

Evaluation Report -Avehi Project 1997
(Translation from Marathi)

Research Unit, Department of Education, Bombay Municipal Corporation conducted an evaluation of

the project expansion in 25 municipal schools in 1996-1997.

The Avehi Project is being implemented in 25 Schools in std. III and IV in D and G-South ward. A total of 2,242 students and 53 teachers are a part of this project.

A questionnaire was administered to teachers and Principals of the schools and following are their responses based on the questionnaires.

43 out of 52 teachers have expressed good/satisfactory opinion about the guidance and training given by Avehi, i.e.81% . But teachers have recommended that the trainer should be an experienced person from the field of education (This suggestion is with regards to class-supervision)

Teachers attended the workshops conducted by Avehi and have reported that the same have benefited them. Teachers have also expressed good opinion about the material provided. 60% teachers have said that it is related to the curriculum. At the same time, teachers have recommended that the chronology of “History of Clothing” should be from the times of the early human civilization. The information about “Clothing from cotton” should be made more concise of the teachers felt. In “clothing” Professions & Clothing” & “Range of coolers is very interesting and useful. While explaining the concept of a ‘House’ the depiction of house in a pipe is very realistic but the furniture inside is not appropriate. The pictures are beautiful, attractive and artistic. Children get engrossed in them, they (the children) can answer the questions very easily with help of the pictures and this gives boost to their self confidence.

That the information given by Avehi Project is related to and is supplementary to (in-fact adds to the information) the curriculum was the opinion of 47 teachers out of 53. This therefore is 89%. The teaching material (provided by Avehi) is used for Avehi’s session as well as for regular teaching. 30 out of 53 teachers have said that the time suggested by Avehi for preparation of the sessions is satisfactory. Which is 53.60%. Some teachers are of the view that parts of the Avehi curriculum which are more than the regular curriculum e.g. cotton, education session (poster 1,2) concept of universe in ‘shelter’, cultural variety in food habits which is a part of “food” etc. are portions which require a lot of preparation on part of the teacher. Therefore the children also find it difficult to grasp and therefore the time is not enough.

The materials provided by Avehi is appreciated by 100% of the students. The class - schedule has to be altered while conducting the sessions but the regular school schedule is not affected. "The visual aids supplied by Avehi are complimentary to the curriculum and it can be used in flexible manner for different topics."

33 out of 53 teachers have said that they have had problems while implementing this program. This is 62.60%. The problems are mainly - combined classes, (due to) less number of students per class. (All these are of administrative nature and within the perview of BMC.)

Due to the Avehi Project the students capacity to observe and their curiosity has considerably increased. They are now more self - confident. Students are beginning to express themselves more openly. The methodology of teaching (facilitation) is found useful according to the teachers.

In many schools due to less number of children per class, it is difficult to employ the method of working in smaller groups of children. But the classes where the number of students is satisfactory the discussions can be held and conclusions per topics are arrived at. Children participate in the discussions. Discussions are systematic and topic-wise.

Teachers have expressed the need for guidance by their own officials. The Research Officer, Ms. Sunanda Paygude's guidance in one of the workshop has proved to be very useful according to the teachers. Do the students themselves choose the medium of expression to present their work? 45.28% of teachers felt that the students are capable of doing so independently. 54.71% teachers feel that the students need help and guidance from the teachers to choose an appropriate medium of expression to demonstrate their work.

General Comments about the 'Avehi Project':

It is felt that the project is very useful. Since this project enhances general knowledge, children are able to learn by practical experience. This project has holistic approach to any given topic/subject. Therefore each student is encouraged to learn various aspects of a topic/subject. Since the teaching is done with the help of the material which is sufficient and attractive, the children's retention of the topic is easier and long-lasting. The percentage of absenteeism in class has considerably reduced due to this project. Children have become more active. This project which is used as ex-studies gives emphasis on value - oriented learning. At the same time, it throws interesting insights about the basic needs such as air, water, food, shelter.....

Some

suggestions:

1. The session plans should be given in Gujrati, Marathi, English languages. They should be in the language of instruction in the schools so as to facilitate easy understanding of subject.
2. Besides the material for Avehī Project, material for regular teaching also (should) be supplied.
3. The project should not be held where there are “combined” classes.
4. Some information is in excess e.g. Air, Mohenjodaro (shelter)
5. The games are nice but (for some) there is insufficient space in some schools.
6. Sessions should be according to the curriculum.
7. There should be no restrictions of time. The teachers may complete the sessions as per their convenience. At the most they can be told which session has to be completed within the given week.