

## Making learning Maths fun!

Since 1998, Jodo Gyan, has worked closely with students, teachers, teacher-educators and parents, particularly in mathematics and science education, to introduce innovative methods through which children will understand and enjoy what they are being taught. They conduct workshops and design and distribute low cost teaching and materials to promote activity-based education.

A few months ago, we conducted a training on the Jodo Gyan materials for the *Patang* teachers. The purpose of conducting this workshop was to introduce their teaching methods and learning materials to the teachers so that they can start using these to teach math in a more interactive way to the *Patang* students.



Shikha teaches in a grade 2 *Patang* classroom. She has ten students in her classroom and she loves to teach them math. A few days back, it was time for her to introduce a new concept in class - money. Along with introducing the new concept, she also wanted to revise place value because she had observed children struggle with it. She decided to use the Jodo Gyan Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs), to club both the concepts and teach them in class. She felt that this would help make it more concrete and fun for the students.

She conducted a market activity in class. Each child was given some number of place value sticks. They were asked to club them into groups of 10, and leave whatever extra sticks they had lose. Once everyone had made his or her bundles, the activity started. Each child went up to the front of the class and decided what



they wanted to buy. Then they used the sticks to pay the required amount. For eg: if a child wanted to buy a toy car that cost Rs. 27, they were required to pay the amount using their place value sticks (2 bundles of 10 + 7 loose sticks). In case a child didn't have any loose sticks; they would give an entire bundle of 10 and ask Shikha Ma'am to return the correct amount of change.

This activity, along with the use of the Jodo Gyan TLMs motivated the children to learn. It also acted as a great incentive for the class.



*“The next day, the children finished their English work, which usually takes them at least 45 minutes, in just 20 minutes. The reason was because they wanted more time to do the market activity.” – Shikha Ma'am*

On the second day of the market activity, Shikha increased the rigour by asking students to buy two things instead of one. By doing this, she incorporated the concept of addition into the activity as well. Using the Jodo Gyan materials is acting as an effective method of revising previously taught concepts in the class.

Looking at Shikha use the materials effectively, and seeing the joy in her classroom, has motivated other teachers to start using the TLMs in their classrooms as well. We hope that all the teachers continue using these to make learning more interactive and fun in the *Patang* classrooms.