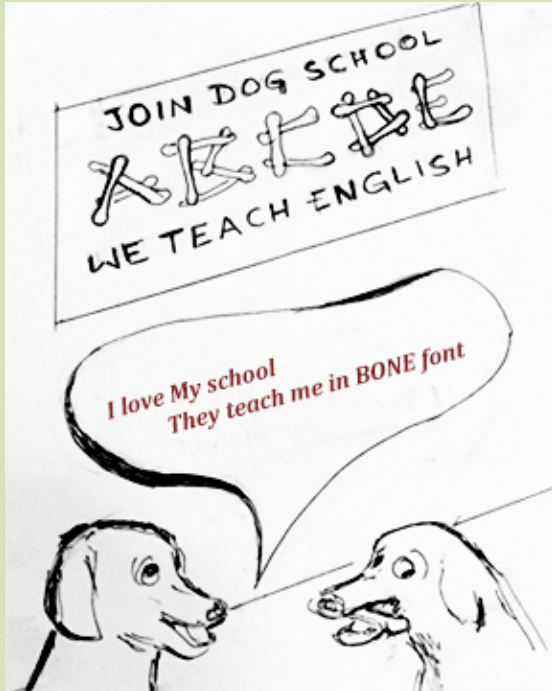


*News and Views -5
from a g rao*

Seasonal Cartoon



Mud gem 5

On change

Not changing has its virtue.

But change is necessary.

Reflect and re-examine before you change,

so that change is not routine,

or for its own sake!

Such change becomes meaningless

Recent additions

In memory lane - [Memory Lane 4 - NID days - Pullver to Adrian Frutiger](#)

In articles and papers –INBAR Seminar - [Design Inputs into Craft Areas: Implications for rural development and Employment Generation](#)

In books, manuals and reports - [Booklet - Art and Science of Golden Proportion](#)

aaduko maduko - children in focus - [Golden Proportion Workshop - Part 1](#)

my stories - [Number Monster In Fibonacci Caves - 1](#)

My thoughts

8th august, 2016

Teachers should be Designers

a g rao

Twenty years back I had visited Rishi valley school (run by J. Krishnamurthy Foundation), a young designer who had passed out of NID was teaching in the school. As he was a designer he was taking Art and Craft classes. He was showing me how children were able to figure out measurement of area required for making leather and cloth bags. They had not yet learnt area in Maths class as it is taught in higher classes.

I asked him, "Do you interact with the math teachers? Can they start teaching area based on what they have done in Art & Craft class?"

He said, "No! It is difficult to interact or integrate even in these special schools!

I have seen this division between 'Art & Craft' and 'Maths & Science' operating almost like a 'Caste' system! This integration between the subjects is essential if our school system has to nurture the creative potential of children! As total change of School system is a difficult task, new ways of 'change' has to be thought of! In this context it looks imperative that

'Teachers should become designers!'.

I have many reasons to support this argument.

1. Current education is heavily biased with emphasis on left brain training. Only 'Design and Art' deal with 'Right brain Training'. Design is a bridge between Art & Science.
2. Abilities to make with hands and manipulate materials can be developed through design training.
3. Much needed 'Aesthetic Sensitivity' as related to 'functional world' can come through 'Design'. Art takes care of it to an extent. But often, does not get linked to real life environment. Design is practice of Art in a functional World.
4. Teachers need to develop a new frame work to look at 'Craft'. Crafts have high potentials to link thinking skills to physical skills. This linking can happen through Design! We were able to successfully link right brain skill learning to Maths, in a workshop named **Bammetry (symmetry with bamboo)** Similar approach can offer a pedagogical framework for 'Design' to become an integrating mode.
5. Design can introduce of 'Values in Education', with a non-conflicting perspective. Design as a subject linking 'Individual to Society and Industry' can bring right frame work for dealing with 'values in Life'.
6. Design can bring new perspective to 'Make in India', by starting in the school! Design can provide a learning perspective, transforming child labour of working under a tyrant boss, to **earning and learning from a loving Teacher!**
7. Design training will enable teachers to make educational props in 3-D for brining experiential learning into operation!

8. Many activities like giving a lecture in class room will be soon replaced with availability of **a better video lecture by the best teacher on the subject**. Teachers will have more time to deal with children's other developments. Design training can equip teachers for this role. "Khan Academy" inputs have reached large sections in many countries starting with U.S.

Knowledge access through video, internet and computer in all schools is only matter of time!

Without preparation of teachers how to utilize this new power, it is bound to cause **distortion in school education**.

Design training will enable teachers to **harness the 'Inevitable, devilish power of Technology'** in the right direction.

How do we address this gigantic task? 'B.Ed training can address this in an integral way, or giving an option of 1 year special training in 'Design' to teachers! Leading private organizations like Azim Premji Foundation could take a lead!

Design institutes can offer special programmes for **'teachers to be trained as designers'** in the specific context of school education.

Govt. can create special incentives for this additional qualification.

Action from concerned individuals: Designers, Educationists, Scientists, Engineers ... with competence to generate new pedagogic material is urgently required.

I will be putting up reports on our efforts soon!
