

## Indien bygger matematikverkstäder

Den indiska dagstidningen The Hindu berättar i en artikel *Mathematics in labs?* (28 mars 2008) om framgångsrikt utvecklingsarbete med matematikverkstäder:

Maths need not be a dreaded subject any more. A Chinese proverb goes like this, "I hear, I forget I see, I remember I do, I learn"

Many schools have taken this proverb seriously. The initiatives taken by them to introduce skill-enhancing programmes have immensely benefited the students. One such initiative is the setting up of the "Math Lab". Mathematics seems to be a challenge and a phobia for many students. Bookish mathematics can be boring and stifling when taught in a classroom environment. It also saps the enthusiasm and dulls the inquiring mind of young students.

Math Labs set up by schools address this issue to a great extent through experimental learning, thus creating an enjoyable learning of fundamentals and give students, especially between classes two and eight, a sense of achievement.

The labs provide an opportunity for students to record observation through experimentation like in a science laboratory. The concepts learnt through 'doing' are retained by young minds.

"The Math Lab transforms vague concepts into tangible, easily understandable material processes that children use in order to master the subject. Now children have learnt to solve a problem in creative manner," says Shobha Bhat, Principal of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Nagarjuna Vidyaniketan.

"I love to come to this bright and colourful lab and the improvement in my performance (mathematics) has been simply amazing," says Devesh, a student.

"The objective of setting of this lab is to impel and create curiosity in the students to explore the beauty of mathematics and use the power of the same for a better life," says Karthiyini Bhat, Principal of Sri Vani Education Centre.

All the dynamic institutions today look forward to introducing and affecting a creative approach in educational curriculum. Teachers play a major role in implementing and supporting the students to gain competence in their efforts, Ms. Shobha says. At the lab, the teacher conducts an aptitude test and the results are helpful to take remedial action. "Setting up the Math Lab has benefited all the students," she adds.