

The Bright Students of Kedarvakdi

The ZP school in the small village of Kedarvakdi in Mantha tehsil of Jalna district is well worth a visit. While it may not look any different from the other ZP schools spread across Maharashtra, it is when you interact with the students that you appreciate the special efforts put in by their teachers. The school has five teachers, all of whom teach with empathy.



School teacher Mr. Kalyan Ambhore, who joined the school in 2012 and has, since then, has focused on providing quality education to his students by making and using educational aids along with the textbooks. He has made such aids and resources for all school subjects, as he wants his students to excel in each one.

The 3rd and 4th std students here have learned their mathematical concepts well. The school has the

'Bhaskaracharya Ganit Samrudhikaran' (Bhaskaracharya Maths Enrichment) kit, developed by the state's Education Department - and the students make good use of it to learn the different mathematical operations. By using the blocks in this kit, they can depict fractions. The kit also contains geometric figures, which the students can pick up and describe.

Mr. Ambhore has developed a set of cards that can be used to learn simple arithmetic operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and the place value of digits. These laminated cards are distributed among the students so they can practise



their Maths skills. "I believe that Maths requires a lot of practise but that is also the reason why it can become tedious. I have found that students pay more attention when

they are constantly given different sums to solve. The textbooks have limited examples, so these cards offer a different set of sums to the students every time they need to practise.”

The school teacher has created 100-card sets for each mathematical operation. Since each card has a different problem, the student must solve it herself and cannot peep into her friend’s book for help. Instead of using paper and pen, the students use ice cream sticks to solve the problems. For example, in order to calculate how 31 balloons may be divided equally among four boys, the student picks up three bunches of ten ice cream sticks each,



along with a single ice cream stick. She then proceeds to divide these sticks into four groups, and then comes up with the answer that each boy will get seven balloons, and three will be left over. Students also solve addition, subtraction and multiplication sums in this manner.

The school has a lamination machine, and so it is easy to laminate the cards so that they survive the wear-and-tear, and rough handling by students.

Ms. Deshpande, who is in charge of the play school, makes sure her students learn basic concepts before they enter formal school, and that they are provided nutritious food.

Before and after school each day, half an hour is devoted to developing the students’ learning skills. All students take part in this activity, which may involve finding the meanings of English words, solving arithmetic sums orally, or even creating a story.

The school received a sum of Rs 28,000 in donations from the village community, which enabled the purchase of a projector, while the teachers pooled in a total of Rs 25,000 to buy a laptop. Now the students in this little village school are confident handling the computer.

The school is digital, and though only up to the 8th std, it has made the e-learning syllabus up to the 12th std available online for any student from the village who may wish to use this resource.
