

SRISTI SAMMAN-2018

## Ashok Mohanlal Parmar

Ashok Mohanlal Parmar was born on 6th August 1975 at Kook village in the Bhuj taluka of Gujarat state's Kutch district. After primary education in the village, Ashokbhai persuaded PTC in 1993 and in 1998 launched on his journey as a primary teacher at Babiya Primary School at Mundra. In 1994, Ashokbhai stood first in his 12th board exams in the Arts stream. Later in 1996 he also passed 12th standard in commerce stream. He has also done his B.A. from Gujarat University, B.Ed. from Dr Ambedkar University, M.A. in Education at Jain Vishwabharti, and is pursuing his PhD from C.U. Shah University since 2016-17 in the subject 'Mathematical education through video games'. Since 2008 he has been teaching at Hiten Dholakiya Primary School at Bhuj.

For the past 19 years, Ashokbhai's journey as a teacher has been replete

with educational activities. In the year 2005 he was selected for the mathematics subject in the SRG (State Resource Group). He has written and compiled the mathematics textbook of Standard 5 to 7 under the Gujarat Textbook Board- Gandhinagar and GCERT, Gandhinagar. In 2010, Ashokbhai was writer and compiler for the Mathematics textbook, teacher's version and workbook of Standard 3 to 8. Since 2018 when the NCERT books were implemented for standards 1 to 8, Ashokbhai has translated Mathematics books for standards 1 & 2 as well as reviewed books for standards 3 to 8. He has also created a self-study book based on NCERT for standards 3 to 8. Apart from all this, he has played a key role in the creation of literature for Mathematics subject in the Pragna project carried out by the Gujarat government. Today under the Pragna project he has created entire literature

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for standards 1 to 2 for the Gujarat state. For his exemplary contribution as a teacher he has been awarded as he 'Best Teacher' by the Matushri Jethibhai Dharamshi Memorial Trust, Pradip in the Kutch district.

To make mathematics simpler and interesting so that kids like the subject, Ashokbhai has ensured that there is mathematics puzzle and its solution on the blackboard in his school everyday during the prayer assembly. Children enthusiastically participate in this activity that concerns understanding of patterns. It has been observed that children show interest in mathematics through such logically based activities. Ashokbhai has created a whatsapp group of 1200 teachers so that they can benefit from such activities done by him. This group is growing day by day with more and more teachers joining each day. Through this group he is developing the teachers' capability to think logically, understand patterns, and ability to find solutions to problems. He also has a Youtube channel that shows ways to make mathematics simpler that shows solutions to puzzles, mathematical

concepts and videos of mathematical activities. Apart from this he has a Facebook page that has daily updates on educational puzzles and simple ways of teaching mathematics simpler. Through such groups, several teachers of the Gujarat state who are part of the whatsapp broadcasting group present the puzzles for children in their school and in this way this activity gets a wide reach instead of being limited to one particular school.

Since 2007, through the medium of BAISAG he has been teaching mathematics using various tools and technology. Children are also able to see Ashokbhai teach mathematics through distance education on the TV channel DD-11 through Gujarat Technology Bhavan, Ahmedabad. He has also been giving radio talks since a long time through AIR on mathematics education. Through BAISAG he has been providing guidance for the NMMS, NTSE exams conducted by the Gujarat Government Exam Committee, Gandhinagar for the mathematics subject. To ensure proper training for teachers in mathematics in Pragna project, he has been creating training

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literature through GCERT and SSAM for standards 1 to 8. He has also participated in the educational training activity conducted by NCERT- Bhopal for standards 1 to 4. He has also represented Gujarat at NCERT – Delhi in the subject of development of basic concepts in mathematics by creating teaching and learning materials for standards 1 to 4. He has represented Gujarat at Jaipur at an NCERT workshop on how mathematical activities and how to teach mathematics. He has also been to a workshop on education through puppets by CCRT, Delhi and at Conservation of Cultural Heritage at Hyderabad after which he trained teachers on these subjects in Gujarat state.

In 2016, Ashokbhai created a science model and presented an innovation created by children's creativity at Innovation Fair in Gandhinagar conducted by IIM, Ahmedabad. His innovation was also selected at the State level Innovation Fair, 2017-18 at Porbandar conducted by Mathematics Activity Learning Package. He also encourages children to take part in the Innovative Idea Competition held by IGNITE.

Through his guidance the school's student Mayursinh Sodha had presented an innovation through a ruler which was selected at IGNITE award and was honoured by founder of SRISTI Shri Anil Gupta. Besides this he has set up a mathematical corner, puzzles, mathematical model creation, questionnaire activities. He has also prepared a children's film and presented at Children's Film Festival. He has also done educational activities by creating PPT, PDF Xchange Editor, Video games, mathematical games in the subject of science and knowledge.

**Ashokbhai has conducted research in education in different subjects to raise the standard of education. For instance, he has done research to increase the vocabulary of English language words in Standard 5 in 2003-2004, has used origami to increase the interest in geometry learning at Babiya School in 2005-2006, conducted a research to check the weakness in power and exponent at Baraya Primary School for standard 6 through playway method in 2007-2008, effect of playway method in mathematical education since 2013, he is currently researching on effects of activity based learning**

for class 6 and its uses for children. In his school he encourages paper craft, scissor craft and increases creative work during prayer assembly. **Ashokbhai has thereby played a role to increase the number**

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**of children attending school. He is also promoting smart learning in school through Gyankunj project. In this smart class Ashokbhai is able to explain difficult mathematical concepts through Youtube.**