

Strengthening English

The Government of Karnataka has taken a progressive step to herald social engineering in the true sense of the term by announcing to strengthen English learning in Government schools by starting an English Medium section of Class-1 which will automatically grow class-wise in consecutive years, and by introducing English Nali Kali in the Kannada Medium section of Class-1 in the existing Government Kannada Medium Schools across the state.

A child's future is not a matter of debate. Every child in our country has a right to education, especially to meaningful education in the medium of his choice that brings the promise of a better and happier future. It is a move that will elevate the life and livelihood prospects of a large section of poor children.

The focus is on strengthening **English Language Learning** to provide children with a strong foundation in the primary classes such that they will be able to learn the concepts and read and write English with ease by the time they complete class 3. There is an overall welcome change in the way English is taught now. Parents are happy to see children learning English as they try to converse back home, asking questions or reciting rhymes/narrating stories taught to them in the school.

Class1 English Medium (Bilingual) Sections in Government Schools

The English Medium Section sets itself the objective of offering a **bilingual education** so that excellence is accompanied by a high level of innovation which is tied to awareness of the cultural heritage and the values that belong to the State.

1. One section of 30 students has been started in selected 1000 Government Schools including 276 KPS.

The criteria of selection for the 1000 schools:

- a. 04 schools per constituency
- b. Schools with higher enrolment rate selected

- c. Schools with classes 1-10 on the same campus/village/locality were given priority.
 - d. Availability of room was another priority.
- 2. Modules for training the teachers to transact successfully in English have been developed by a group of experts from RIESI and Azim Premji University.
- 3. All MRPs selected to train teachers handling English Medium Sections were trained by the faculty from Regional Institute of English, South India, Bengaluru and Azim Premji University. MRPs further trained teachers for 15 days in their respective districts. MRPs and Nodal Officers are lending support in monthly sharing meetings and school visits.
- 4. Bilingual Textbooks for Maths and EVS were developed along with customizable lesson plans for the Teachers.
- 5. All the schools with English Medium Sections have been provided with necessary TLMs which will help improve the capacity/proficiency of teachers and help them develop the skills of language and achieve the learning outcomes of the subjects in their classrooms.
- 6. Efforts are ongoing to mentor teachers through regular Vcons, Whatsapp groups, cluster meetings to discuss challenges and solutions for future.
- 7. In order to provide a vibrant and learning ambience for the children, the schools have been encouraged to make the class room environment more print rich and welcoming for the students.

English Nali Kali (Level-01)

The success of the Nali-Kali methodology in learning languages is fairly established in Karnataka. To meet the growing demand for English language in schools among parents and communities, SSK, in collaboration

with UNICEF with its vast experience in Nali-kali implementation in Karnataka, has presently piloted in 4 districts, this approach to English language learning, through the Nali-kali system of classroom transaction. In the current year the English Nali Kali is extended to the 1000 government schools which have Class1 English Medium Sections and intends to implement the programme in all its primary schools. The focus is on providing an equally strong foundation in ‘English Language learning’ at par with their counterparts in the English Medium Sections. Above all, children’s participation and enthusiasm is palpable in most schools

Teacher Trainings to enhance classroom transactions

EMTIP (English Medium Teachers Induction Programme) and the ENK (English NaliKali training Programme) aims to enhance the language skills of teachers by improving their communicative English. It does this through communicative language learning in trainings and classrooms, and television and other media, such as websites and mobile, aimed at adults. These trainings encourage teachers to introduce new English language learning activities into their classroom practice, with their students. Teachers are supported by audio-visual and print materials for professional development and classroom practice activities, and by other teachers in their school and resource teachers in their clusters. Teachers ‘learn by doing’ in the classroom, reflecting on their practice and by supporting each other. They are guided and supported by audio/video materials for use with students in class. Audio-visual materials are provided at low cost, offline, through pen drives.

The programs include a follow-up component that assesses the correspondence between teacher learning and doing. A key feature of the professional development process was teacher learning communities, in which teachers meet in sharing meetings to identify problems, and solutions; to coach each other; and to

share knowledge and skills. Resource teachers and supervisory staff visit teachers' classrooms to observe, offer feedback and guidance with peer coaching.

Hello English Package

All the 1000 schools have been provided with the Hello English Package which includes 20 graded video lessons which are directly related to the suggested textbooks and learning outcomes designed for effective and quality English language input at the elementary level. The video lessons are tailored to address the needs of beginners and teachers teaching beginners. The video lessons give an insight into incorporating varied activities for effective classroom transaction and learner participation. The lessons follow interactive learner participatory approach. The videos demonstrate the following aspects which can be successfully explored in elementary classes. through rhymes, stories, games, songs and listening tasks. The listening resources and the additional resources included in the package can contribute to the language proficiency enhancement for teachers. Graded and quality listening input certainly refines the spoken English of teachers.