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LABS AND CLUBS HAVE ELEVATED THE SUBJECT FROM ONE OF MERELY SOLVING PROBLEMS TO ONE OF APPLICATIONS

Schools crack maths riddle, make learning it fun

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It's hard to believe, but "monster" maths is turning "benign", at least for Bangalore's children. City schools are coming up with innovative and effective ideas to end the fear psychosis associated with maths and make learning the subject a fun-filled exercise.

Right from maths laboratories to maths clubs, teaching and learning the subject has crossed the four walls of the classroom. Maths, in fact, has become an interactive and effective tool to reach out to kids, in their overall development.

All the three branches (north, south and east) of Delhi Public School (DPS) have introduced maths labs and Jain Heritage School has a special maths club, in an at-

tempt to transform the subject from being one of mere calculations and operations to one that is about applications.

"The very idea of having maths lab is to make mathematics learning a fun-filled exercise," Chitra Sharma, vice-principal of DPS, South, told *DNA*. DPS has tied up with the National Institute for Information Technology (NIIT) to launch its maths labs.

"The idea of the maths lab is that students need to visualise, feel and experience maths, like never before. The maths lab, 'DELTAHEDRON' enables creative learning, verifying and visualising mathematical concepts in a 'fun' way. It inculcates learning through 'applied reasoning'. This learner-centred approach to maths, using in-



THE THREE STAGES OF LEARNING

► Bangalore-based Chrysaalis I-Maths India Pvt Ltd has recently come up with special programme I-Maths, which focuses on developing and strengthening basic skills like observation, lateral-thinking, reasoning, and objective analysis.

► The programme caters to children in the age group of 3 to 7 and has three stages of learning.

► "In the first stage, the child is introduced to a

concept in an activity or story form. The second stage happens when the child performs the concept on the board using charts and work sheets at the head of the class. The final stage happens when the child works the concepts in the specially designed work books. This stage is a form of verificational learning, where the child is gauged on the basis of the application of concepts learnt," Sudhakar Joshi, an official of Chrysaalis.

teractive technology tools, together with hands-on activities, helps every child imagine, investigate and interact effectively. It is an inspiration

for 'out-of-the-box' thinking," said Sharma.

Jain Heritage School introduced maths club to primarily help students to im-

prove their logical thinking and spatial intelligence. "The Math club activities are conducted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They involve a

lot of group activities and not just theory. We use a lot of teaching aids and concepts like multiple intelligence to bring out the best of their mathematical skills," said Archana Vishwanath, principal, Jain Heritage School.

Making maths an easy to learn subject has been a priority area for many schools of Bangalore. "We have two papers for mathematics in each class to lay special emphasis on the subject. We conduct special maths classes. We are planning to have maths lab," said Dinakar Wilson, principal, Baldwin Boys High School.

The schools also admitted that after taking these special steps, the students' performance in maths has improved many fold.

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