

NCERT

NEWS

JANUARY- APRIL 2009

National Science Exhibition

NCERT organised the 35th Jawaharlal Nehru National Science Exhibition for Children (JNNSEC) in collaboration with the Government of Himachal Pradesh at Solan from 25-30 November 2008. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, H.E. Smt Prabha Rau.

In her address the Hon'ble Governor rightly pointed out the role of Science and Technology in the development of the mankind in the course of evolution of human beings, society and culture. She has also emphasised on the need and relevance of science and technology in the development of the nation. The inaugural function was presided over by the Education Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Ishwar Dhiman who pointed out the importance of such exhibitions in the overall development of a child. Professor Hukum Singh spoke about the background, objectives and history of the JNNSEC besides emphasising on the role of NCERT in uplifting science education and popularising science in the country. Professor G. Ravindra spoke about the efforts made by the NCERT since its inception for the improvement of education pointed out the immediate need of massive expansion of activities in school. The Hon'ble Health Minister of Himachal Pradesh Dr. Rajiv Bindal addressed the participants and distributed educational kits to them.



35th JNNSEC-2008, Solan



LIFE ETERNAL THROUGH LEARNING

विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते



एन सी ई आर टी
NCERT

The intertwined Hansas symbolise the integration of three aspects of the work of the

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT):

- (i) Research and Development,
- (ii) Training, and (iii) Extension.

The design has been adapted from an Ashokan period relic of the third century B.C. found in excavations near Maske in the Raichur district of Karnataka.

The motto has been taken from the *Isavasya Upanishad* and means life eternal through learning.



There were 114 exhibits on display out of the 155 invited from 26 states and UTs of the country.

SUB-THEMES

- Water Management
- Agriculture and Food
- Energy Resources
- Disaster Management
- Mathematical Modelling
- Educational Technology

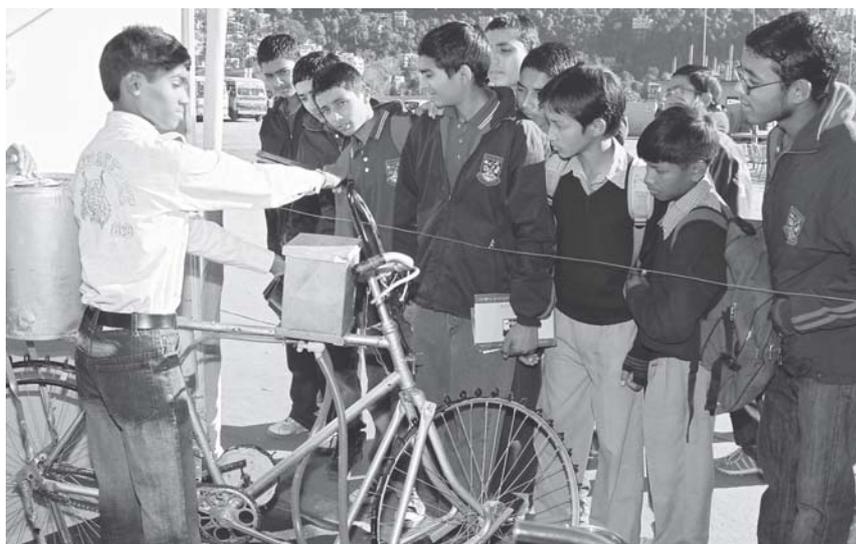
Several lectures were arranged during the week.

Professor P.K. Ahluwalia, Department of Physics, HP University spoke on 'Science and Scientific Temper'. Professor D.C. Gautam, Department of Biosciences, HP University gave a highly informative lecture on ethical issues of human cloning. Dr. Jaiprakash, Principal, Bhaskaracharya College, New Delhi spoke on Solar Energy and its Application. Other speakers were Professor Kulvant Rai Sharma and Professor N.S. Chauhan from Y.S. Parmar University (Solan). They focused on Role of Chir Pine in Hill Economy and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

Some cultural programmes were also organised. The valedictory function was graced by the Hon'ble Education Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shri Ishwar Dass Dhiman as the Chief Guest. A souvenir was also released on the occasion and a report was presented by the coordinator, Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Reader, DESM, NCERT.

Of the 114 exhibits displayed during the 35th JNNSEC-2008, 20 exhibits were chosen for inclusion in the Rashtriya Kishore Vaigyanik Sammelan. The Sammelan was organised along with the 96th Indian Science Congress 2009 at North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) Shillong from 3-7, January 2009.

Professor Yashpal, eminent astro-physicist, Professor M.G.K. Menon, a renowned Scientist,



Exhibits at JNNSEC

Dr. T.Ramasami, Secretary to Government of India (DST), Professor K.K. Dwivedi, Director DST, Dr. S.R. Joshi, Local Coordinator (RKVS) and Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Coordinator JNNSEC from NCERT addressed the participants.

EXCERPTS FROM THE INAUGURAL SPEECH

The most urgent and important cause of concern for life on earth is global warming and climatic change which is the result of depletion of the ozone layer. The new area for scientific research are natural disasters and crisis management of situations arising out of them. Training, good warning systems and preparedness in man power and material deployment is the mantra of success. The mental attitude which is behind the method of acquiring reliable and practical knowledge may be called "scientific temper". In everyday life, it would mean a deep interest in whatever activity one is engaged in, and making an effort to understand, by asking searching questions and seeking their answers. To introduce modernity, scientific aptitude has to be inculcated in children's minds at an early stage of education. Such exhibitions developed the potential of individuals and communities through which scientific education could be achieved.



Capacity Building Programmes

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON PUPPETS IN EDUCATION

The Department of Elementary Education, NCERT, organised the first phase of the third Diploma Course in ECCE from 1 October to 26 December 2008. The participants were 32 teacher-educators DIETs, SSA, RIEs from 16 states.



Diploma Course in ECCE

Practical sessions, during the training involved internship in Anganwadis, private nursery schools, MCD schools of Delhi, IIT nursery school. Exposure visits were organised to Bal Bhavan, SOS village, Saint Mary's Integrated School, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur child study centre, Science Museum and Nehru Planetarium. Trainees were oriented towards

developing skills in preparing low cost, locally available, child friendly play-learning material for pre-school children. A study trip was also organised for two days to an NGO, Bodh Shiksha Samiti, Jaipur and some model anganwadis of LCDS, in Jaipur, which were carrying out innovative ECCE programme.

Trainees are presently undergoing the second phase training, i.e. preparing a project report (dissertation) after selecting a topic of study to be conducted at their places of work.

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSE

A Tutor Training Workshop for the International Diploma Course in Guidance and Counselling through distance/online mode was organised by DPFE, NCERT

FIRST PHASE

- ECCE: A perspective
- Child development
- How children learn
- ECCE curriculum-Methods and Material
- Planning and Management of ECCE Programmes
- Addressing variability and aspects of equity in ECCE
- Advocacy and Communication
- Linkages between ECCE and Primary Education
- Research and Training

OBJECTIVES

- Increasing the knowledge base of teacher educators regarding ECCE.
- Inculcating sensitivity towards needs of young children.
- Developing competence in conducting ECCE programmes.
- Creating awareness among teacher educators regarding various teaching learning strategies, and
- Building capacities for conducting researches and evaluation studies in the area of ECCE.





from 8-11 December 2008 to orient a core resource group identified for this course.

Thirty-five resource persons from DPPEF and RIEs were oriented about the course design, content and modalities of offering distance/online course as well as about their roles as tutors, mentors, supervisors and evaluators during distance learning, contact programme and internship phases of the course.

Professor Asha Kanwar, Vice President, Commonwealth of Learning, Canada addressed the participants in the inaugural session. She highlighted the focus of CoL's programmes in training large number of teachers in the area of guidance and counselling using the open and distance learning approach. She reiterated continued support of CoL for effective implementation of the course during pilot phase. Professor Vasudha Kamat, JD, CIET emphasised on the optimum utilisation of technology such as online distance mode of learning for reaching the masses.

The workshop was conducted by Mr. Bruce Thompson, an expert in open and distance learning, who was sponsored by Commonwealth of Learning, Canada. The draft Tutor Guide for the use of resource persons was discussed and reviewed in the workshop.

EVALUATION / QUESTION SETTING

Two capacity building programmes for Key Resource Persons of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and Jharkhand Academic Council on Question Setting was organised from 3-7 October 2008 at Pune and from 24-28 October 2008 at Ranchi respectively. In these programmes, theoretical deliberations were made on quality question setting which was followed by practicum. During practicum, exemplar quality questions for Question Banks were developed in different subjects namely English, Hindi, Marathi, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics. About 50 teachers and academic officers of the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and 55 teachers and academic officers of the Jharkhand Academic Council participated in these programmes.

TRAINING PACKAGE

The Planning Programming Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PPMED) NIE, New Delhi organised a five-day training programme for the DIET faculty in the area of Educational Planning, Management and Evaluation at NIE New Delhi from 16-20 March 2009. Professor M.S. Khaparde, Head PPMED and coordinator of the programme, in his inaugural address stated (as per the recommendations of the NPE 1986) that DIETs were created as the key institutions in the district level to play a pivotal role, inter-alia in pre-service and in-service education, maintaining educational data, conducting research and encouraging teachers to conduct action research to achieve quality education. Thirty-seven DIET faculty members, from the Planning and Management branch of the DIET from five Northern States, viz. Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, participated. The training programme concentrated on four aspects viz., Educational Research, Educational Planning, Educational Management and Evaluation and Quality Concerns in Education. The training package – Educational Planning, Management and Evaluation was developed by the division with the help of the experts from all over India and the faculty of PPMED was provided to the trainees.

TRAINING ON ETS

Eight Faculty members from DEME were trained at the Educational Assessment Techniques from 23 March-10 April, 2009 as a part of capacity building under TC Fund. Teams within ETS's Global and Research and Development division are working closely with several international organisations to support India's National Assessment Survey (NAS), a national evaluation of India's educational system. The NAS is the part of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA).

GROUP STUDIES

- concepts and techniques related to test design and development.
- sampling procedures, test administration, data management, psychometric analysis, reporting and interpretation, fairness and quality assurance.



Orientation Programmes

EARLY READING PROGRAMME

The Reading Development Cell has undertaken Research, Development, Training and Extension Activities for its Early Reading Programme. Training Programmes in five blocks of Mathura were organised from October 2008 to January 2009. These programmes were designed on the principles of pedagogy of reading.

The Cell has brought out publications as well, under its Early Reading Programme for the Promotion of Reading among children in primary years.

RDC PUBLICATIONS

Padhne Ki Samajh : A manual on reading along with a handbook for conducting training programme. The manual focuses on the issues of inculcating reading habits among young children and pedagogical issues involved in learning to read.

Padhna Sikhane Ki Shuruat : A compilation of research based papers focusing on the need of creating reading climate in classrooms and schools.

Padhne Ki Dahleej Par : The articles in this dossier suggest guiding principles for teachers and parents for developing the basic skills of reading among children.

Reading for Meaning : This document presents a selection of writings on reading. It includes classics, which revolutionised the thinking and understanding of reading in their respective times.

Graded Reading Series—Barkha : This series based on the pedagogy of reading has forty books in Hindi for children.

These publications aim to create awareness and understanding of the pedagogy of reading among teachers and parents, and to developing among children the skills of reading with comprehension. These books are available on the publication counter of NCERT.

KGBV PACKAGES

The recommendations of National Consultation on Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Scheme held from 11-12 August 2008 at NCERT highlighted that state textbooks being used in the KGBVs in many places do not provide adequate understanding of necessary concepts and often do not project gender concerns and other concerns related to equality and social justice appropriately. It was recommended that NCERT textbooks based on NCF-2005 should be used as they weave issues of gender and marginalised groups in textual materials. Further, it was decided by MHRD that NCERT will assist in capacity building of teachers of KGBV by preparing customised Teacher Training Package and adapted curriculum for KGBV schools.

Meetings and workshops are being held with team members and subject-experts of Languages, Mathematics, Social Science and Sciences regarding the guidelines and content outline for the preparation of Course Book and Training Package. A visit to KGBV at Alwar was undertaken on 18 December 2008, where the faculty members of NCERT and other subject experts had an extensive discussion with state officials, the teachers and students in order to get an understanding of the level and background of students and teachers. The work on the training package and course book based on NCERT textbooks of Elementary Stage is in progress. The programme is being coordinated by Professor Gauri Shrivastava, Department of Women's Studies.

ORIENTATION OF MATH TEACHERS

The Department of Education in Science and Mathematics (DESM) has designed and conducted a teacher training programme for upper primary mathematics teachers in three phases: 6-8 October 2008; 22-24 December 2008 through tele-conferencing. The programme was designed based on the feedback of 400 teachers.

Continued on page 6



Language and Beyond

NATIONAL SEMINAR

A national seminar-cum-workshop on problems in 'Learning Hindi among Tribal Language Speaking School Students in India' was held from 11-12 November 2008 by the Department of Languages, New Delhi.

THEMES

- Hindi language education systems, patterns and practices in tribal areas
- Globalisation and democratisation of classrooms – Hindi as language of choice in tribal language speaking areas
- Problems of teaching-learning of Hindi language and literature in the tribal societies
- Emergence of new media Channels and Direct to Home Television and its impact on tribal people's attitude towards Hindi
- Institutional support for the teaching of Hindi language and literature in the tribal regions

Dr Sanjay Suman, Sr. Lecturer, DOL was the coordinator.

SAMAJH KA MADHYAM

Department of Languages organised a two-day National Symposium on 'Samajh Ka Madhyam, the third in the series, at the Banaras Hindu University from 19-20 November 2008.

In the discussion it was reiterated that ignoring the language of the child and forcing

a completely new lingua on her/him in school brings with it the struggle for recognition.

The cognitive spectrum of the child is 90 per cent dominated by words in the forms of language and thus its role in understanding other school subjects of science, social science and mathematics is even more basic and critical. Thus, the role of languages in understanding and learning, multilingualism, and interaction between languages are important. Professor Krishna Kumar, Director, NCERT defined language as the most non-violent weapon in the hands of people to create a peaceful society. Thus, where words fail, war begins. A child centred pedagogic practice can only be carried out when we provide space for the child to develop. Professors Krishna Kumar, H.C.S. Rathore, Arun Kamal, Awadesh Pradhan, Shubh Rao, Sadanand Shahi, Deepak Malik, Ram Janma Sharma, A.K. Mishra, Shri Rohit Dhankar, Dr. Sandhya Singh, Dr. Kirti Kapur, NCERT faculty, members of SCERT and Board from Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and other experts participated in the symposium.

SEMINAR ON LANGUAGE TEACHING NORTH EAST

Professor Awadesh Kumar Mishra, NERIE, Shillong coordinated a seminar on 'Phonology, vocabulary, literature and culture in language teaching in the North East context' from 10-12 December 2008 at NERIE, Shillong. Fifty-four academicians from various states of the North East Region participated and presented papers at the seminar.

Continued from Page 5...

The twin concerns of the mathematics education are basically to engage the minds and also to strengthen the resources available to students. The major challenge is related to mathematical processes. We have also to emphasise on the beauty of Mathematics as problem solving, mathematics as communication, mathematics as reasoning,

Mathematical connections, use of patterns, visualisation, estimation and approximation.

These aspects were explored with several illustrations during the teleconferencing. Around 450 teachers have got the exposure and their feedbacks were found to be very encouraging. Dr. P. K. Chaurasia designed and coordinated this training programme.



Seminars and Workshops

VET PLAN FOR PUDUCHERRY

A survey for collection of primary data for development of District Vocational Education and Training (VET) Plan for Puducherry district was conducted from 14 to 23 October, 2008

OBJECTIVES

- to identify the employment opportunities in the district
- to locate the gaps in manpower requirements
- to identify the training providers in the district
- to prepare district vocational education and training plan for effective implementation of VET.

Three Vice-Principals and twelve instructors from Higher Secondary Schools of Puducherry and three faculty members from PSSCIVE were involved in collecting the primary data from two Municipality areas, i.e. Puducherry and Oulgaret and covered about 25 wards. The team administered five structured schedules to collect data from knowledgeable persons (500), Industrial Establishments, Cottage and Handicrafts Industries (200); Head of High/Higher Secondary Schools (50); the Prospective Class X students of different Higher Secondary Schools (1500) and from vocational pass-outs (500). The information was then tabulated.

The teams also collected primary and secondary data from different organisations such as Statistical Department, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, District Employment Exchange Office and information from related

NEW VOCATIONS IDENTIFIED

- Agriculture Area
- Business and Commerce Area
- Engineering and Technology
- Home Science and Health and Paramedical

training providers like ITIs, Polytechnics, Engineering Colleges, etc.

Suggestions for better implementation of Vocational Education Programme in the Pudducherry included

1. Separate Vocational Wing should be established for better implementation of VEP.
2. Revision of Vocational Curricula and introduction of On-the-Job Training as integral part of the Curricula.

Dr. P. Veeraiah, Sr. Lecturer, PSSCIVE coordinated the programme.

SEMINAR ON HOME SCIENCE

A national seminar on advocacy of home science vocational courses and modules was organised from 4-5 December 2008 at RIE, Bhopal.

Twenty-three participants from Delhi,

OBJECTIVES

- to obtain information about Home Science courses being offered by Vocational Education Directorates and NGOs in different states/ UT
- to understand the perception and experiences, if any, of participating agencies towards Home Science vocational courses
- advocate and disseminate the importance and scope of Home Science as a rich vocational area
- popularise the Home Science courses and modules developed at PSSCIVE.

Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa and Puducherry, attended the seminar. Professor S.Z. Haider, former Joint Director of PSSCIVE was the chief guest on the occasion. Experiences and views of participants regarding Home Science as a vocational area were shared. Professor Mridula Saxena, programme coordinator presented the scope of Home Science as a vocational area and its implementation as a vocational course.



CASE STUDY OF DIETS

A three-day workshop was organised at the State Institute of Science Education, Nagpur, Maharashtra from 29 to 31 December 2008. The purpose of the workshop was to finalise the tools for the research on 'A Case Study of Select DIETs in Western Region of India.' It was attended by eminent educationists and principals and faculty of DIETs in Maharashtra. In his opening remarks Professor M. S. Khaparde, Head, PPMED, highlighted the importance of the research and functions of DIETs in the areas of training, academic and resource support to the elementary system and action research and experimentation to deal with specific problems of the district. The tools of the study were finalised. Dr. P.D. Subhash, Lecturer, PPMED, NCERT, coordinated the programme.

WORKSHOP ON ACTION RESEARCH

A capacity building workshop on action research for key resource persons of Education Department was organised by NCERT, New Delhi in collaboration with State Institute of Education (SIE) Port Blair at Shiksha Sadan, Port Blair from 3-7 November 2008. The Director of Education, Port Blair, Basu Kumar stated that the level of education in the Andaman Nicobar Islands has been improving, and lauded teachers' dedication. Shri R. Dev Das, Principal, SIE said that updating knowledge is necessary. Dr. N.K. Gupta, Reader, DERPP coordinated the programme.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

The first National Conference of stakeholders in Guidance and Counselling was organised by DEPEE from 17-19 March, 2009 at Bangalore. The conference aimed to provide a platform for various stakeholders in guidance and counselling to share their work and experiences and promote networking amongst the stakeholders. The conference was attended by more than 50 participants from various fields of work, including heads/representatives of SCERT's, counsellors,

counsellor-educators, principals, teachers, and NGO representatives.

NATIONAL SEMINAR

DLDI organised a two-day National Seminar on 'Role of School Libraries in Quality Education' from 10-11 February, 2009 to facilitate a dialogue between school librarians and experts in the field of libraries and documentation services. The seminar discussed the vision for school libraries to meet the challenges of a knowledge society and to identify the strengths and gaps in the school library system in India and suggest new management models, best practices, techniques and policies.



Seminar on School Libraries

107 participants attended the Seminar from KVS, NVS, Government Schools, SCERTs and Universities of India.

Forty-two papers in six different technical sessions were presented.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- School Libraries Across Borders
- Organisation and Development of School Libraries as Resource Centres
- Role, Responsibility and Status of School Librarians
- School Libraries Services
- Reading Habits
- Best Practices in School Libraries : Case Studies



NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

The council celebrated 11 November 2008, the birthday of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Education Minister of India as the National Education Day. Ms. Mily Roy Anand and Dr. M.V.S.V. Prasad highlighted the contribution of Maulana Azad to the causes of freedom struggle, Hindu-Muslim unity, education in independent India, the ideals he stood for and their contemporary relevance. An audio CD relating to life and times of Maulana Azad was played.

CONFERENCE OF SCERT/SIE DIRECTORS

The Department of Teacher Education and Extension organised the Conference of Directors SCERT/SIEs during 4-5 February 2009 at NCERT, New Delhi. The main focus of the conference was related to strengthening of SIEs/SCERTs. The Conference was attended by the Directors of 25 States. The following

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- NCERT should work as a Nodal Agency for monitoring the development of School Libraries in the country.
- The school library budget should be of at least 5% of the school's educational budget.
- National census of school libraries in India should be done.
- IT incorporation in the libraries.
- Provision for State/Central awards for school librarians by NCERT/Government bodies.

recommendations related to strengthening of SIEs/SCERTs were made.

- NCERT model to be followed for strengthening of SCERTs/SIEs.
- All SCERTs and DIETs should have uniform structure in terms of administrative, academic and financial inputs. Clear cut guidelines to be evolved for providing autonomous status to SCERTs; all SIEs to be upgraded as SCERTs, DIET to be

brought under the control of SCERT for better functioning.

- SCERTs and DIETs should have a separate cadre for teacher education. Educationalists in the rank of Director of Education of the state should be made the Director of SCERT. SCERT should have adequate staff strength to ensure planning, executing and monitoring different academic programmes and also assuring quality of these programmes.
- All SCERTs should have Programme Advisory Committees and the different programmes on school and teacher education should be organised as per the recommendations of PAC on regular basis. All the SSA programmes should also be organised through SCERT. The parallel structure of SSA should be abolished.
- Faculty members should be exposed to new technologies in order to keep pace with the emerging trends in society and face the challenges in the field of education. Connectivity of SCERT with DIET and other institutions should be made through EDUSAT network.
- SCERT should have linkages with CTEs, IASEs, College of Education, Universities and other similar institutions both horizontally and vertically.
- Uniform policy for the professional development programme of SCERT and DIET faculty should be evolved and visits to other SCERTs and DIETs should be organised.
- Adequate funds and grants for physical infrastructure, academic programmes and salary of the staff should be provided directly to SCERTs by MHRD on regular basis.

Issues related to implementation of NCF-2005, capacity building programme of SCERT faculty and draft curriculum of two-year B.Ed. curriculum were discussed. Professor S.K. Yadav, DTEE organised the conference.



Briefs

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAMPS

Two one-day Career Orientation Camps on Entrepreneurship for Senior Secondary Students were organised by PSSCIVE, at Pune, to motivate youth for selecting entrepreneurship (self employment) as career option; provide them information about available opportunities in the area; and to present a model of 'One day Entrepreneurship Orientation Camp' amongst schools, teachers and principals and encourage them for active participation for eradication of unemployment.

Various topics related to entrepreneurship career orientation were discussed in the two camps, which had 415 and 456 participants, respectively (students, teachers and principals). Dr. V.K. Jain, Programme Coordinator made a multi-media presentation on 'Discover Successful Entrepreneur Within You'. Two entrepreneurs narrated their success stories. Experts from Bank and DIC provided detailed information regarding schemes for self-employment and preparation of loan proposal.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

DESSH organised training programmes for Geography teachers/resource persons in Geographic Information System at NRSA,

Hyderabad, and NATMO, Kolkata from 13-17 October and 3-7 November 2008, respectively.

WORKSHOPS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Two workshops for were organised at NIE, New Delhi from 5-7 January and 19-20 February 2009. The workshops analysed the existing modalities that are followed in North-Eastern states for formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of educational programmes and suggested a viable framework and networking system for the same. Directors of SCERT, SIE School Education, Chairmans of Boards of Secondary Education, commissioners of NVS and KVS or their representatives and eminent educationists attended the programme. Dr. P. D. Subhash, Lecturer, PPMED, coordinated the workshops

NURTURANCE PROGRAMMES

Five nurturance programmes of five-day duration were conducted for NTS awardees studying in Class IX at NIT, Jalandhar from 5-9 January; at RIE Mysore from 5-9 January; at IIT Chennai from 17-21 January; at RIE Bhubaneswar from 19-23 January and University of Pune from 2-6 February 2009. The awardees were given exposure on different fields of knowledge.

NCERT – IIC Lecture Series

The NCERT-IIC Lecture Series was organised on 28 November 2008 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Professor Sudhir Kakkar, a psychoanalyst and writer, spoke on 'Sexuality and its Education'. He touched upon various aspects of sexuality: culture, attitude, historical resistance to the subject, ignorance, medicalisation of sex education, etc. Professor Sharada Jain chaired the session.

Paper Presentations

PROFESSOR AWADESH KUMAR MISHRA, NERIE, Shillong attended a seminar on 'Art and Aesthetic Education in Schools of North East India : Retrospect and Prospect', organised by North East Regional Institute of Education (NCERT), Shillong from 1-3 December 2008 at NERIE-NCERT, Shillong, and presented a paper entitled 'Art, Drama and Music in Second Language Teaching'.

MR. BIJOY KUMAR MALIK, Lecturer in Population Education Project (NPEP), DESSH, NCERT, New Delhi presented a paper entitled



'Yesterday's poor are tomorrow's chronically child poor; A case study of Balasore district of rural Orissa' in International Conference 'Child poverty and Disparities; Public policies for Social justice' Cairo, Egypt from 19-20 January 2009, organised under the umbrella of the Egypt National Observatory for Child's right.

DR. JYOTSNA TIWARI, Reader, DEAA attended a National Meet on 'Design and Innovation in School Curriculum' at the Industrial Design Centre, IIT Mumbai from 6-7 February 2009, where she made a presentation on the introduction of two new curricular areas heritage craft and graphic design at higher secondary stage.

PROFESSOR POONAM AGRAWAL, Joint Director, PSSCIVE attended the International Conference on 'Circles of Support (COS): Empowerment and Self-determination for People' organised by University of Applied Sciences, Department of Applied Social Studies, Dortmund, Germany from 6-10 October 2008 and presented a paper on mainstreaming Marginalised Groups with focus on Women and Empowerment.

She also participated in the International conference on 'Coroptate HRD and Skill Development for employment Scope and Strategies' organised by In Went Capacity Building International in partnership with NESCO-UNEVOC Centre for TVET (Bonn) from 24-27 November 2008 at Bali, Indonesia. She presented a Keynote paper on 'Emerging Reforms in Vocational Education in India with focus on National Qualifications Framework'.

PARTICIPATION IN PISA

NCERT has been designated as a nodal agency for the Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA). In this connection Avtar Singh, Head, DEME, participated in the National Project Managers Meeting at Frankfurt from 9-13, February 2009.

Staff News

APPOINTMENTS

- Dr. R. B. L. Soni as Professor, DEE, on 31.12.08
- Shri Om Prakash Sain as Stenographer, Grade III on 3.12.08

PROMOTED

- Shri Sanjay Sharma, A/C Branch as UDC on 11.11.08
- Shri Birpal Singh, LDC, S& SI as UDC on 10.12.08
- Shri Atar Singh, Promoted as Foreman on 02.02.2009.
- Smt. Karuna Singh, Section Officer as Under Secretary on 02.02.2009 in PSSCIVE, Bhopal.
- Shri Anil Kumar Tomar, LDC promoted as UDC on 03.03.2009
- Smt. Neelam Kukreja, Smt. Prem Chadha and Shri B.S. Rana, Assistants as Section Officers on 27.03.2009

SUPERANNUATION

- Smt. S. Grover, Asst CIET on 31.03.08
- Dr. G. N. P. Srivastava, Professor of Education, RIE Bhopal, on 31.10.2008
- Shri Satpal Singh, UDC, EI Section, on 31.10.08
- Smt. Chandravazirani, UDC, DEGSN, on 31.10.08
- Mrs Rekha Tandon, PGT English, DM School, RIE Ajmer, VRS on 5.11.2008
- Shri S. L. Narong, APC, DEE on 31.12.08
- Smt. Kamala Bhutani, Reader, DEPFE, on 31.12.2008
- Smt. Nagina Sharma, SPA on 31.01.2009
- Dr. Madhavi Kumar, Reader, CIET on 31.01.2009
- Dr. K.K. Mishra, Professor, DOL on 31.01.2009
- Dr. S.K.S. Gautam, Professor, DEME
- Dr. Utpal Mallik, Professor & Head, DCTA on 28.02.2009
- Dr. M.A. Khader, Professor, Curriculum Group on 28.02.2009
- Dr. Nirmala Gupta, Professor, DEPEE on 28.02.2009
- Sh. MC. Malla, Section Officer retired on 28.02.2009.
- Smt. C.P. Sharma, UDC retired on 28.02.2009
- Shri Jagmohan, ASO on 31.03.2009
- Shri G.D. Sharma, Technician on 31.03.2009



NCERT PUBLICATIONS

- *Laboratory Manual*, Chemistry Class XI; and Science Class X
- *School Science*, September 2007; December 2007; March-June 2008
- *Molecular Model Kit*
- *Bhartiya Adhunik Shiksha*, October 2008, July 2008; July 2008; October 2008
- *Population Education Bulletin*, January 2008
- *Prathmik Shiksha*, April 2008
- *The Primary Teacher*, July- October 2006; January- April- July- October 2007
- *Mathematics Exemplar Problem Class IX*
- *Srijan- I*, Textbook in Creative Writing and Translation for Class XI
- *Living Craft Tradition of India*, Textbook in Heritage Crafts Class XI
- *Aaklan Strot Pustika*, Hindi Bhasha (*Prathmik Ster Ki Kakshao Ke Liye*)
- Seventh All India School Education Survey—Physical and Ancillary Facilities; Schools for Physically challenge children
- Executive Summary of National Focus Groups NCF 2005
- *Journal of Indian Education*, August 2008; November 2008
- *Indian Educational Review*, July 2008; January and July 2007; January 2009
- Course Guide-International Diploma Course in Guidance and Counselling
- *Learning Achievement of Class V* (Midterm Achievement Survey under SSA 2008)
- NCF-2005 Position Paper of National Focus Groups on Systematic Reforms Vol-II

SOURCE BOOKS ON ASSESSMENT

The Department of Elementary Education, NCERT, launched the development of the Draft Source Book on Learning Assessment for the Primary level, in collaboration with UNESCO and UNICEF, in June 2006. Five subgroups were constituted for different curricular areas—Languages, Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Art Education as well as Issues across the Curriculum. This was put to field trial in 160 schools in 10 states in the country from October 2008. The set of five Source Books has been recently published by the NCERT.

Back Margin

The distance between principles and behaviour in the jurisprudence of the school is larger than in any other area of school education. All modern theories of education insist that children should be taught and advised with love. Modern pedagogy does not permit corporal punishment under any circumstance whatsoever. Despite going through many training programmes, teachers are unable to stop themselves from meting out physical and psychological punishment. Several such incidents keep coming to light in which children are not just punished but tortured, and that too for a curricular matter, not something related to their conduct or behaviour.

Clearly, present-day training programmes remain incapable of convincing teachers that each child learns in a specific personal style and the pace of learning is also highly individual. For this reason, physical punishment or mental oppression for not grasping a point is not only a humanitarian crime, it is also pedagogically meaningless because such treatment damages the motivation to learn. In matters of behaviour as well, corporal punishment brings no advantage; it only causes harm. Apart from the absence of this kind of understanding, one other reason is the expectation prevailing in our system that parts of the syllabus will be completed within a predetermined time-framework. Because of this norm, teachers concentrate their entire attention on completing the syllabus with the help of the textbooks and they are unable to give any personal attention to children's own style and pace of learning, nor are they able to appreciate children's natural interests so as to provide necessary autonomy for their growth. No wonder, incidents of corporal punishment keep recurring and the joy that teachers might find in working with children has become scarce.

KRISHNA KUMAR

Publication Team

P. Rajakumar	Varada M. Nikalje
Shveta Uppal	Arun Chitkara

E-mail: publica@nda.vsnl.net.in

Published at the Publication Department by the Secretary, National Council of Educational Research and Training, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110 016, lasertypeset in-house and printed at Gita Offset Printers, C-90, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi 110 020.