SCHOOL AS READY – MADE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL FOR MATH

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Chalk and board is not enough to teach different Mathematical concepts. It should be supplemented by different instructional materials so that teaching and learning will be more meaningful, effective and productive. Everyday lessons require instructional materials fitted on the lesson to meet the learning competencies. On the other hand, these require extra time, money and efforts on the part of the teacher. So, if you are the teacher, which do you prefer – to make or produce instructional materials or to utilize the ready-made one?

Vajpeyi (2010) in his “BaLA – Its Roots and the Spread” states that by innovatively treating the school spaces (e.g. classroom, circulation spaces, outdoors, natural environment) and their constituent built elements (like the floor, wall, ceiling, door, windows, furniture, open ground) a range of learning situations and materials can be integrated such that they can actively be used as a learning resource. This resource can complement the teaching process and supplement textbook information, much beyond providing wall space for posters and decoration.

The school itself – be it building, surroundings, school canteen or human resources are ready – made instructional materials that teachers can utilize. Teachers should only be creative to think of activities to use these resources in relation to their topic/s. Here are some suggestions of school building and its constituents as instructional materials:

The building, its floor, doors, windows, posts, stairs, and other parts of the classroom are best instructional materials to teach area, perimeter, slope and other geometric terms like lines and angles. These materials can help to develop the measuring skills of the students.
The school canteen is a very good place to teach and apply business math and basic
math concepts such as percent, discount and money problems. It can also help in teaching
and learning variations and combinations.

The different trees, plants and decorations in school garden can be utilized to teach
angle of elevations, permutations and combinations.

Teachers, students and other personnel of schools can also be served as
instructional materials. These human resources can give information that can be used in
teaching statistics such as mean, median and mode, presentation, analysis and
interpretation of data.

Vajpeyi also added that for children, it can help in developing language and
communication skills, numeracy skills, abstract notions through concrete examples,
respect, for nature and environment, capability to realize potential of available resources
and power of observation while for teachers, it can help in developing a range of tailor-
made, easy to use, accessible learning aids and their space and time better.

Instructional materials need not always be made by the teacher every day. By
utilizing the different facilities and resources inside the school, teachers can save time,
money and efforts and will have more time for preparing the lessons. Also, these ready –
made instructional materials will help the students to realize that Mathematics can be
learned actual and is essential in all aspects.

Reference:

Analysis Q&A with Roni Silverstein,