

GUJARAT EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS FAIR 2015-16

The Educational Innovations Bank (EI Bank), implemented by the Ravi J Matthai Centre for Educational Innovation, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IJMCEI-IIMA) has, since April 2013, been operating as a clearing house for effective educational innovations developed and implemented by elementary school teachers working in the public system. More than 8000 screened innovative practices of elementary school teachers are available in the open-access EI Bank. A compilation of 100 most promising innovations was brought out in 2014, and a conference of the teachers held in February that year. Follow up of this work resulted in the idea of Educational Innovations Fairs in all the districts which would provide a platform for those teachers who wanted to display their work to other teachers. Gujarat Council of Educational Research and Training (GCERT) took up the idea with a view to institutionalizing the culture of innovation in the system.

The first planning meeting of all the District Innovation Coordinators of the DIETs and EI-Bank team was held in September 2015 at IIM, Ahmedabad. The following aims were agreed upon:

- Encourage teachers who had been recognized by EI Bank to display their innovations at the district level
- Encourage those teachers who had some innovative practices but had not participated up to now
- Provide a platform for the vast majority of teachers to observe the work of their innovative colleagues
- One school – one innovation- creation and application: The visiting teachers could choose one appropriate innovation for application in his or her school.
- The best innovations in the district fairs, as rated by the teachers, would be presented at a state-level fair in 2016.

It was decided that each district would invite 30 to 50 teachers after a rigorous screening process. The areas in which innovations were sought were the following:

- Access to education
- Deficits in physical infrastructure that state schools suffer from
- Out of school condition for equity
- Retention of children in school
- Quality of education
- Knowledge inclusion
- Building enabling environment.
- Any other related to primary education directly or indirectly.

METHODOLOGY:

- GCERT and DIETs to identify innovations and scrutinize them. This was achieved by inviting innovative teachers of EI-Bank and potential teachers to case writing workshops by each DIET. Block Resource Coordinator and Cluster Resource Coordinator were involved in all the districts in the identification of the potential teachers and innovations. Block and district level committees were appointed by DIETs and GCERT for the scrutiny of the innovations that were submitted at the district level and innovations identified by the committees. The

teachers from Municipal corporation primary schools also participated in these fairs. The data base of EI-Bank of validated and scrutinised educational innovations was also used for inviting teachers to participate in district level fairs. The first pilot of the district innovation fair was carried out in December, 2015 in premises of Ganpat University, Mehsana and based on the experiences of the pilot other DIET districts organised fairs. District wise details of the innovations displayed in fairs in annexed at end of the document.

- Identified Innovations displayed at district level for a specified period.
There was display of selected innovations at each district and this was coordinated by the DIETs. These innovations were displayed for two whole days and the visiting teachers studied the innovations displayed in fair. There was a flex banner of the innovative teacher mentioning details of the innovation; digital content could also be displayed through a teacher's laptop and LCD projector. The visiting teachers had to evaluate all innovations displayed in the specific fair in a prescribed format which had a grading framework. The fair coordinators collected the forms before the teachers left the fair. Each district fair was attended by one teacher from each primary school of the district including municipal corporation schools, other officials like BRC, CRC, DPEO, administrators, district collectors, district panchayat members, MLAs and even SMC members.
- State level fair
For the state level fair top three ranking innovations from each district and municipal corporation, a total of 108 innovations by 88 male teachers and 20 female teachers, were selected. The fair was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 29 & 30 March 2016. It was attended by all DPEOS, BRC, CRC, Education Minister and many other state government officials.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that the fairs were well received in general. The material displayed was identified as teaching-learning material by many visiting teachers. During the fairs many teachers were interested in knowing more about the various evaluation methods or tests that were designed by the innovative teachers as part of the innovation. These tests are seen helpful in implementing School Comprehensive Evaluation. The democratic process of selection for the state fair was also appreciated. The feedback of the 32000 visiting teachers is being compiled by DIETs and GCERT. The visiting teachers can be identified as entry points for quality inputs to their schools. All the DIETs have come out with books compiling the innovations that were displayed in their respective districts. GCERT has come out with a publication of all the innovations displayed during the state level fair, called "NAVACHAR".

DETAILS OF DISTRICT LEVEL FAIRS:

GCERT-GANDHINAGAR	
Details of District Innovation Fairs 2015-16	
DIET-District	Total Innovations displayed in Fair
Ahmedabad Rural	44
Ahmedabad –Urban	48
Amreli	55
Anand	40
Bharuch	45
Bhavnagar	48
Kutch-Bhuj	48
Dahod	43
Gandhinagar	35
Sabarkantha	23
Jamnagar	43
Junagadh	52
Kheda	44
Mehsana	44
Navsari	28
Banaskantha	64
Patan	53
Porbander	27
Rajkot	54
Narmada	35
Panchmahal	34
Surat and Municipal corporation	36
Surendranagar	50
Vadodara	40
Vadodara Urban	15
Valsad	32
Vaghai-Dangs	37
Tapi	29
Gir Somnath	29
Dev Bhumi Dwarka	31
Botad	19
Morbi	22
Mahisagar	29
Aravalli	23
Total	1299

The Glimpses of District and State Educational Innovation Fair:



Figure 1 [Speech by Prof Vijaya Sherry Chand from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. (Right) and Mr. Avinash Bhandari from Educational Innovations Bank, IIMA (Left)]



Figure 2[Inauguration Session, From Right to left –First Mr. Praful Jalu, Chairman at State Examination Board Gujarat, Dr. T.S Joshi Director GCERT, Government of Gujarat, Shri Nanubhai Vanani Honourable, Minister of State for Education, Government of Gujarat , Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama Honourable Minister, for Education, Government of Gujarat, Prof. Anil K Gupta, Indian Institute of Management and other dignitaries.



Figure 3: [State Educational Innovation Fair at Town hall Gandhinagar, 29-30 March, 2016]



Figure 4 [Innovative teacher explaining his innovation to visitors, Name of Teacher – Mr. Mahendrasinh Takhtasinh Chauhan]



Figure 5 [Innovative teacher explaining his innovation to visitors, Name of Teacher - Mr. Ghanshyambhai Chabhadiya]



Figure 6 [Innovative teacher explaining his innovation to visitors, Name of Teacher - Mr. Manan Buddhidev]



Figure 7 [Innovative teacher honoured by Dr. T.S Joshi Director – GCERT (Right), Innovative teacher Himanshu Parmar (Second from left), Bharat Agrawal, DIC Coordinator – Kathlal DIET (Left)]



Figure 8 [Group of 108 Innovative teachers at Town hall Gandhinagar who participated at State Education Innovation fair]