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A different school of thought

A company incubated at CIIE has come up with a programme that aims to develop higher order thinking skills among students of class I to V so that they understand better what they are taught

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Cramming up lessons is all set to be a thing of the past. A cool new initiative by a company incubated at Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at IIM, Ahmedabad, aims to help school-children analyse and understand theories and concepts better, thereby encouraging them to think out-of-the-box.

Called 'My Thinking Programme', it aims to develop Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) among Grade I to Grade V students. The simplest thinking skills are learning facts and recall, while higher order skills include critical thinking, analysis and problem solving.

The programme that will be launched in the city by December is the brainchild of Ashutosh and Sangeeta Khurana, who are currently working with more than 30 schools across New Delhi, Gurgaon, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Bangalore. "The plan is to launch the programme in six more places by December.



The programme that will be launched in December provides primary class children a structured programme to develop cognitive, emotional and social thinking skills

Ahmedabad is one of them. We recently did a research on acceptance of our programme in Vadodara, and the schools have shown high interest for the same," says Ashutosh.

The basic aim of the programme is to provide the children of primary classes, a structured programme to develop cognitive, emotional and

social thinking skills. Sangeeta, the co-founder, says, "Our thinking development programme aims to enhance the abilities of children as per their age. The program is based on four fundamentals – thinking skills, thinking concepts, thinking processes and thinking models."

By making use of thinking skills,

children focus on 'knowing how' as well as 'knowing what' i.e. learning how to learn. The programme aims to develop 'thinking' among children through engagement, encouragement and age-appropriate experiences.

Sangeeta adds, "In recent years, the importance of using educational games or thinking tools in the development of children has become not only popular but quite necessary. However, the core issue still is – Are these educational games being scientifically used to meet the objectives?" The programme involves conducting classes during the school hours to develop thinking abilities in children. The facilitators who are trained to work on 'thinking' development train the students. The kids are taught to use 17 different 'thinking tools' in a year. These tools invoke the conscious and subconscious knowledge, under-

standing and experiences of the child. A detailed, periodic assessment of each child is conducted to draw a 'thinking skills development path' for him/her for the next year.