

B a L A - Building as Learning Aid

Bala (Building as Learning Aid) is an innovative concept towards qualitative improvement in education, through developing child-friendly, learning, and fun-based physical environment building in school infrastructure. The BaLA project involves using school buildings as a tool for learning, making them more visually appealing and interactive, and incorporating sustainable and eco-friendly design features. Under this project, the teachers have started using various learning aids in multiple ways to make teaching –learning more joyous experience for the young ones. The school teachers have been able to use floors walls, stairs cases, windows, doors, and ceiling as teaching aids.

This concept was originally developed by Vinyas, Centre for Architectural Research & Design with support from UNICEF.

What is BaLA ?

BaLA is a way to holistically plan and use the school infrastructure. It incorporates the ideas of activity based learning, child friendliness and inclusive education for children with special needs (CWSN).

At the core, it assumes that the architecture of school can be a resource for the teaching-learning processes.

There are two levels of this intervention:

1. Develop the SPACES to create varied teaching-learning situations
 2. Develop the BUILT ELEMENTS in these spaces as teaching-learning aids
- The Spaces can be
1. Classroom
 2. Corridor
 3. Steps and staircase
 4. Outdoor space

The Built Elements can be

1. Floor
2. Wall
3. Window
4. Door
5. Ceiling
6. Platform
7. Furniture

BaLA is about innovatively treating the space and the built elements to make the existing school architecture more resourceful with higher educational value in a child friendly manner.

The impact of this project on the students has been significant. The BaLA schools provide a visually appealing and interactive learning environment that has improved the engagement and motivation of students. Moreover, the BaLA project has had a positive impact on the teachers as well. The project has helped to promote collaborative learning and provided teachers with new tools to engage students and make learning more fun and interactive. The project has also helped to improve the overall quality of education in the region, making it more accessible and inclusive.

SOME GLIMPSES OF BALA PROJECT

