  
**सर्व शिक्षा अभियान**  
 सब पढ़ें सब बढ़ें  
**BaLA**  
**BUILDING**  
**AS**  
**LEARNING AID**  
 A Presentation by -  
 UEE Mission  
 Department of Education  
 Government of Delhi

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**

(Making our schools centers of joyful, meaningful and interesting learning)

In its efforts to provide quality education in Government Schools, the Department of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi, has taken an innovative initiative in the name of "Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)". Under the BaLA activities several interesting, joyful, colorful and content related visuals are created in the school campus. The beauty of BaLA is that children learn without being taught and they do so joyfully. BaLA, is now a part of the VKS and we consider it a crucial component in our efforts to make the school a happy and joyful place for children.

The Vidyalaya Kalyan Samities - VKS (School Welfare Committees) have been re-constituted and a detailed guideline alongwith the examples of BaLA activities have been developed and printed. Every effort has been made to make the manual on VKS and the BaLA guidelines, user friendly. The Heads of Government Schools have been oriented and most of them found it very useful while developing their schools on the basis of BaLA concepts/ideas. Substantial powers and funds have been given to the VKS for improving all school buildings.

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**

**Introduction of BaLA**

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.

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:-

- Develop the SPACES to create varied teaching-learning situations.
- Develop the BUILT ELEMENTS in these spaces as teaching-learning aids.

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**

**Why should we do it?**

In Delhi, the schools under the Delhi Government are fortunate to have the money available for Building as Learning Aid under the Vidyalaya Kalyan Samiti (VKS) as a recurring grant of Rs 2,00,000/- per year. It is, at the least, a historic step by the Department of Education under Delhi Government in developing a system of decentralised decision making, in allowing schools to address their learning needs in a flexible way and in an organic evolving framework. That such a path-breaking step is taken in the National Capital of our country should not come as a surprise, since Delhi actually deserves it. It has to demonstrate the very best for others in the rest of the country to follow, rather than the other way round.

Why? Because it is important that we first improve our own government schools, set benchmarks of quality in education, through innovative teaching-learning methods and better quality infrastructure. And let others follow it.

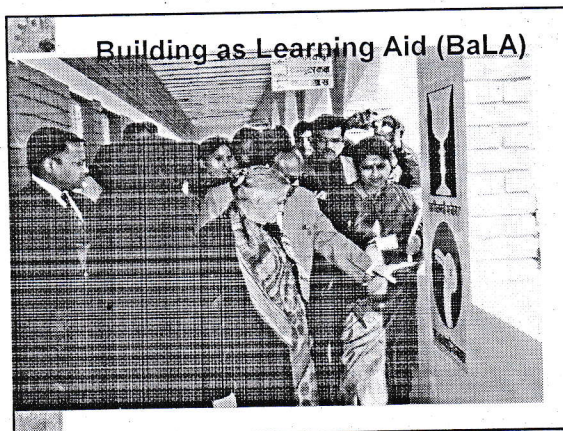
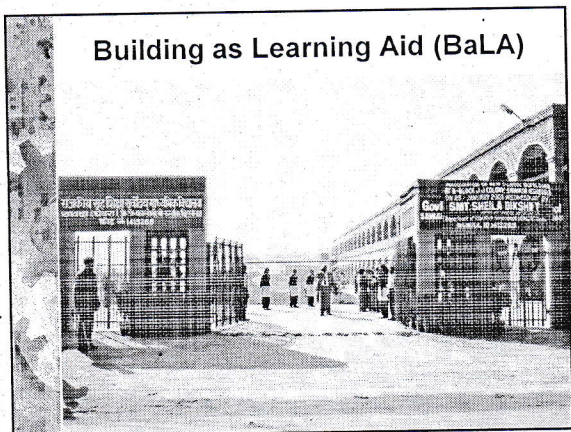
**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**

**Plan**

1. Check the present seating plan of all grades. Is it the most efficient seating plan? Can primary school sections be together and the middle school sections together?
2. If the school has double shift, cover all the facilities that are common or different for the two shifts.
3. Decide about the new seating plan of classrooms, library, CAL room, Science lab, and other spaces. For implementing BaLA ideas, it will be important to decide and fix this first.
4. With seating plan of whole school decided and the area for future expansion earmarked, go ahead to select the BaLA ideas from this guideline.
5. Plan for long term. Each year you will have Rs 2 lakhs to move on towards your long term plan in phases.
6. Some ideas may be valid for only certain grades. You may make them inside or just outside such classes in the corridors. Other ideas are such that they are useful for all grades, you may decide to put them in common spaces like corridors and outdoors.
7. Discuss the selection of ideas with subject teachers to also decide their location.
8. With each of the ideas given, its approximate cost is also indicated. Use this to see what all can you make now, and which all later (in the next phase).
9. Areas that need repair (like repair of cracks, dampness, peeling plaster, broken hardware, etc.) must be repaired first. Only then, should any BaLA idea be made there.
10. Finalize your plan and submit it for approval to VKS as per guidelines given.

**OPTIONS FOR SOME BaLA IDEAS**

- Understanding the Physical world around us
- Understanding the Passage of Time in our Daily life
- Dealing with Numbers
- Ways of Interacting with language
- Doing and Learning
- Fun and Learning
- Making some school components inviting for children



### Media Coverage of BaLA Initiatives

MONDAY

02 ON TRACK

**Building as a learning aid**

After the success of *Tare Zameen Par*, which showed how a school's infrastructure can serve as an effective learning aid, Delhi's education department is all set to launch a project called BaLA.

**Pragya Nishankar Tiwari**

**B**uilding as Learning Aid (BaLA) will be an initiative to get a part of the school's infrastructure to serve as a student's medium of learning. The Delhi government has recently announced an initiative to get a part of the school's infrastructure to serve as a student's medium of learning. The initiative is called Building as Learning Aid (BaLA). The initiative is aimed at making the school's infrastructure a part of the learning process. The initiative is aimed at making the school's infrastructure a part of the learning process. The initiative is aimed at making the school's infrastructure a part of the learning process.

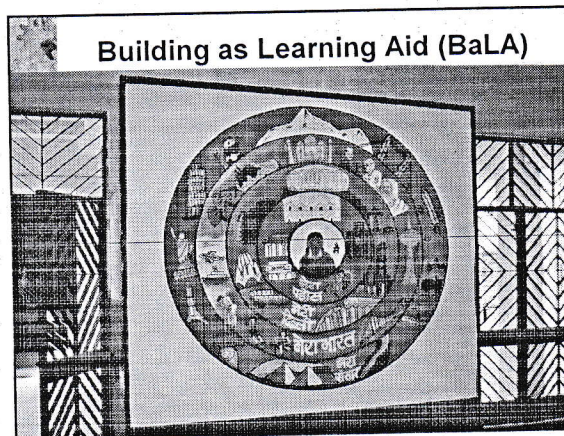
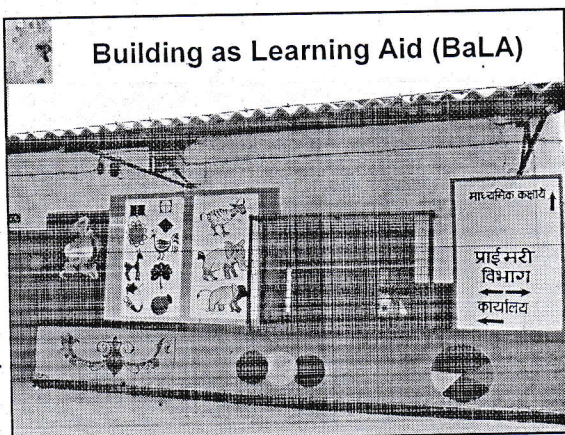
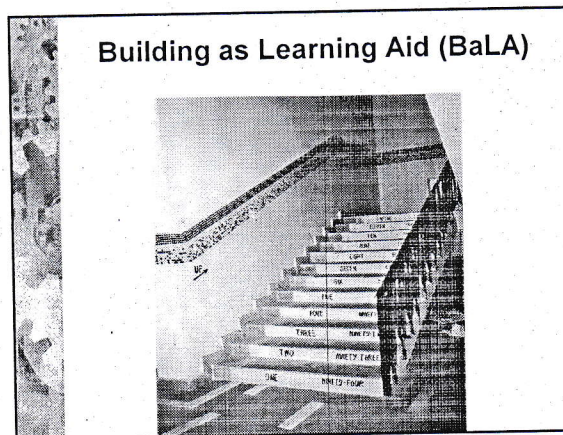
**WISITS BALKI**  
The fact that a school's infrastructure can be used as a learning aid is a concept that is being explored in the project. The school buildings and their components (classrooms, corridors, walls and ceilings) have been turned over to be used as learning aids. The initiative is aimed at making the school's infrastructure a part of the learning process. The initiative is aimed at making the school's infrastructure a part of the learning process.

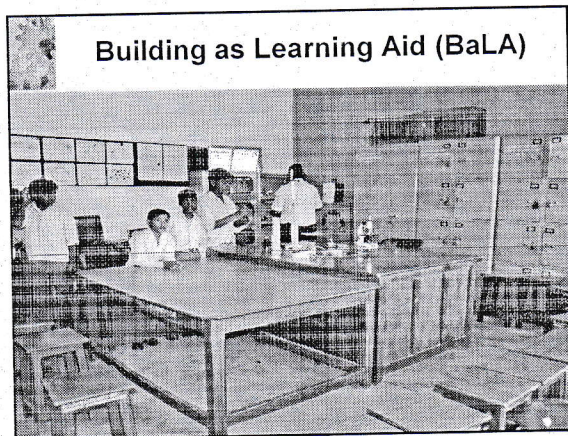
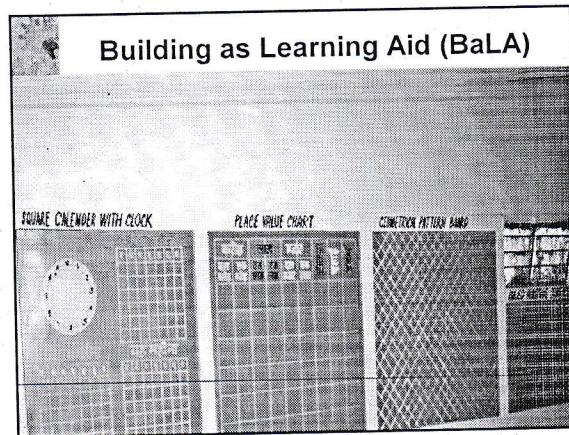
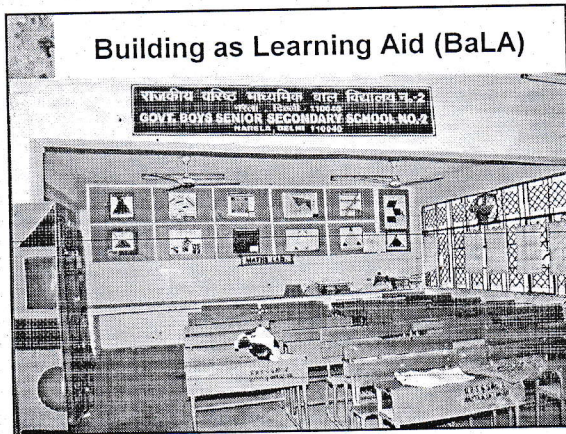
**BLACKBOARD**  
The blackboard is a traditional feature of a classroom. However, it is not always used to its full potential. In the BaLA initiative, the blackboard is being used as a learning aid. The blackboard is being used as a learning aid. The blackboard is being used as a learning aid.

**DESK**  
Every desk will have a light. The desks will be arranged in a way that they can be used as learning aids. The desks will be arranged in a way that they can be used as learning aids. The desks will be arranged in a way that they can be used as learning aids.

**DOORS**  
The doors of the classrooms will be used as learning aids. The doors will be used as learning aids. The doors will be used as learning aids.

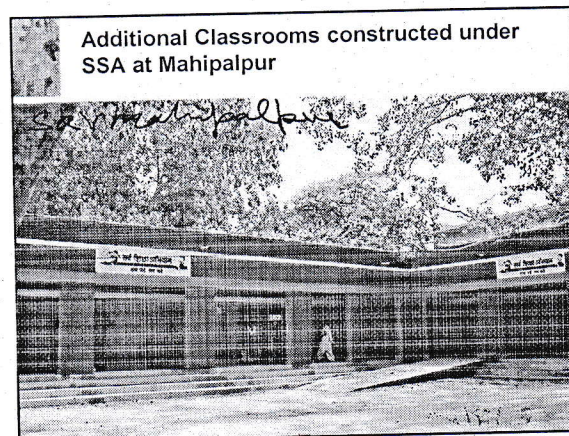
**FANS**  
The fans of the classrooms will be used as learning aids. The fans will be used as learning aids. The fans will be used as learning aids.

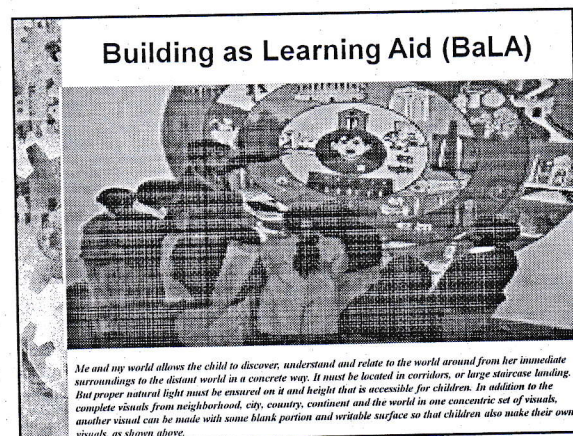
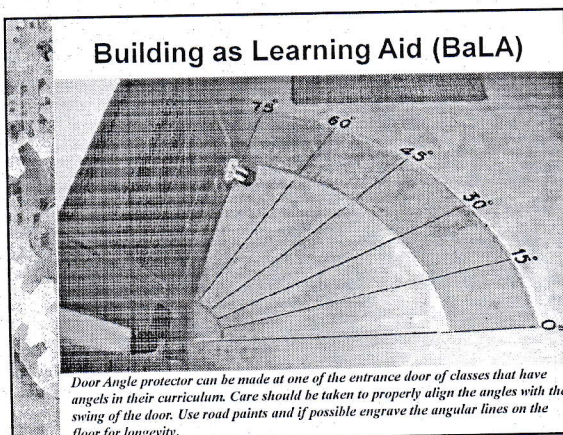
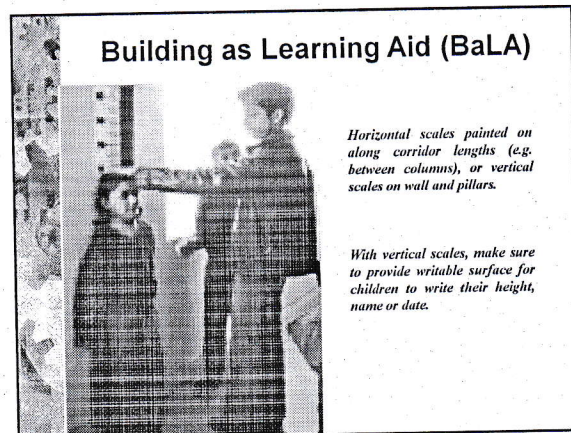
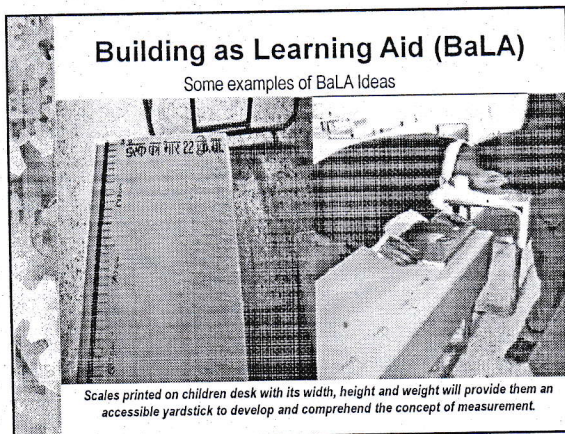
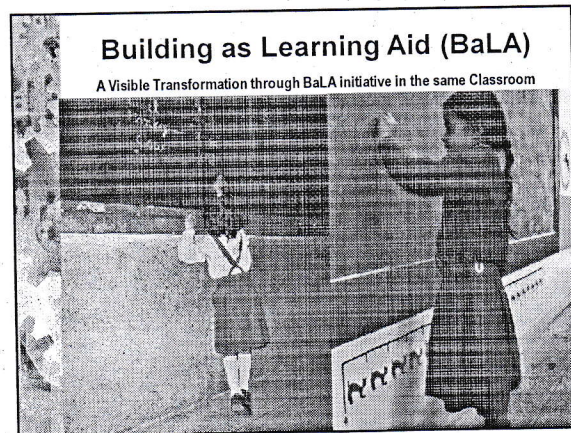
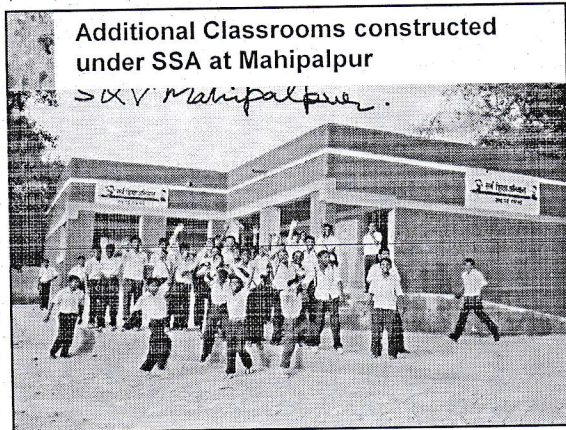




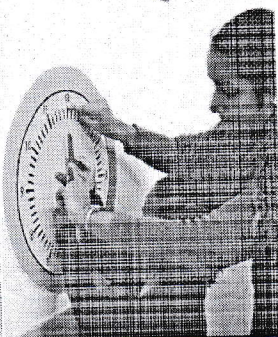
**The salient features of the New School Building are**

- They are all barrier free with provision of ramps.
- All classrooms have proper size with double door and verandah.
- Child friendly elements are introduced for access to schools, toilets, drinking water arrangement.
- There is provision of toilet for Handicapped.
- BaLA ideas are introduced in class room, verandahs, open space, play ground, compound.
- Building as a vibrant unit helps in learning various activities as based on the National Curriculum Framework 2005 of NCERT.
- There is a provision for Earthquake resistance and Fire Safety measures.






**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**



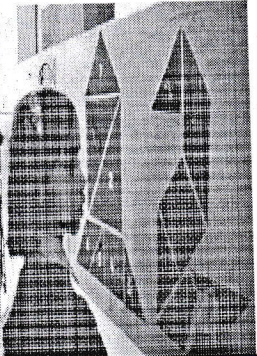
*These wall clocks are to be made in classrooms. The dial is painted white with markings in black and red as shown. Provide a darker colour writable surface around (shown in dark yellow here, it can be black or dark green also) for children and teachers to write events related to time for better understanding. The clock hands are in metal flats and fixed using a good quality rowel plug. The hands must not be sharp or pointed for child safety.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**



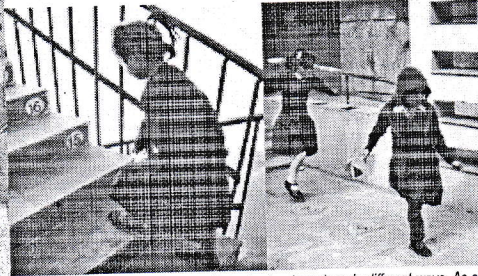
*Depending upon the space available in the classroom, these calendars can be made square or linear. The calendars are painted with blank grid and children are supposed to perform their activities as shown here. The square calendar has also have a clock. The border around the calendar can be used to depict seasons.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**




*Tangram shapes can be painted on walls and large pillars, especially in the corridors. Whole range of shapes that can be made with Tangram can be painted. Remember to make a square without divisions, one with seven Tangram shapes with numbers on it and one of the shapes for children to understand that it has been made with these geometrical shapes. The complexity of its use can be decided by the teachers from identification of simple shapes to determining area of whole shapes and that of its parts. It will be useful to provide a small cubby hole to keep duster and chalk near a Tangram shape board.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**



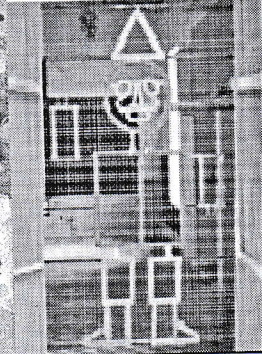
*Number lines are interesting ways to understand numbers in different ways. As stepping stones, children just love to jump on them. This can be used understand counting, ascending or descending numbers, even or odd numbers, etc. As stepping stones, they must ideally be engraved and painted with road paint for longer life. On steps, they can be painted on the treads in different ways.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**



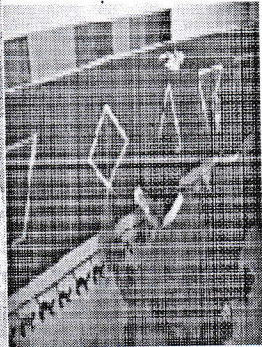
*Kolam design from Southern India are interesting ways to relate geometry, mathematics and creativity. While some Kolam patterns can be painted, others can be made by the children on the dot boards. Some Kolam design can be made near the Dot boards for children to perform self-directed activities.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**



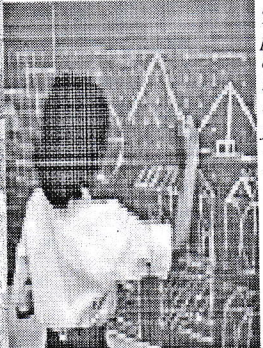
*This is geometrical shape image of a man. These can be integrated while making new window security grills.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**



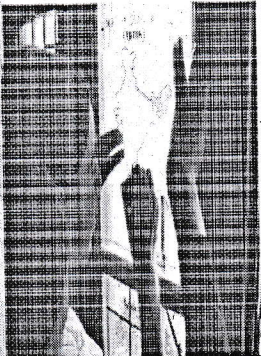
*These geometrical shapes painted on different chalkboards in different locations can be used to either draw shapes around them by adding figures in and around them. They can also be used to write a poem about that shape which is drawn. It allows children observe inward and outward from a given shape and explore or create new ideas with a given form.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**




*These are dots painted (and if possible, slightly engraved) on chalkboard surfaces. These must be made along with the main chalk board in each classroom for use by teachers and smaller version to be used by children within the classroom. These are useful for all grades.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**




*This is another way to trace maps, and shapes from the window glass pane. An art drawing teacher will have to first identify which shapes need to be duplicated most by children. Then these can be made using permanent ink marker on the window. The shapes should be made on that face that children will not touch (e.g the outer face if the window glass tracing has*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)**



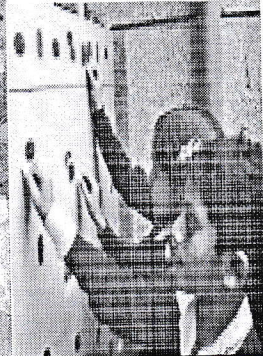
*Pin-up boards are important display surfaces for children to communicate in different ways exhibit creativity, share their thoughts, see other's work, feel inspired and so on. The high-density foam rubber sheets are glued to a wall surface with rubber solution and a writable border made on all sides.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLa)**



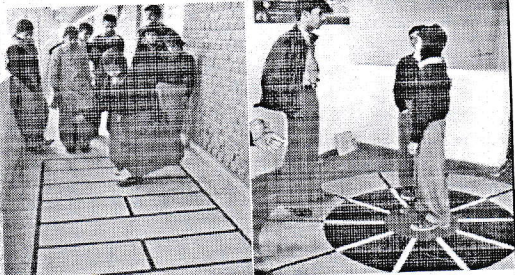
*Ruled writable surfaces are especially useful for children who are learning to write a new language. Depending upon its usage for English or Hindi, the ruled lines can be painted on existing chalkboards or on new boards. Care should be taken to make some boards that are at a child friendly height. The teachers can decide the height of rules. The pattern and colour of ruled lines must be same as that in the notebooks to avoid any confusion.*

**Building as Learning Aid (BaLa)**



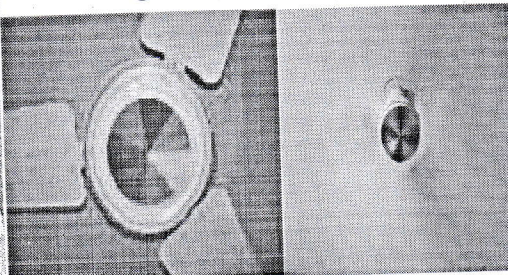
*The pre-painted 'thumb-prints' on this board allow the children to make their own creative shapes and form in several different ways. They can even do this in their notebooks later.*

### Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)



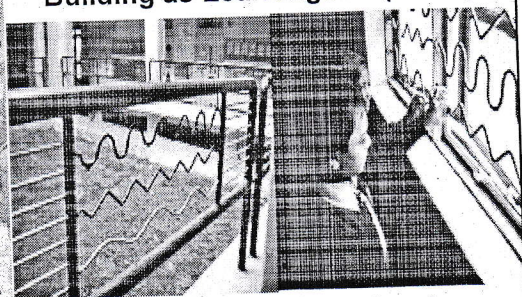
*Stapu frames are generally for children to play by hopping on squares in their own different ways. While Stapu frames are rectangular in nature, the Gollara has three concentric circles subdivided radially into 10 parts as shown. A guide to use this for mathematics or language activities can be painted on a nearby wall. These are to be painted with road paint on the floor. For longer life, ideal would be to engrave the shape also.*

### Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)




*Various colourful discs can be painted on the central circular portion of the ceiling fans. For smaller grades these can graduate from Primary colours, secondary colours, VIBGYOR to more complex forms as shown here.*

### Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)



*These metal window security grills or railing can be made at the time of new construction. The shapes have been worked out to prepare the gross and fine motor movement of the shoulder, elbow and wrist to prepare for writing various alphabets. Modification in existing grill needs to be done only upto the child accessible heights.*

### Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)



### CIVIL WORKS UNDER SSA

Civil works component is an important intervention under SSA. In order to fulfill the objectives of SSA viz. universal access, universal retention and quality in Education infrastructural gaps are not only to be filled up but also to be executed in an innovative way.

The following works are undertaken by SSA in various schools, which are under the administrative control of DoE, MCD & NDMC.

- ❖ Construction of school building
- ❖ Construction of Additional Class Rooms (ACR)
- ❖ Drinking water facilities
- ❖ Construction of Toilet
- ❖ Construction of Room for Coordinators of DURC.

### CIVIL WORKS UNDER SSA

During the year 2006-07, 293 No. of Additional Class Rooms in the form of Porta Cabins were constructed in schools of DoE.

The salient features of the Porta Cabins are:

- ❖ All the rooms have toilet cabins attached containing a wash basin, unisex W.C. including an overhead tank, necessary pipings for disposal, septic tank etc. was provided.
- ❖ They are all barrier free, with provision of ramps and railings as per the PWD Act.
- ❖ They are bright and cheerful. One wall, window frame and doors are painted.
- ❖ Child friendly concepts are included.
- ❖ The construction of the room is made of Plastocrate technology.

