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IMPLEMENTATION OF BaLA (BUILDING AS LEARNING AID): A STEP TOWARDS QUALITY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Ruchi Garg
B.El.Ed. Student
Mata Sundri College For Women
University of Delhi

ABSTRACT

Quality education in Indian schools has always been a great concern for policy makers. The nation is still working in the direction of bringing children to schools. Many schemes and policies have been implemented in this regard. Negligible numbers of steps have been taken to improve the quality of education and BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) is one of them. The study focuses on the implementation of this scheme. It studied the use of BaLA in teaching and learning process and to know the awareness of using BaLA design among teachers and students. The study also works to know the implementation of this scheme in Delhi schools. One school of Delhi has been selected to study this process. Observation and interview schedule were used to collect data for the present study. Findings of the study show that teachers do not use these designs regularly in teaching learning process. Some of the designs were found quite irrelevant and faulty from conceptual perspective. This paper examines the success and failure in the implementation of the BaLA scheme.

KEY WORDS: BaLA (Building as Learning Aid), Education, Quality Education, in- service programme, conceptual clarity

INTRODUCTION

The word 'BaLA' in a hindi language is used for a girl but here it has been used a acronym which means Building as a learning aid i.e. using school building as a learning resource for teaching learning process. Here, the building word has been used in a wider sense which includes floor, walls, playground, and doors etc. The book 'Guidelines for Vidyalaya Kalyan Samiti including BaLA' defines the meaning of BaLA as:

'BaLA is an innovative way to look at the relationship of a child with the school space'

The importance of physical space as learning resource has never been considered in teaching learning process. BaLA has been used to enhance the value of school space for learning. As it is discussed above, school space including classrooms, rounding space, floor, roof, doors, windows, furniture and open space can be used innovatively in order to strengthen the process of knowledge construction among students. This source can be worked as complement with the knowledge given in the textbook and other supplement textbooks. A three dimensional space provide a better opportunity for students to learn because multiple sensory experience is involved in here whereas students were only interacting with the material which gives no challenge to students. However, it is quite visible through NCERT textbooks which are developed after NCF, 2005 that innovative activities have been introduced in those books. Subjects like language, mathematics and environmental studies can be taught and learnt through dimensions, textures, shapes, angles and movement given in BaLA designs. The objective of BaLA is to even use walls, polls, fans, stairs and trees as a resource in teaching learning process. For instance, a window can be used to teach the concept of fractions in mathematics and pre writing skills in language. Similarly, doors can be used to teach the concept of angles by opening and closing it on different angles. A poll can be used

