

Project 'Kilkari' for Early Childhood Care and Education

In Department of School Education, UT Chandigarh, Pre-primary classes are running in Govt. Schools since early 1960's where children in the age group of 3+ years are admitted for two years of Pre-primary. With the introduction of **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** in National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, the concept of Pre-primary requires certain changes which includes 03 years of pre-primary and the classrooms needs to be remodelled to address the learning needs of children.

To create a safe and child centric learning environment for children in the age group of 03-06 years, a project "Kilkari" was launched in 2021-2022 under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha, Department of School Education, Chandigarh in convergence with local NGO. The project was initiated by remodeling the existing pre-primary classrooms of Govt. Primary School, Dhanas in 2021-22 and GMHS- Kishangarh in 2022-23 Chandigarh with the objective to create innovative and happy classrooms that blurs the boundary of indoor and outdoor and cater to all aspect of development.

The classrooms, corridors & outdoor area were remodeled with an aim to motivate the students to come to school for joyful learning. All the spaces like Story Corner, Music Corner, Reading Corner etc. were designed keeping in mind the safety of children.

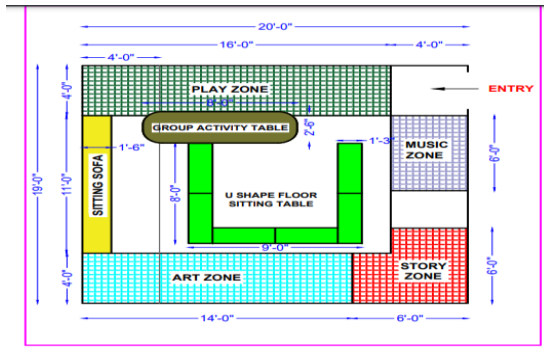
Accordingly, in order to create a safe and child centric learning environment for children in the age group of 03-06 years, a project "Kilakri" was launched in 2021-2022 under which the existing pre-primary classrooms of the school were remodelled as learning spaces which bolster Curiosity, Energy and Imagination of young minds. The objectives of the project were:-

- (i) To create innovative and happy classrooms which are:
 - Sustainable
 - Moveable
 - Affordable
 - Free play
- (ii) A classroom that blurs the boundary of indoor and outdoor
- (iii) Catering to all aspect of environment that is creative and artistic, socio-emotional, physical and motor, cognitive & language and sensory development.

The classroom was designed not from an adult perspective but focus was on what child actually loves to do. Under this project Indoor classroom, corridor and outdoor was selected for creating various themes/corners such as:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| (i) Story Corner | (ii) Music Corner |
| (iii) Art & writing Station | (iv) Play Station |
| (iii) Nature Corner | (vi) Health & Hygiene Corner |

Basic Considerations which was kept while designing indoor classroom was space, furniture, colour & light. The layout plan of the classroom and the glimpses of actual classroom are as under:-



Apart from class, corridors were also designed with an aim to break the monotony and to motivate the students to come to school for joyful learning. Apart from this outdoor area was remodeled with an aim that the child builds empathy and kindness towards environment, to develop fine motor and gross motor skills. All the activities were designed with the basis that each material used is safe for children. The glimpses of corridor and outdoor areas are as under:-



The project was launched by Education Department in convergence with Kacchi Sadak and Arpan Trust directly aligned with INFOSYS CSR in Chandigarh. The entire project has been funded under the said CSR activity and the budget estimates for creating the model ECCE classroom was approx. Rs. 2.50 lac.

Implementation Plan of project “Kilkari”

01 pre-primary classroom under project “Kilkari” was created under CSR activity in convergence with Arpan Trust and Kachi Sadak Foundation in Govt. Primary School-Dhanas, Chandigarh. In order to adopt/adapt the similar concept in all other pre-primary classrooms of Govt. Schools in UT Chandigarh following steps have already been undertaken during 2021-22:-

- (i) Orientation of Principals, Heads, Cluster Resource Centre Coordinator and Urban Resource Centre Coordinators was conducted in December, 2021.
- (ii) 05 days workshop was conducted for all the pre-primary teachers of Govt. Schools of UT Chandigarh from December, 2021 to February, 2022 with an aim that teachers get oriented towards the provisions of NEP, 2020 and guidelines of NCERT for creating child friendly learning spaces within the existing classrooms. The workshop focused on creation of low cost teaching learning material which can be created with the waste material/stationery material available within the classroom and which are sustainable and can be re-created depending upon the need by the teacher. The schedule of the training is as under:-

5 day Schedule

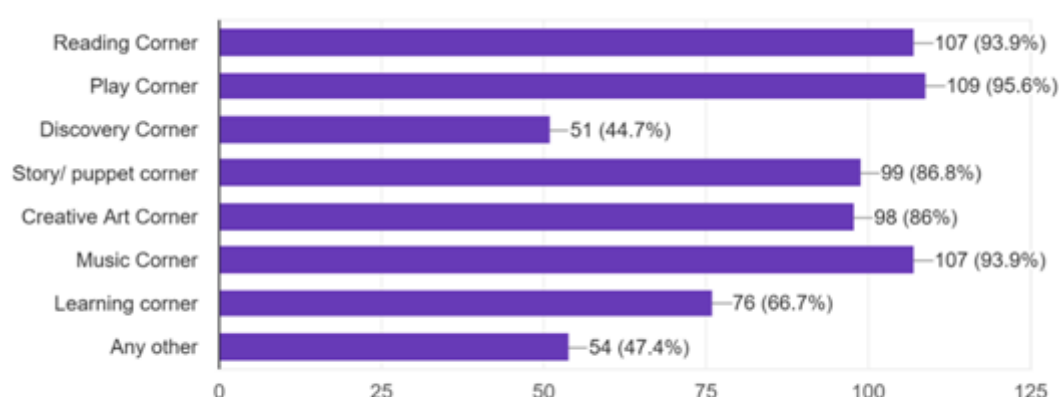
Schedule	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
45 Min Intro & Agenda	Background & Objective <u>Activity 1:</u> THINKING FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A KID	<u>Activity 2:</u> APPRECIATING THE DIVERSITY IN CLASS <u>Activity 3:</u> BE THE GUIDE NOT THE INSTRUCTOR	Physiological Aspect: MORAL DEVELOPMENT IN A KID	<u>Activity 4:</u> CHANNELISING THE ENERGY, NOT SHUTTING DOWN <u>Activity 5:</u> LET THEM THINK, IMAGINE & QUESTION	CORRIDOR TOUR + OUTDOOR TOUR
45 Min Corner Demonstration	Story Corner Demonstration	Music Corner & Art Area Demonstration	Sitting Space Demonstration	Play & Sensory Area Demonstration	GROUP ACTIVITY: CREATION OF ROOM + PRESENTATION
45 Min Discussion & Design Planning	Design Thinking & Planning for story corner	Design Thinking & Planning for music & art corner	Design Thinking & Planning for sitting space	Design Thinking & Planning for Play & Sensory Area	
30 Min	BREAK TIME				
1 hr 30 min TLM/artefact creation	Storytelling >CREATING FLANNEL STORY BOARDS >MAKING PUPPETS from materials at home	DIY music items Created from materials at home > Shakers, guitar, Music wall Art > kabad se jugad Activity > CREATING small blackboards from MDF boards	> creating different sitting spaces/ideas > shelves out of cardboard boxes > Theme based learning through sitting spaces.	> Creating shape sorter game with cardboard > gross & fine motor games with plastic bottles. >creating sensory- touch & feel activity >sensory - bottle & ball game	CONCLUSION FEEDBACK BATCH PICTURE
45 Min Presentation	Presentation Time	Presentation Time	Presentation Time	Presentation Time	GUEST SPEECH

- (iii) The teachers trained during above said workshops/trainings utilized the funds/ resources allocated to the schools under Samagra Shiksha and out of state budget, initiated to process of creation of creating pre-primary classrooms which promotes free play, child centric activities, accessibility of material to the child and are sustainable, movable and affordable.

The budget released to the schools was utilized and schools have undertaken number of innovative activities for utilizing the budget. The details of the infrastructure developed and its feedback is as under:-

Availability of different learning corners for pre-primary within the classroom:-

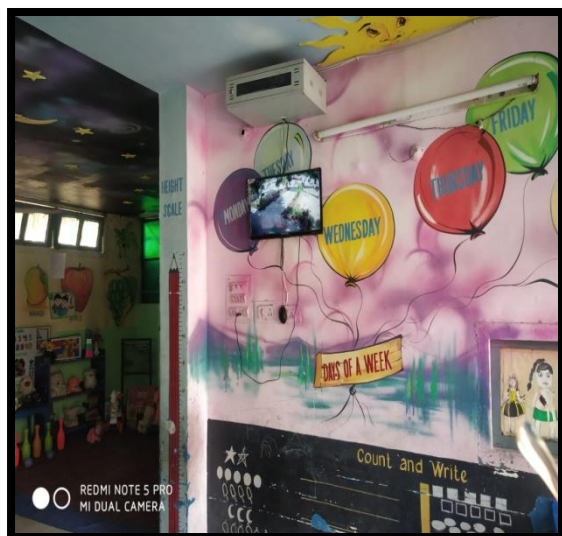
To create child friendly environment in pre-primary classrooms, many corners have been created with the aim of holistic development of child in early years of education. The details of the same are as under:-



Apart from above areas, many schools have created following innovative areas within the classroom setup to develop creativity, knowledge about the concept and to develop inquisitiveness amongst children:-

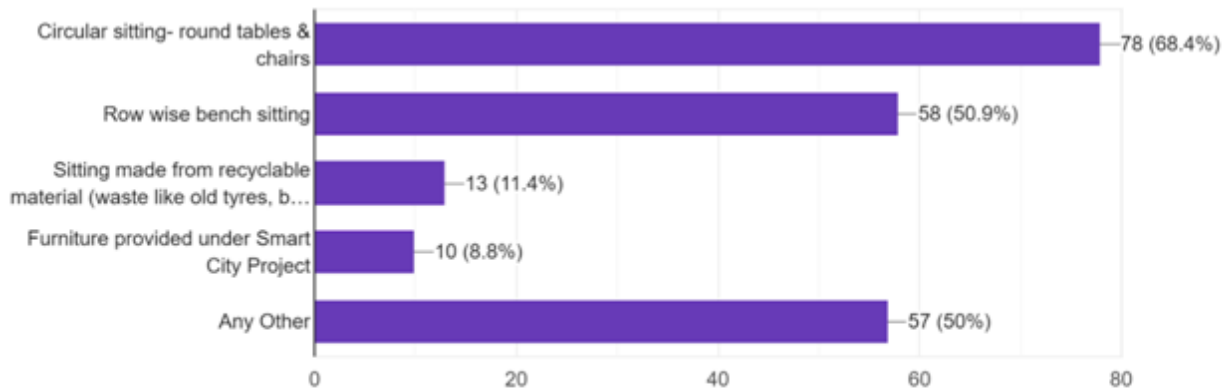
- (i) Sensory Corner
- (ii) Digital Corner
- (iii) Kitchen Area
- (iv) Festival and Birthday Celebration Area
- (v) Health Corner
- (vi) Magic Show Corner
- (vii) Circus Corner

In addition to this, certain concepts like word wall, aquatic world, good manners, organs of body etc. have been created in the form of paintings on the walls, door and ceiling of the classroom



Sitting Arrangements

In order to provide ample space to students for group activities and free play, schools have adopted number of options depending upon their students strength and dimension of the classroom. Some have opted for circular sitting/ row sitting while some others have utilized the waste materials to create sitting spaces for students. The details of the same is as under:-

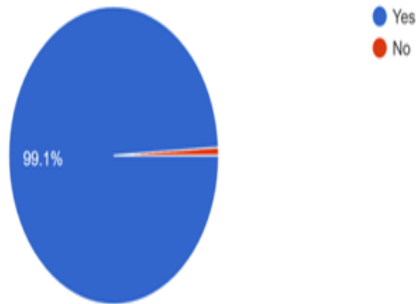


Apart from the above, approx. 74% schools have also opted for some other types of sitting arrangements for group activities like Floor mats, carpets, mattress, dari, cushion sitting etc.

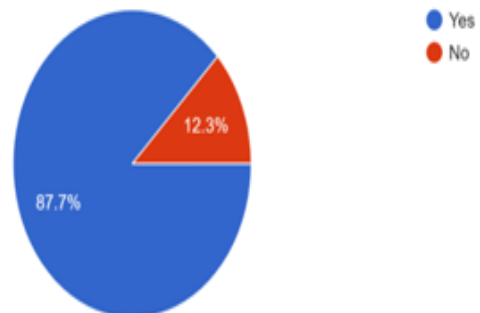


Teaching Learning Material designed for pre-primary classrooms:-

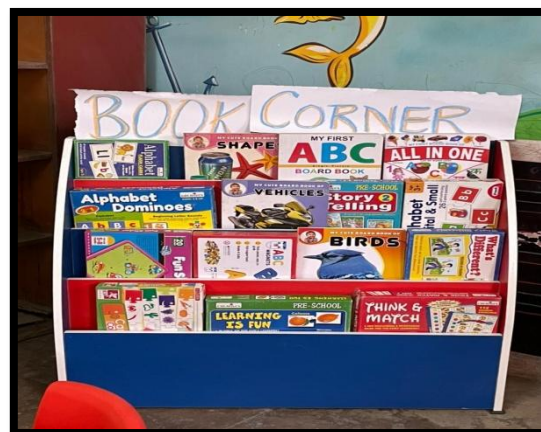
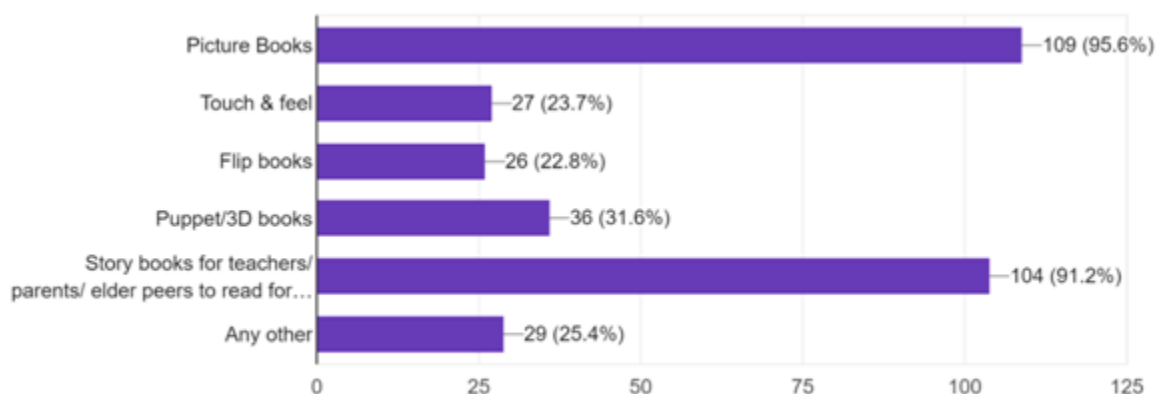
In order to support specific learning objectives of the students enrolled in pre-primary classes, teachers of pre-primary classes has prepared low cost and locally conceptualized teaching learning material in approx. 99.1% of schools depicted as under:-



Out of the above, approx. 87.7% of the TLM prepared/ designed is movable which is artifact created or procured from outside. Movable TLM will help teachers in shifting the material from one section to another and also this will help in covering more no. of students



Apart from creating Teaching Learning Material, schools have taken the initiative for procurement of books like story books, picture books, tactile books etc. as part of Reading Corner keeping in view the level of the students. Details of different types of books procured are as under:-



Outdoor Activity Area

The aim of Early Childhood Care and Education is to provide exposure to young children to explore their immediate environment and through experiences. In addition to this, development of gross motor skill in early years is also very important. Thus, in order to achieve these aims, schools have initiated the project of developing outdoor spaces within the school campus like play ground, corridors as learning spaces and different concepts have been created/ initiated. The details of the same are as under:-

- 100% schools have utilized outdoor area as learning spaces and created concepts like sand pit area, musical wall, cycle tracks, traffic park, rope way activity, water pool, tyre climbing, xylophones etc.

- Approx. 71% schools have also utilized their corridors for creating different learning spaces like tunnels, snake & ladder , number games , hopscotch games, stapu, road safety activity etc.



Impact / Response:-

- ❖ The enrolment of pre-primary grades has increased from 6393 in 2020-21 to 8156 in 2022-23.
- ❖ In UT Chandigarh, as per provision of NEP, 2020 03 years of pre-primary has been introduced.
- ❖ Teachers teaching at pre-primary level are now well versed with changes in the pedagogical techniques as per guidelines of NCF for foundational stage.
- ❖ All the schools have started utilising low cost locally available resources for creating of teaching learning material instead of procuring from open market and the guidelines has been issued in this regard.
- ❖ Change in the mindset of teachers to Child Centric approach and a Basic Right of every child.