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आयुक्त  
Santosh Kumar Mall, I.A.S.  
Commissioner



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### Message

यदैव विद्यया करोति,  
श्रद्धयोपनिषदा  
तदेव विर्यवत्तरं भवतीति

Chandogya Upanishad 1.1.10

**Whatever work is done with knowledge  
Through faith and backed by meditation  
That alone becomes most effective.**

I am a parent and my children are in school. I have first-hand experience of what today's education has become- task oriented, goal driven and more focussed on directionless and meaningless completion of syllabus. We don't want our children growing up knowing a lot of facts and information without any purpose or wisdom. Neither do we want our children to participate in a lot of uninteresting classroom activities without any sense to them. Today education at primary and upper primary level has become a mere process without purpose where children are made to participate in innumerable badly tailored activities in the hope that concepts will follow on their own. The theory that education is for examination is slowly swallowing the objective that education is for man making and character building.

We expect our children to learn the basic concepts in an interesting and interactive way. We expect them to acquire skills and competencies and know how to use their strengths and overcome their weaknesses and how to face the outer world confidently as enlightened citizens. Everyone who observes the system of Education is anguished to see the deterioration due to neglect of fundamentals. Therefore it is imperative that we have to have a project such as Back to Basics to set the house in order.

"Back to Basics" focuses on the core concepts in each subject in primary and upper primary which have been identified in relation to different levels. The material prepared by a team of experts is primarily intended to support the teacher with the purpose to ensure that processes in teaching are given due care without running after the goals.

Learning indicators in each subject have been very well defined at both primary and upper primary levels by NCERT but it was felt that there is no support material with the teacher to supplement the text books to keep a proper track of the direction of teaching learning process.

Each chapter of the text book, in all subjects has been arranged in a natural sequence. First, all the concepts and learning indicators that can be explored through that lesson are identified. Next a few sample activities that can be used to complement the text book and to exemplify the concepts are dealt with. Later, a few items to test the child's learning and enable the teacher to understand the effectiveness of learning are included. After every 3/4 chapters there is a Learner's Achievement Test based on the concepts attained in the previous chapters. This LAT has items that test a child's level of learning- remembering, understanding, applying, analysing, evaluating and creating. Attempting these tests will help our children reinforce their learning and apply it in contexts apart from the text book. The activities included in the "Back to Basics" material are deliberately limited in number but with immense scope for innovation, creativity and invention and it is my hope that teachers will take this opportunity to create their own activities and items for enhancing the learning experiences of their children.

I hope the content and items included in "Back to Basics" support material will pave the way to achievement of learning outcomes. Of course this material is not meant to replace the textbook; but it is to give an insight to the teachers to help the child learn the basics with clarity and confidence. Here, I place on record my appreciation to the entire team that worked in production of the material.

Wishing you and our children a happy and fruitful learning experience.

  
(Santosh Kumar Mall)  
Commissioner