



Students sing an action song inside a mobile school

Out-of-the-box ideas make learning fun

New Delhi: With boring teachers making no headway with students, 200 government schools in Delhi enlisted the help of the animated character Pokemon to make lessons more fun. The idea worked like a charm and will soon be extended to another 300 schools.

"It helps students understand lessons better as they relate more easily to Pokemon than to other book characters," says Siksha Sangam, a compilation of unique learning models. Since Pokemon won't work with older students, the State Council for Education Research and Training is developing a similar programme for higher classes.

Innovation, it seems, is the way to go. Conventional teaching methods are giving way to creative ideas and, according to an analysis on innovations in teaching under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), working wonders when applied properly.

In Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district, children from 170 deprived families call a boat their school. Since their parents live on

boats too, normal schools were too far for them. So, "providing schools close to their homes" was the best bet of giving them an education, the compilation says.

In West Bengal, many madrasas are now imparting both religious and conventional education. Books on other subjects are translated in Arabic to help the students understand them. Teachers have been given specialised training under SSA for the new modules.

In Gujarat, girl students are being used as tools to educate their mothers, with the help of SSA volunteers. In Haryana, the government has given bicycles to 21,000 girls so that they get to school. These are just a few of the examples listed in the compilation.

"We want to study new innovations in learning and see if they can be implemented in other parts of the country. Maybe, the answer to a particular problem in a school in Assam lies in an innovative method adopted in Kerala," a senior official said.

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