Project 2

Teaching Aid for Primary Multigrade Schools in Rural Context

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Overview

- Introduction to Topic
- Current Situation
- Try-outs
- Restated Brief
- Exploring Alternate Media
- Content
- Final Concept
- Evaluation
- Conclusion & Future Scope

Introduction

What is Multigrade school?

The school where due to less number of student and lack of infrastructure, students of several grades study in single class under single teacher

About Project

The user group targeted for the project is teachers who teach in 3rd to 5th grade in lower primary Multigrade school in rural area.

With this project I will try to cater the problem faced by teacher in classroom environment. I would like to enhance collaborative learning and student-teacher learning by viable solution.

Multilevel schools in India



Primary Schools According to Number of Teacher in India

Source: 8th All India School Education Survey (8th AISES), 2011-12, flash statistics

Multilevel schools in India & Gujarat





Primary Schools According to Number of Teacher in India

Primary Schools According to Number of Teacher in Gujarat

Source: 8th All India School Education Survey (8th AISES), 2011-12, flash statistics

Benefits of Multigrade Teaching

Personality skills

frequent group discussion, increased communication skills, working in a team

Intellectual skills

strengthen their learning by explaining to others, clarity their own concepts.

Social habits

co-operative learning, group learning and helping attitude among the students.

Gaps in India

Multigrade teaching is... by necessity rather than by choice

Curriculum is designed for typical monograde schools Less instruction time per grade in Multigrade Schools Incompletion of curriculum More load on teacher

What benefits can be brought in such context?

Multi-level Teaching & Learning theories





Piaget's theory of cognitive development

Zone of Proximal Development in Multigrade context (From Vygotsky's social development theory)

Situation in Multigrade schools

Methods

Unstructured Interviews with Teachers

Shadowing in Multi-level classroom



Organizational Layout of different schools



Demographics of Visited Schools









School Name	Kanthiyapura	Krushna Nagar	Mirkuva	Vadiyapura	Khodiyar Nagar (with upper primary)
No. of student	45	62	67	61	170+
No. of Teacher	2	3	3	3	5
Standard	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 8
Class combination	1+2+3 , 4+5	1+2,3+4,5	1+5 , 2+4 , 3	1+2 , 3+5 , 4	1+2 , 3+6 , 4+5 , 7 , 8
Reason for such combination	More subjects in Grade 5	More subjects in Grade 5, Principal Teacher prefers to teach to Grade 5	More attention to Grade 5, Load on teacher is less	No. of student in Grade 4 are high Principal prefers to teach Grade 4	Grade 5 and 6 has more subjects

Diversity of class combination





Principal prefers teaching single grade due to heavy workload

5

3

Variety of class setups



Separate teaching

Teacher has to juggle in and out of the class to teach

Vadiyapura Primary School

Number of Student: 60

Number of Teacher: 3

Number of Classroom: 3

Multigrade Teaching in 2 class: 1 & 2 , 3 & 5





Typical Period in Multigrade classroom

Students generally scatter in classroom, few form groups

Less interaction between both grades

~20 minutes in both grade

~10 minutes common supervision

Teacher has to juggle between grades

Students are easily distracted while doing class work, Lack of supervision Learning difficulty

Student help each other

Unable to articulate their learnings at times They often share notes (or copy from other)

Unavailability of material for class-room exercise





Activities in Classroom

Lot of spatiotemporal movement within class

Student enjoy Interaction with fun

Contextual learning

Unavailability of teachers

Interaction among students of different grade is low during class



Try-outs

- 1. Shape and perimeter
- 2. Multiplication and factors:
- 3. Line segment



Tryout 1: Shape and Perimeter

Learning Objectives

- Grade 3 To identify basic shapes (i.e. circle, triangle, square, rectangle, pentagon)
- Grade 4 To recall different shape To appreciate what perimeter is



Goal

Response to group Activity, behavior of Upper grade and Lower grade students



Try-out 1: Shape and Perimeter



Try-out 1: Shape and Perimeter

Learnings

Higher grade students were more confident while teaching to their lower grade partners. Lower grade student were curious to know and tried to catch-up their partners.

Due to the small groups, teacher had opportunity to consult those children who were lacking.

Contextual learning among peers will help student use this concepts in daily life.



Next activity

To see how one can externalize the learning.

Try-out 2: Multiplication & Factors

Learning Objectives

- Grade 3 Given two numbers, student should be able to multiply those numbers which may involve carry
- Grade 4 Given a number, students should be able to identify it as prime or non-prime number

Goal

To have firsthand experience of teaching

To explore Intra-grade and inter-grade peer learning techniques

To discover different ways for students to articulating their concepts.

Try-out 2: Multiplication & Factors (Do and Learn)



Try-out 2: Multiplication & Factors (Do and Learn)



Try-out 2: Multiplication & Factors (Do and Learn)

Learnings

Activity based learning (Do & learn, play & learn) will engage students for long time, hence buy extra time for teacher for doing other activity.

Every student got chance to perform activity. Turn to everyone reduces domination of any individual. It also provides accountability to each member emphasizing their importance in group.

Token being tangible, everyone was observing what others are doing. This allowed others to understand the concept of prime number better.

Try-out 2: Multiplication & Factors (Play and Learn)



Try-out 2: Multiplication & Factors (Play and Learn)



Try-out 2: Multiplication & Factors (Play and Learn)

Learnings

The circular sitting arrangement was effective for inter-grade learning due to more interaction and less distraction as LGS were encircled by HGS

Next activity

Detail out one topic and look towards providing tangible artifacts during learning

Try-out 3: Line segment

Learning Objectives

Grade 4 Given a length, students should be able to sketch line of that length using scale

Goal

Look for strategies in peer learning

To check role of personalized, tangible artifacts as motivation factor to children

See performance in collaborative environment versus competitive environments



Try-out 3: Line segment



Try-out 3: Line segment

Learnings

Personalized tangible artifacts encourage students for learning. Students are engaged more while working with artifact as they have feeling of ownership toward it

Recall of learning revisiting artifact

Externalizing the learning process can facilitate peer learning

Gist of user study

Local Language & Context plays key role in understanding of the students

Students are engaged more while creating artifact as they have feeling of ownership toward it.

Externalizing the learning can provide a way for peer learning

Collaborative learning can enrich class environment in long-term

Current manipulatives have limited use as they are not self-explanatory and student don't relate with concept much

Restated Brief

"To Facilitate Peer Learning in Multigrade context"

Learning

Develop decision making skills in students

Develop sense of estimation in students

Improve their problem solving skills

Encourage students to use and relate class-learning to their daily life activities

Peer-learning

Externalize the learning process

Multigrade learning

Allow students of both grades to learn different things Encourage HGS to help LGS

Exploration of Media for Content Delivery

- 1. Digital book for reading comprehension
- 2. Story teller and quiz master
- 3. Collaborative platform for content sharing
- 4. Activity planner and Tool-kit

1: Digital book for reading comprehension

Goal

To help children of lower grade with reading comprehension hence enabling intra-grade peer learning

Idea

This digital version of textbook will help improving reading comprehension

It will speak out the words as they slide their finger

Higher grade students can help preparing content

Tree are our Tree are our Tree are our Speak as your slide your finger Speak es Text book

Challenges

To make it self-sustainable

Make it robust and cost-effective

Very limited use as improves reading comprehension only

2. Story teller and quiz master

Goal

To provide multiple tangible means of interacting with content

Idea

It will allow student to interact with it in multiple ways using remote, audio, visual (screen, small printer)

Teacher can setup device with topic for quiz or story by wireless communication or by memory stick

Challenges

High maintenance at frequent intervals Need to be robust and durable





3. Collaborative platform for content sharing

Goal

Enhance efficiency and quality by collaboration and making content accessible to students

Idea

This platform will allow sharing of resource material among various school through web

Teacher can create material or use existing materials

Children can see this material and learn from it when teacher is busy with other grade

Challenges

Connectivity to each school

Make it stand-alone to use in absence of teacher


4. Activity planner and Tool-kit

Goal

To encourage multigrade peer learning and to take advantage of gifted learner

Idea

A printed chart in which teacher can find activity for peer learning based on topic covered in class

Flashcard and Props will help in activity

It will include activity which can be done even in absence of teacher

Challenges

Verification of learning

To make it interesting and fun to engage student (without using power of multimedia)



Finalizing concept

I wanted my solution to be...

Feasible (for more penetration in rural schools)

Easily replicable (for fast deployment)

Hence, I finalized the idea of "Activity planner and toolkit"

Active learning

Provides creative yet structured approach to develop content

Contextual Learning Holistic learning

Content

Units of measurement

Units of measurement involves conceptual and procedural learning Conceptual learning requires analogies and concrete examples Procedural Learning requires lot of practice.

The complexity increases gradually

Topic has different level of complexity allowing multigrade peer learning



Content Analysis

Use		Identify & classify Which unit/tool to use for specific measurement? Decide which operation to perform? (out of +, -, X, ÷)	Demonstrate how to Practical example (word problem involving +,-) Practical example (word problem involving +,-, X, ÷)	Explain why or predict
Remember Generality		State or define Property & unit of measurement How different units are related (sense of scale?)	State step How to measure units using tools? Perform (+,-) operation on units Unit conversion Perform (+, -, X, ÷) operation on units	State relationship
Remember instance	Recall & recognize Numerical relation among units Daily life words related to measurement/ grouping	Recall & recognize definition or example Different measurement tools and use of it Different occupation/daily life activities involving units for measurements	Recall & recognize step or example	Recall & recognize principle or example
Best methods to learn	Fact Repetition Hearing Visualize	Concept Analysis (concrete example) Analogies (abstraction) Relate it to what is already known	Procedure (process) Practice (& lot of practice) Hands on activity Mnemonics and tricks	Principle Grade 3 Grade 5

Content

Final Concept

An activity based worksheets Students from different grades will use it together Contextual Learning can happen among peers Most of the activities will be self-explanatory



Demonstration

Scenario

Activities

Activity 1: Journey to the farm

Learning Objectives

- Grade 3Read the measurement from given scaleAppreciate different object has different length
- Grade 4Revise the topic, length can be measured in cmEstimate the length by remembering the object

Overview

Part 1 is a race played in a group where individual student has to complete the race by selecting objects by their length.

Part 2 is a start of the story "*Patel ni Vadi*" (Patel's Farm), where children will find length of various animals by reading given scale.

Time: 1 hour (30 min + 30 min) Teacher's Assistance: Initially to give overview (5 minutes)

Material Given to each group

A square game board

Contains objects with their length hidden under them Story on Back side with various scales printed on it













Students performing activity



Activity 2: Farmer and the Scarecrow

Learning Objectives

Grade 3 Convert meter into cm

Grade 4 Convert cm into m-cm

Convert m-cm into cm

Time: 45 minutes Teacher's Assistance: Partial (Every 10 minute)

Material Given to each group

A folded leaflet

Reveals the story and exercises as group progress

Three cards

To convert one unit into other

Also serves to check whether the answer is correct

Overview

This activity sheet contains major three part of unit conversion. Color coded manipulatives cards are given to help student convert the unit into other and also check the answer. The activity is compiled as a conversation between farmer and scarecrow.

Conversion of meter to cm, m-cm to cm and cm to m-cm are followed by every conversation.



હવે પટેલભાઈ ખેતર માં પહોંચી ગયા. ત્યાં તેમનો ચાળીયો તેમની રાહ જોતો હતો.

ચાળીયો બોલ્યો: "કેમ પટેલ ભાઈ મોડા પડી ગયા?"

પટેલ ભાઈ બોલ્યા: "હું બધાં પ્રાણીઓ ની લંબાઈ પૂછીને આવ્યો એટલે મોડો પડી ગયો."

2 મીટર નું સેમી માં રૂપાંતર ૧ મીટર સેમી પ મીટર સેમી સેમી ૧૭ મીટર ૨૯ મીટર સેમી

ચાળીયો બોલ્યો: "તો મારી લંબાઈ કેટલી હશે?" પટેલ બોલ્યા: "તારી લંબાઈ ૨ મીટર જેટલી હશે" ચાળીયો : "મને તો સેમી માં લંબાઈ જોઈએ છે" પટેલ ભાઈ મૂંઝાયા…

2

હવે તમારે ચાળિયા ની લંબાઈ મીટર માં ફેરવી ને પટેલ ની મદદ કરવાની છે.

(તમારી પાસેના જાંબલી રંગ નું જાદુઈ પત્તું છે. તે વાપરી બાજુ ના પાના ના મીટર ને સેમી માં ફેરવી કાઢો)

અને છેલ્લે ચાળિયાની લંબાઈ પટેલ ને સેમી માં કહો ચાળિયા ની લંબાઈ: ૨ મીટર = ____ સેમી થાય.

2	3	3
મીટર નું સેમી માં રૂપાંતર	મીટર-સેમી નું સેમી માં રૂપાંતર	
▶ ૧ મીટર = સેમી	૬ મીટર 50 સેમી	ચાળીયો: વાહ! પટેલ ભાઈ તમે તો બહુ હોશિયાર. તો ચાલો મને કહો કે આ ઓરડી ના દરવાજા ની ઉંચાઈ કેટલી હશે?
▶ ૫ મીટર =સેમી	= + સેમી = સેમી	પટેલ: દરવાજા ની ઉંચાઈ ૨ મીટર ૫૦ સેમી હશે ચાળીયો: પણ મને તો સેમી માં જવાબ જોઈએ છે પટેલ: ઉભો રે
▶ ૧૭ મીટર =સેમી	૧૫ મીટર ૨૩ સેમી	(મિત્રો, તમને આપેલા પીળા રંગ નું જાદુઈ પત્તું વાપરી ને બાજુ ના મીટર-સેમી ને સેમીમાં ફેરવો) હવે ૨ મીટર ૫૦ સેમી = સેમી (ગણી ને લખો)
▶ ૨૯ મીટર =સેમી	=+ સેમી	
	= સેમી	





Students performing activity



Activity 3: Fetching Water from the Well

Learning Objectives

- Grade 3 To measure length using printed scale To appreciate shortest and longest length
- Grade 4 To measure length using scale To solve word problem

Overview

This activity sheet use string to teach measurement of length.

A part of activity involves thinking string's use in daily life. It involves measuring colored threads and sorting them according to their length.

Other part is a story of farmer trying to fetch water from well using small pieces of ropes. Here children have to make pairs of threads in order to reach to the bucket inside the well Time:45 minutesTeacher's Assistance:Partial (throughout activity)

Material Given to each group

An story on A3 sheet

Colored threads of different lengths

Flashcards for each member

LG & HG students will get different cards

They will contain visual clues

Activity Sheet 3: Fetching Water from the Well

ARE ENF. E.C.	દોરી બિત્રો, તમે દોરી જોઈ છે? તમે દોરી નો જે ઉપયોગ કર્યો હોય તે નીચે લખો. તમે કઈ જગ્યાએ દોરી જોઈ છે તે પણ લખો. દોરી નો શું ઉપયોગ કર્યો છે? કઈ જગ્યાએ ઉપયોગ કર્યો છે?	પટેલ ની વાડી વાર્તા રે વાર્તા બધાં મોટે થી વાંચો: એક પટેલ હતા, પટેલ પાસે એક વાડી હતી. વાડી બહુ મોટી હતી.	Nev 25, Yediserpore तमारा नाम लागो धोरख ड धोरण ड जे जे दी दिन् किशान उताल संजय
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Students performing activity











Activity Planner

Teacher will use this planner to select activity which will be given to students

Teacher can make better decision about assigning activity to students

Teacher can quickly suggest some activity to class in case she/he has some other urgent duty to perform



Salient features of the solution

Dynamic grouping by teacher

Catering ability and weakness of individual students Learning with stories that children can relate to Create Interest among students Helps in knowledge retention Decision making skill by solving real world problem Activity may involve different subjects to promote holistic learning

Teacher can utilize this time for mentoring students or performing other administrative duties

Evaluation

Round 1: Focus on Usability

Round 2: Focused Learning Effectiveness

Evaluation (Round 1)

Recruiting the user

Explained final concept, mentioning purpose of the activity and testing. Teacher suggested students for trying out the activity.

Users

3 groups from three different schools Each group had 2 students from grade 4, 2 students from grade 5

Task

To complete the 'Activity 3' (Fetching Water from the Well)

Method

In a separate class , I briefed the group about the activity. I was observing them as they fill the activity sheet. I was helping them out when needed

Evaluation (Round 1)

Observation

- Order of the activity was not clear
- Unfamiliarity with few words and Input fields
- Were not able to use hints
- Too many questions confused them
- Different group placed scale and threads at different places
- Initially lot of motivation was required
- Lot of guidance was required from teacher during activity
- Arranging thread on flashcard

LGS were able to measure length after HGS taught them

They were able to understand the story







ધોરણ 4:

ધોરણ ૩: તમારા નામ લખો:

જૂથ ૧

જૂથ ર

= એકમ

= એકમ

વધારે છે કે ઓછી?

_દોરી + __દોરી એકમ + એકમ

____દોરી + ___દોરી + ___દોરી

— એકમ + એકમ+

પટેલ ની વાડી (૧)

દોરી

તમે દોરી ક્યાં ક્યાં જોઈ છે? તેનો તમે શેના માટે ઉપયોગ કર્યો છે? ક્યાં જોઈ છે?

શું ઉપયોગ કર્યો છે?

તેનો કયો એકમ માપી શકાય?

તેને શેના વડે માપશો? તેનો શેમાં જવાબ મળશે?







Evaluation (Round 2)

4 step of Learning Effectiveness

Engagement

Perception of time

Willingness to learn again

Observation

Learning (Peer learning & Multigrade learning) Retention of knowledge Assessment by teacher Observation

Application

Viva questions with different context

Evaluation (Round 2)

Recruiting the user

2 multigrade classroom which at least have grade 3 and 4 (Fati Talavadi & Untvadiyapura)

Users

Number of students: 12 and 15 respectively

Method

Teacher will teach chapter length as their normal routine but will use the material when they are busy or in last hour of school for 2 days.

(One school allowed me to be present while conducting the experiment)



Evaluation (Round 2)

Task for Teacher

Teacher use 'Activity 1'(Journey to the farm) and 'Activity 2 (Farmer and the Scarecrow)'

Guide student to complete the activity.

Task for Student

Student need to complete the activity sheet

A viva-exam by teacher at the end of second day

Learning Effectiveness

Engagement

Underestimated time spent (30 minutes instead of 1 hour) They like the story (discussing activity in recess) They asked to come the next day (1 class played game for 3 time) Initially they required motivation

Learning

Retention of knowledge (longest animal from previous day)

LGS were able to read the scale (from HGS)

Few group needed constant guidance by teacher (unable to follow written instructions)

Application

Able to answer questions like longest animal you have seen,

Longest vegetable you have ate

When asked to measure their pencil, they correctly measured the digit (few were confused about the unit though)

Peer learning

Due to artifacts like string and cards they were able to observe and learn from others (LGS learned how to orient scale and measured the length of various objects)

Different Children use different technique to mark the length in Activity 1

Children fill the boxes with color and texture







Teacher's say on concept

About Concept

Student can learn on themselves, they will definitely help others

Collaborative platform is good. This will encourage competitive learning. Slow learner will also try to learn from other. While in competitive environment slow learner will feel left out.

Best suited for last hour activity as it includes fun as well.

Teacher's have lot of extra-curricular activities. Most of them are done in classroom within school hours. Teacher can definitely guide in-between. (planner will be helpful)

Math is good topic for such activity, generally they have mentality that "Maths" is difficult.

Given enough time to children to think, they will perform better (one group filled the scale boxes nicely)

Other Content which can fit in this concept

Environmental science: living, non-living things, body parts, body organs

Language: similar and opposite words, spelling

Teacher's say

Suggestions

Should require even less guidance from teacher

More challenging, unique and hands on activity to make them proud and will be life-long experience

Shortcomings

Cant figure out how individual's strength and weakness in group activity

Most of the time this will be helpful but fast learner's time will be wasted sometimes.

Future scope

Similar to length, Activities for topics like weight, time, currency and volume can be developed

Making the activity sheet re-usable

Personal Learnings

Working with children, and understand their world Working in rural area, problem faced by them Educational Evaluation Optimization in printing materials

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Questions?

