

The second meeting of the CAGE Sub-Committee set up by the MHRD on "Integration of Culture Education in the School Curriculum" held in the NCERT on 31st March 2005. Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy, Well-known Gnanapeeth Awardee chaired the meeting. The objective of this CAGE sub-Committee is to suggest ways of including culture education in the school curriculum and offer opportunity to those students who want to pursue these subjects to the higher level.

The members deliberated on the conceptual as well as procedural issues relating to integration of culture education at different stages of school curriculum. There was a general consensus that cultural awareness needs to be created among all school going children from grade I to VIII. The members strongly believe that this can be achieved through exposure to creative arts at the school level. Once recommendations are finalised the students will get options to study art and culture and may be offered specialised courses in future. Students interested in these subjects will be allocated separate time to pursue the courses of their choice in school curriculum.

Local and indigenous cultural activities will be used as culture, which does not mean an elitist orientation, but what is available in the immediate environment of the child. These activities will reflect pluralistic cultures of India. The cultural awareness may be assessed along with the learning in other areas. Members also expressed their concern over the grim situation regarding the present status of culture education in schools. Details of the ways in which culture education will be integrated in education will be worked out in greater detail, which form a part of the final report to be submitted to the CAGE.

The eminent members of the CAGE sub-committee who attended the meeting from all over the country were Shri Javed Akhtar, Ms. Shubha Mudgal, Ms. Krishna Sobti, Shri Vinod Raina, Dr. Kiran Seth, Ms. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, School Education, Madhya Pradesh and Prof. Krishna Kumar, the Member Secretary and Director, NCERT.