiness of the students.


# Impact of Mentoring in Enhancing Academics and Life Skills of Students belonging to Fishermen Community in Kozhikode District 

The socioeconomic life conditions of traditional fishermen community in Kozhikode district is very low. They remain marginalised in the society. Their income, ownership of land, housing facilities and standard of living are pathetic. Majority of Fishermen in Kozhikode belong to the Muslim community. The rhythm of their life depends upon the fishing seasons. The socioeconomic backwardness is the hallmark of the fishermen community in South beach, Kozhikode.

The cultural and religious barriers play a significant role in the educational attainment of students from the fishing communities. The major reasons for the inappropriate habit regarding education of their children is the lack of interest and motivation. The students from fishermen community usually do not receive the attention needed to meet their emotional needs from their guardians. As a result, the students form the habit of absenting themselves from the classes to avoid the academic struggles they encounter. Most of the students in coastal area are socio- economically backward. They do not have consistent adult role models at home who encourage and support their academic progress. At school, the teachers are not always able to spend significant amount of time with these struggling students. It is impossible for the teachers to interact with the students and to fulfill all their needs. Hence the students are denied of individual support systems for their emotional well-being.

## Mentoring

In this study, the investigator analyses the impact of mentoring in enhancing the academics and life skills of students belonging to the fishermen community. Mentoring is an ancient concept that evolved out of the renaissance about a decade ago. It is a learning relationship between the mentor and the mentee. Mentoring is defined as a relationship in which an expert or a senior person voluntarily gives time to teach, support, and encourage another person (Santamaria, 2003).

In the mentoring system, the students are provided with a permanent mentor to give them encouragement and support. This will enhance their self-confidence in academic endeavours. When adults invest time with students, a positive relationship is formed between both parties.

## Need and Significance

The fishermen community is marginalized due to their deprived socio-economic status. Most of the community members are illiterate and there is a high number of drop outs among the pupils from fishermen family. While anlaysing the reasons for the high rate of dropping out, it was found that these students usually do not receive the required attention from their parents. As a result, many students start missing school to avoid the academic struggles they encounter. Some of these students may indulge in negative behaviour in order to gain attention from the teacher. It was found that such students engage in illicit activities and get involved in the anti-social activities in their neighbourhood. Some of them even become the victims of such activities. Most of students from the coastal areas are addicted to drugs and other tobacco products. In this context, it was decided to conduct such a study.

## Objectives

1. To analyse the academic performance of students in terms of reading, writing and basic mathematics.
2. To find the effectiveness of mentoring package on the basis of the changes effected in the above areas
3. To find out the effectiveness of the mentoring package on the attainment of life skills such as self-awareness, critical thinking, decision making and effective communication
4. To trace out the advantages of the mentoring package for enhancing the academics and life skills of students.

## Methodology

Mixed method research using both qualitative and quantitative analysis is used for the conduct of the study. The mentoring effect on academic performance of language and mathematics were assessed using achievement tests. Acquisition of life skill was assessed using a three point Life Skill Scale.

## Area of Study

The area of study consisted of Nainamvallappu and Kothi in south beach area of Kozhikode district. Both of these coastal areas are mostly inhabited by fishermen belonging to the Muslim community. These are educationally and socially backward areas. The dropout rate of these schools is very high due to the poor economic conditions of the students.

## Sample

For the project, 150 students of class IX were chosen from three schools located in south beach area of Kozhikode, namely,Calicut Girls' Vocational and Higher Secondary School, Himayathul Islam Higher Secondary School and Government Vocational Higher Secondary School, Kuttichira.

## Tools and Materials

1. Achievement test ( pretest and post-test )

The test comprises of areas related to reading, writing and mathematics.
2. Package for mentoring programme.

The mentoring package included three areas such as Language skills (Reading and Writing), Mathematics skills and Life skills.
3. Observation Note

An observation note was prepared by mentor as part of continuous evaluation of students while mentoring.
4. Life Skills Scale was used to identify the life skills such as self-awareness, critical thinking, decision making and effective communication

## Procedure

The purpose of the project was explained to a group of college students and based on an interview 10 of them were selected as mentors . A four day workshop was organized for them. The selected mentors belonged to Yes India group and Thekkepuram Girls in south beach area of Kozhikode.

A mentoring package comprising of activities related to reading, writing, mathematics and life skills was prepared.

The five activities included in the package for developing language skills are Read Together, Tell It Again, Vocabulary File, Spider Gram and Asking Question

For Mathematics skill development, the package included activities such as Adding and Subtracting Angles, Area of Triangle, Algebra, Speed Math, Drawing Triangles, Equal Triangles, Ratio, Polygons, Algebraic Expression, Money Math and Construction of Quadrilaterals.

The activities included for the four Life skills are Describing Me, Inner and Outer Circle, My Own Decision, Building Blocks, Body Sculpting- Using Theatre and Debate.

Two general activities provided for students and parents are Reward the Child and $I$ Will Challenge. In addition, an awareness programme for parents with two activities such as Know Your Children Dream and Likes and Dislike was organised.

## Findings

- The mentoring package was found to be effective in enhancing the reading skills of the students. There is a significant change in the reading skill of the students .The percentage of students belonging to the poor learners' category was reduced to $24 \%$ from $32 \%$ after intervention. The initial rate of $49 \%$ of average learner's category was also reduced to $35 \%$. The percentage of excellent learners increased from $19 \%$ to $25 \%$.
- The mentoring package was found effective in enhancing writing skills. After intervention,the percentage of students belonging to the poor learners' category was reduced to $34 \%$ from $51 \%$. Average learners increased from $34 \%$ to $38 \%$. The excellent learners' percentage also increased after intervention.
- The mentoring package was found effective for improving mathematics skills. The percentage of students belonging to the poor learners' category was reduced to $54 \%$ from $76 \%$. The average and excellent learners' percentage increased after intervention.
- The students who participated in the mentoring programme attained better selfawareness, critical thinking, decision making and effective communication life skills when compared to non- participants.
- Regarding self-awareness skill, $52 \%$ of the participants exhibited high level of selfawareness whereas only $42 \%$ of non-participating students showed self-awareness.
- Regarding critical thinking skills, $62 \%$ of participant students use critical thinking skills consistently whereas only $46 \%$ of non-participants exhibited this skill consistently.
- Regarding decision making skills, $80 \%$ of participant students were able to take decisions and deal constructively with decisions, whereas only $47 \%$ of nonparticipant students' were able in decision making.
- Regarding effective communication skills, $78 \%$ of participant students could express their ideas, thoughts, and feelings effectively. But only $51 \%$ of nonparticipant students were able to use their effective communication skills.
- The students showed active involvement and interest in the learning activities. Absenteeism in schools decreased and student participation in community activities considerably improved.
- The students have immensely benefited from the mentoring sessions on life skills as observed from their interactions with mentors and peers.
- Parents who were involved in the mentoring programme improved their parenting style and provided better home environment for students.


## Conclusion

The mentoring programme was effective and beneficial to students from fishermen community. The project was implemented at a time when academic performance was very low among the students of fishermen community. The signal success of the mentoring programme is increasing students' interest in studies and thereby reducing absenteeism. The academic package given through the mentoring programme was effective in terms of enhancing reading, writing and mathematics skills. The number of students in the poor learner category was reduced after the mentoring intervention. In addition, self-awareness, critical thinking, decision making and effective communication life skills of the students also improved. To sum up, the mentoring programme had a positive impact in enhancing academics and life skills of students from fishermen community.

## Suggestions

- The duration of mentoring programme can be extended in order to maintain the mentor- mentee relationship.
- Mentor- mentee meetings should be organised on a regular bases.
- The anti social activities among the students of coastal areas can be better addressed through mentoring interventions of longer duration
- It is essential to provide awareness programmes for parents and to ensure their participation for the success of academic interventions
- Community participation and involvement should be ensured for the success of the mentoring programme.


## Bhavanam Ganitham Kauthukam : <br> A High Tech Mathematics Learning Approach

Different levels of thinking skills are to be developed among students to encourage creative learning of mathematics. It is necessary to prepare and ask questions that cater to such thinking. Mathematics is not just a game with numbers; it requires creative thinking using intellectual logic. It is important to familiarise children with questions which are capable of developing their thinking ability.

Generally mathematical concepts are developed as a part of classroom transaction by the teacher. If these concepts can also be attained from the parents by integrating life experiences with them, learning of mathematics will become more effective. Active involvement from the teachers and parents without the knowledge of the learner will be helpful in making mathematics learning interesting. This will help to strengthen their knowledge.

In this modern technological era, mathematics learning should be made creative and constructive. With the advent of information technology in all sectors, it is our responsibility to provide opportunities to use ICT appropriately to facilitate mathematics learning. Learning mathematics can become more enjoyable if the child is given regular repeated practice. "Bhavanam Ganitham Kauthukam", a high-tech math learning approach is a project which is aimed at making learning mathematics enjoyable by using ICT.

## Objectives

1. To develop innovative strategies for making mathematics learning enjoyable
2. To engage teachers and parents in the learning of Mathematics through modern technology
3. To provide measures by parents at home for attaining the objectives of mathematics learning
4. To prepare a math note book at home by students which can be checked regularly by the parents
5. To prepare a digital notebook for each child by the teacher

## Methodology

Method
Survey method was employed in this study.

Sample
A total of 66 teachers, 655 children, and 655 parents from 8 high schools in the Thrithathala subdistrict of Palakkad district were selected for the study.

## Tools

Two types of questionnaires were used for this study.

- Questionnaire for parents
- Questionnaire for teachers


## Procedure:

Based on the learning objectives, the mathematics teacher of each class prepared three questions each for their learners every day. These questions were submitted in the Google form and a QR code was prepared. By scanning this QR code, the parents could get these questions on their mobile phone and pass them to their wards. Learners solve these problems in their notebooks and submit the answers in the Google form.

## Findings and Suggestions

- It is found that the interest in learning mathematics has increased through the high tech mathematics learning approach.It is also makes mathematics learning enjoyable.
- The children are curious about the Internet, the Google form and QR code and as a result learning of mathematics has become more interesting.
- Both teachers and parents are found to be involving more actively in the children's mathematical learning process.
- Daily learning activities brought learners closer to mathematics.
- Each child owned a maths note book which is periodically checked by the parents.
- Teacher keeps digital notebooks of each child.
- More teachers have started using modern technologies to teach mathematics.


## Suggestions

- Every mathematics teacher should get the opportunity to prepare questions in accordance with the learning outcomes and upload them in Samagra portal.
- This hi tech approach can be experimented in all other subjects.
- This project can be implemented in all the schools across the state. 11


# Continuous Evaluation at Upeer Primary Level : Application and Reporting 

Evaluation is essential for each pedagogical activity. Evaluation activities should be planned along with classroom activities. The learning process is an endless network of activities that decides what to evaluate, records the results for further analysis, plans and implements remedial activities and re-evaluates them. Models of ICT based evaluation and reporting has not yet been designed even though technology based education has been implemented for several years. Therefore, developing practical means of evaluation and reporting is the need of the hour. In this context, this project becomes highly relevant. This project is a systematic analysis of what to evaluate, how to evaluate, and the resource materials needed for this purpose. It aims at the planning and effective implementation of continuous evaluation activities, identifying the tasks while implementing these activities and finding out the possibilities to overcome these tasks. For this, detailed notes on the evaluation practices of each child is required. The teachers may find the regular and continuous recording of the evaluation process difficult. This project enables the use of a 'mobile app' that helps to record the continuous evaluation of all subjects and classes at the upper primary school level.

## Objectives

- To identify the scientific process skills which are difficult to the learners
- To identify the skills to be acquired by the learners, the products to be formed and the areas to be evaluated continuously
- To plan and implement classroom activities
- To prepare appropriate strategies for continuous evaluation
- To develop appropriate ICT based models for recording continuous evaluation
- To test the effectiveness of recording continuous evaluation using ICT possibilities


## Methodology

Content analysis and survey were the methods used

## Sample

147 students of class VII, 44 teachers, 2 computer experts and 30 parents constituted the sample

## Tools and Techniques

The tools and techniques employed include:

- Textbook analysis.
- Answer paper analysis
- lesson plans for unit 1 to 10 of class VII.
- Worksheets for evaluation
- ICT based CE app


## Findings

- Even though the students comprehend the content, they are unable to apply their knowledge in activities like making models, designing tools and doing experiments.
- Parents were informed only the grades the child receives so they are not aware of the academic support they have to give the child.
- The students excel in the areas such as application, process, concepts, attitude and creativity
- The products to be prepared by the child were identified and evaluated.
- Unit tests were conducted after each unit and the results were recorded as part of continuous evaluation.
- The teaching manual and CE APP were prepared taking into account all factors, including the possibilities of ICT.
- The evaluation of all the learning activities of units 7, 8, 9 and 10 of class VII were recorded using CE App.
- By logging into the App. using the admission number of their ward, the parents can get information about the child and the areas where parental support is needed for the child.


## Suggestions

- Unit evaluation questionnaires, self-evaluation formats, peer assessment formats, group assessment formats and other assessment techniques for evaluating key processes such as experimentation, observation, formulating conclusions and equipment management should be prepared and included in lesson plans.
- A handbook based on the subject 'Continuous Evaluation’ should be prepared, and all teachers need to be given training.
- Teachers should be familiarised with the different levels of continuous evaluation.
- Teachers should be trained in preparing different types of evaluation tools and techniques.
- Prepare model lesson plans including different types of evaluation techniques and other resources.
- Make available a portal to record continuous evaluation and enable the parents to log in to this portal and to figure out the child's learning resources.
- Include continuous evaluation in T.T. I and B.Ed. syllabus.


# Pre- Readiness Skill Development in Cerebral Palsy Diplegic Children : Case Study 

Cerebral palsy is a condition in which the child is unable to coordinate physical activity. This happens because of certain disorder that occurs in the nerves during infancy or early childhood. Spasticity is a condition in which the child's movement and speech are impaired due to cerebral damage. Eighty percentage of children who suffer from cerebral palsy come under the spastic category. Cerebral palsy spastic diplegic children are more likely to have high flexion in the range of motion and lack of extension. These children differ from normal children in their physical and mental growth in their different stages of development. They spend their childhood days in hospital beds without getting an opportunity to see, hear and experience the things around them. Education is an important tool that will help these differently abled children to enter into the rehabilitation process of the society. Individual with Disability Education Act (IDEA, 2004) envisages an 'Appropriate Education' system with Multidisciplinary team is also referred to. Still cerebral palsy spastic diplegic children with average or more intelligence are found to be backward in the classroom activities. Due to their physical- linguistic limitations, they are unable to participate in their classroom activities in an appropriate manner. It is in this context, that the need of a multidisciplinary team that provides different therapies for the physical, mental, social and academic development of cerebral palsy spastic diplegic students become significant. A multidisciplinary team consisting of five experts- Physiotherapist, Occupational therapist, Speech therapist, Psychologist and Resource teacher in their joint venture can plan strategies that would provide opportunities for the children to engage in activities which they had missed in their different stages of development. These activities can help each child in the society to overcome their limitations with regard to their structure and behaviour and leading them to success in life.

## Objectives

1. To comprehend about cerebral palsy spastic diplegic children
2. To recognize the physical and linguistic limitation of cerebral palsy spastic diplegic children
3. To recognize the pre- writing skill of cerebral palsy diplegic children
4. To reduce the physical and linguistic limitations of cerebral palsy spastic diplegic children
5. To enhance the pre- writing skill of cerebral palsy spastic diplegic children
6. To enhance the social skill of cerebral palsy spastic diplegic children

## Methodology

Method : Case study

## Sample

- Five cerebral palsy diplegic children, their parents and their resource teachers were selected as sample from Ernakulam and Kozhikode districts. Purposive sampling technique is used for selecting the sample.

Details of the sample selected are given below-

1. Aniketh, Std 1, Mundamveli St. Louis High School, Ernakulam district
2. Rishan, Std 5, GVHSS, Iringola, Enakulam district
3. Mridula Devi, Std 5, TDHSS, Mattanchery, Ernakulam district
4. Navaneeth, Std 5, GUPS, Pathiripatta, Kozhikode district
5. Ameen, Std 5, MMLP School, Kozhikode district

- Five parents
- Five resource teachers


## Tools and Techniques

1. Case record of the children
2. Questionnaire for parents
3. Questionnaire for resource teachers
4. Pre- writing readiness exercises

- Exercise for reducing muscle spasm
- Exercise for improving balance
- Exercise for bringing weight shifting to the correct position
- Exercise for increasing range of motion
- Exercise for reducing issues with proprioceptive system
- Exercise for reducing vestibular issues
- Stretching, bridging exercises and exercise to increase the ability to grasp
- Myofascial release exercise
- Stimulating exercise

5. Therapies to develop writing and linguistics skills
6. Writing readiness test

## Findings

To a certain extent it was possible to solve the physical and social limitations of cerebral palsy diplegic children through multidisciplinary approach. Through exercises such as stretching, bridging, balancing etc., muscular spasm in the joints of children could be lessened to a considerable extent.

- The spasm of adductor muscle of 'Rishan' was reduced by continuously making him climb ladders and exercise using wall climber.
- By making him water the plants using sprayer, 'Aniketh's' fingers regained the ability to hold things in the proper way to a certain extent.
- 'Ameen' had been suffering from muscle spasm in both the limbs. This condition was minimized through myofacial release exercise.
- Through the shoulder wheeler exercise, the movements of 'Mridula's' shoulder, elbow, wrist etc., became smoother than before.
- Reduction in spasm and visible changes in gait were observed after water therapy in 'Navaneeth'.

All these activities could improve pre- readiness skills and paved way for acquiring pre- writing skills. The reciprocal movement and coordination of muscles increased in all the children, as a result of the exercises done as part of occupational therapy. Activities such as stretching and breathing exercises devised by the speech therapist to solve the limitations in speech of the children under study effected changes in a remarkable way. Through the interventions given by the psychologist, the children became more collaborative than before. As a result of such effort, the social skills of these students improved and they started interacting with peers in the classroom, at home and in the society. The resource teacher ensured the required adaptation in student- learning after discussing with teachers and peers the need for including cerebral palsy spastic diplegic students in the mainstream.

## Suggestions

1. Arrangements should be made to reduce physical limitations of children with cerebral palsy to improve their academic level.
2. Longitudinal studies should be carried out in cerebral palsy diplegic children. Necessary arrangements for this should be done in schools.
3. Adaptive learning activities should be envisaged for cerebral palsy diplegic children in order to attain academic excellence.
4. Provision of the service of multidisciplinary team will help to enhance the writing skill of those disabled children who are backward in writing.

# An Enquiry into the Various Pre-school Systems in Kerala 

The preschool period is the most notable and important period in the life of a person. Hence, the pre-school programmes intended for children of the age group 3 to 6 are extremely significant. Though these pre-school systems are known by various names such as Pre-primary, Anganwadi, Nursery school, Kindergarten and Montessori, the ultimate aim of all these systems is the complete development and care of children.

A child's previous experiences constitute the initial steps towards his future wisdom and progress. A study conducted by the Oxford University in 2017 pointed out that a child's academic excellence, regardless of his family background, is strengthened by his preschool education. Researchers are of the opinion that children who receive preschool education are able to perform excellently in public exams compared to students who are denied preschool education.

Rapid brain growth and skill development are characteristics of the infancy period. Children go through a phase of continuous growth and development from the age of 3 to 6 . Hence it is essential to provide them an atmosphere of encouragement and motivation. It is also important to analyse their abilities and characters and the variations in these traits before preparing the suitable environment.

According to child psychology theories, developmental capacity of a child depends upon eight areas such as physical development (gross motor control, fine motor control), sensory development, cognitive development, linguistic development, emotional development, personal development and social development (Kerala Preschool Curriculum, 2018). The child's family environment plays a major role in these developments which begin at birth. But sometimes,working parents and family conditions may impair the natural development of the child. It is in this context that the preschool which may be considered as a home outside family gains significance. In addition to providing the child with the love and care denied in the present family environment, preschools should also act as centers which furnish enjoyment through sharing, finding new things, learning and playing with peers. Hence the service of an
expert teacher or facilitator who is capable of providing the child with such experiences and a suitable environment are essential in all preschools.

Though the preschools have been established many years back, little effort has been made to provide suitable infrastructure, implement a qualitative curriculum and improve the system through timely supervision. However, there have been a few interventions in this area. With the concerted efforts of the authority, educational researchers, experts and many organizations, it has become possible to develop a curriculum, organize training sessions and prepare handbooks. Still, it is to be noted that there has not been much change in the outlook of the society or its acceptance of the system.

The teachers and parents have distorted views on preschool education. The stress and anxiety experienced by the children during the school days usually affect their education and future life. Most teachers and parents impose the burden of learning upon them without giving much consideration to this fact. Still, there are a few teachers who are on a quest for establishing innovative methods in preschool learning. Unfortunately, their ideas and actions are constrained within their own premises. It is important to bring their experiments into the forefront so as to provide motivation to other teachers.

Education from the preschool sector itself should be scientifically implemented in order to realise the aim of qualitative and universal education. At present, the majority of children who have reached the age of three are attending some form of preschools . But it is doubtful whether these schools are carrying out their responsibilities in the proper way. As per the Right to Education Act (2005), the government has put forward certain criteria on the working of preschools. It is necessary to find out if these systems are working according to this prescribed criteria. This points to the need of an in-depth study on this topic. There has not been any authentic study on why the parents are sending their children to the preschools. There may have been certain general studies on preschool systems and their mode of action. However, specific studies on the various types of preschool systems in Kerala are very rare. There is the need to propagate an educational practice which assures the comprehensive development of children. It is in this context that the need for such a study becomes important.

## Objectives

1. To analyse the various preschool systems in Kerala with regard to:
i. Infrastructure facilities
ii. Learning aids
iii. Human resources
iv. Mode of admission
v. Medium and method of instruction
vi. Safety, cleanliness and nutrition
vii. Records and registers
viii. Support system
2. To identify the perception of teachers regarding preschool systems
3. To provide suggestions for the improvement of preschool systems

## Methodology

## Method of study

The study was completed in four months using survey method. The survey was focused mainly on Thiruvananthapuram. However a few preschools from Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad were also included in the survey.

## Sample

Five schools each from the Government, Montessori, Kindergarten and Anganwadi streams were selected for the study. The study was conducted in 20 schools.

## Tools and Techniques

The details of the tools and techniques used in the study are listed below:

1. Questionnaire
2. Checklist
3. Interview schedule for parents
4. Observation schedule

The prime tools used for the study were questionnaire, checklist, observation schedule and interview schedule. Information regarding infrastructure facility, learning aids, human resources, mode of admission, safety, cleanliness, health, distribution of nutritional food, medium and method of instruction, records and registers and support system was gathered with the help of questionnaire, checklist and observation schedule.

## Findings

## Infrastructure facilities

- Structure of Buildings

All schools under government sector have their own buildings. But the preschools under the Kindergarten, Montessori and Anganwadi streams occupy rented buildings. Majority of the preschools work in concrete buildings.

- Toys

All preschools have toys that stimulate the cognitive and creative domains. But only $80 \%$ schools have toys to promote physical, social and linguistic development.

## - Classroom facilities

All schools except Anganwadis had facilities such as attractive classrooms, electricity and fan/light. However, facilities for the children for safekeeping their materials, proper ventilation, child friendly furniture, cleanliness and space for keeping footwear were rare in some schools.

- Facilities for children with special needs

The availability of facilities for children with special needs were very limited in majority of preschools (Government, Montessori, Anganwadi and Kindergarten).

## - Learning Aids

Most of the schools possessed learning aids such as activity corners, child friendly wall boards, child friendly picture walls, child friendly bulletin boards and puppet
corner. But there were many preschools (Montessori) which did not have learning aids like sand trays and BaLA.

## Human Resources

- Number of Students

While considering the number of children, the government and anganwadi systems strictly stick to the preschool criteria and do not admit any children under the age of three. But the private institutions do not follow the regulations and admit children under three.

- Staff

Majority of preschools do not follow the prescribed teacher, child, helper ratio of 1:25:1.

## - Qualification of Staff

The teachers of all the preschools had the specified basic qualification of plus two. Some among them were graduates and post graduates. All helpers except the ones in Anganwadi have completed 10th standard.

- Professional Qualification of Teachers

Majority of teachers in the preschools except Anganwadis have passed the PPTTC (Primary School Teacher Training Course). Only teachers of government schools possessed the two year professional qualification. Contrary to the prescribed criteria, the rest of the schools appointed employees who had passed courses of one year or six months duration only.

## Mode of Admission

Most of the preschools admit the students through interview. The schools under government stream and anganwadis do not collect any fee at the time of admission or later. But the private institutions charge a fixed amount monthly and during admission.

## Medium and Mode of instruction

All the teachers opined that training to understand the new trends in preschool education was necessary. They informed that they organize various celebrations for the children and encourage them to give good performances. They confessed that they resort to mild punishments such as scolding and staring. The teachers of government schools and Anganwadis unanimously pointed out that they needed training to understand the instructional methods for children with special needs.

All teachers under the Montessori and Kindergarten stream teach other languages along with mother tongue. They also give directions in English. But only a few teachers under government and Anganwadi systems give importance to other languages.

## Safety, Cleanliness and Health

## - Safety

The government and Anganwadi streams have completed the registration process as per the criteria. But private institutions are not registered as they have not implemented any legal regulations. However, these private schools are allocating ID cards and uniforms. Some government schools and most of the private institutions provide transport facilities and have implemented CCTV systems. Anganwadis , however, do not have these facilities. Most of the schools did not have fire and safety equipment.

## - Cleanliness

All government schools and Anganwadis have drinking water facility and kitchen facility. The private institutions do not offer kitchen facility or the provision for taking a nap or rest. Majority of the private and some government schools provide drinking water facility, clean toilets, soap/ hand wash/ towel facilities and dining room facility. But facilities like gender friendly toilets, child friendly wash basins and soap/ hand wash/ towel were not found in any Anganwadis.

## - Health

Most of the institutions provide first aid service. All government schools and Anganwadis distribute nutritious food to children. All Anganwadis measure and record the height and weight of the children every month. They also conduct health check ups twice a year and distribute nutritious food. But none of these facilities are available in the private institutions.

## Records and registers

All schools ( $100 \%$ ) maintain admission records. Most of the schools (80\%) maintained individual data sheets and detailed background information of the children and staff profiles.

## Support Systems

All Anganwadis are availed of back up from government agencies and PTA along with institutional support.

## Suggestions

1. It is to be ensured that all preschool institutions are registered under the government
2. There is an urgent need for improvement in the infrastructure facilities of both government and non-government institutions. The required funds and other support for this should be made available
3. Institutions must be made differently- abled friendly
4. Textbooks prepared on a scientific outlook on the child and education should be used in all preschools
5. Ensure that all preschools follow the curriculum and teacher text 2121 prepared by the SCERT
6. Mother tongue is to be made the medium of instruction in all schools
7. Measures to appoint expert teachers with preschool training must be taken in our country also
8. Preschool stage is a period when special care and attention should be given to children from age 3 to 6 . Hence it is essential to provide the service of a helper along with the teacher
9. Most private schools charge high amounts towards fees. This should be controlled and the fees should be fixed.
10. Most schools do not follow any safety measures. Steps should be taken to rectify this.
11. The teacher- student ratio should be fixed as 1:20.
12. All preschools should come under the control of the government and should obtain recognition by establishing comprehensive rules and regulations.
13. Continuous supervision and assessment of preschools must be ensured.

## Conclusion

The study revealed that though there are different types of preschool systems in Kerala, many of them are unable to promote a child friendly learning system. Hence it is the duty of government and non-government organisations to take measures for the effective, scientific and constructive functioning of preschools in a child friendly manner.

# Words Extinct from Mother Tongue : An Enquiry <br> in the Light of Paddy Cultivation 

This study is an inquiry into indirect influence made upon Malayalam language by the decline of paddy cultivation .As paddy cultivation declined, many words which prevailed in Malayalam became out of use. By tracing out such words which have lost the place in dictionary we can find out the remnants of culture. Language has two levels, spoken and written. The study aims at analyzing terms and vocabulary related to paddy cultivation that were used colloquially in the past. The investigator had selected words used to describe seeds, technical terms, verbs, nouns and adjectives related to the entire process of paddy cultivation. Only below $25 \%$ of these words are listed in the dictionary. Some words had a different meaning apart from its dictionary meaning. By analyzing all these aspects, the present study aims to find out the relation between language and society.

The curiosity of the learner about the mother tongue and culture will escalate by this study that correlate language and agrarian culture. A major scope of this study is that it will provide learners a model for similar enquiry. It will also enrich the analytical skills of the learner which leads to divergent cultural streams related to tradition. The study will also help children to improve their vocabulary, semantics, grammar ,linguistic analysis and skill of dictionary making. Such a serious study combining language and culture is essential in this context. If this type of a study is not under taken, the relation between language and culture may not be addressed in the school level and the terminologies that are now extinct from the agricultural sector will not be examined at the cultural level.

## Objectives

- To identify the words related to paddy cultivation which have become extinct.
- To link the identified words with cultural evolution
- To make the child aware of the impact of the decline of paddy cultivation on mother tongue.


## Methodology

Linguistic science stipulates that language is not merely a medium of communication; rather it encapsulates the culture of vernacular speakers. Social linguistics states that colloquial language should be analyzed in its context itself.

## Method

Survey method was adopted for this study.

## Tools and techniques

A word collection format was prepared for collecting the terms related to paddy cultivation. The format contained the name of the student, school, word collected and its meaning.

## Procedure

The study was carried out in the following steps:

- Collection of words
- Processing words
- Analyzing words
- Semantic analysis


## 1. Collection of Words:

Collected words were the major sources of study. Two methods were used for collecting words.

The collection of words was done using students from10 schools of Kerala. $20 \%$ of words were collected in this manner.
$80 \%$ of words were collected through field works done by the investigator in various districts.

## 2. Word processing

Selection of appropriate words collected through different source such as students and investigators was done in word processing. For this, a three day camp was organized for five research scholars of the University of Kerala along with the investigator.

## 3. Analysis of words

The grammatical possibilities and practical usage were analyzed in detail in this step. For this, a one-day camp was conducted. In the second phase of the workshop, one subject expert and a university professor participated.

## 4. Semantic Mapping

This was the method of describing the meaning of words in a word or one or two sentences. A two-day workshop was organized including scholars and a subject expert.

## Findings

- It is found that any change in culture will reflect in language as well.
- Colloquial language was found to have dominant influence than the written language.
- It is evident that the decline of paddy cultivation has resulted in a huge loss to the spoken vocabulary of mother tongue.
- By the decline of paddy cultivation ,many words havfe been lost from the spoken language of Malayalam all over Kerala.
- The study found that same words with slight semantic differences were used in diffferent parts of Kerala. The same word is used with entirely different meanings in different places of Kerala.A lot of examples were cited to illustrate this.
- Study revealed that in the spoken language, many words were found to be used both as adjectives and nouns.
- The study revealed that in spoken language there are many words whose etymology and component terms could not be traced.
- Many words which were closely related to the life and work of ordinary folk were found to be lost from spoken language.
- As opined by experts, the investigation for words increased the students’ affinity towards agriculture and helped to get them acquainted with the scope of cultural studies.


## Suggestions

- Through extended activities the learner has to be made aware of the impact the absence of paddy cultivation had made on their mother tongue.
- This kind of word loss in the oral tradition has taken place in the entire agricultural field. Studies like this should pay attention to investigate such words also.
- In the traditional areas like handicrafts and rural small-scale industries similar word losses had taken place and should be analyzed.
- A detailed and meticulous glossary should be prepared including such lost words.
- Learners should be enabled for the process of semantic analysis and collection of colloquial words.
- Learners should be enabled to prepare a dictionary of such lost words class-wise or school-wise as part of their learning activities.

