

## Renovate and Rejuvenate our Educational System: Prof. Yashpal

The "14<sup>th</sup> All India Children's Educational Audio Video Festival 2009" organized by the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) was inaugurated today at the NCERT here. Eminent educationist and scientist Prof. Yashpal who was the chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the three-day festival from March 4-6, 2009. Dr. R. Sreedhar, Director Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) was the guest of honour. Prof. G Ravindra, Joint Director NCERT and Prof. Vasudha Kamat, Festival Director and Joint Director CIET were present on the occasion.

Speaking to children representing states such as Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat Rajasthan, etc., and members from the State Institutes of Educational Technology (SIETs) at the inaugural ceremony, Prof. Yashpal stressed on the need of creative education amongst children. He said, "When we make educational programmes, we take syllabus, boundaries and thereby confine ourselves. It seems that if something that isn't there in the curriculum is taught, it is considered as illegal".

Asserting the point that children have a great capacity to think and react, Prof. Yashpal emphasised on establishing a connection with children. He said, "It is important to create curiosity; create a connection; create a freedom of thought for enhancing the creativity of the child".

He further said, "There is a serious need to renovate, rejuvenate the educational system, since we have a cubic form of educational system", adding, "Real creativity in education will occur when boundaries of various disciplines will merge".

Calling children as 'stem cells of society', Prof. Yashpal further said, "Going off tangent and connecting the information with something familiar can create wonder for children".

Prof Yashpal also urged the media to play a positive role in imbibing values. He said, "Children are not blank slates, they are fantastic resources and it is important that the media takes on the role of educators, not advertisers, brainwashing the children".

Dr. R Sreedhar released an educational audio album containing three educational programs – "*Ekki Dokki*", a story of moral education; "*Second Lieutenant Arun Khetrapal*", a programme on the acts of bravery of Arun Khetarpal, who was posthumously awarded the Paramveer Chakra and "*Hamid Khan*", a story that inculcates the message of communal harmony amongst children. These three audio programmes were awarded the best audio productions during the '13<sup>th</sup> All India Educational Audio Video Festival 2008'.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sreedhar asked children and elders not to neglect radio, which today has become a national identity. Sharing his experiences on judging the audio programmes in this year's festival, he expressed his pleasure in receiving good audio programs which he said was a positive sign, of people understanding the power of radio programs.

Saying that "Creativity blossoms in radio", he asked people to understand the nuances of sound, music and silence. He said, "One needs to have a flexible

approach in making radio programs and asserted the need for a greater collaboration, cooperation and coordination amongst various media organizations.

He also suggested for organizing a 'National Educational Media Festival' in which all the people involved in making audio video programmes can participate and share their experience.

Prof. G Ravindra in his address said, "Every child has a natural path of movement and we (as teachers and elders) must move with the children in the same natural manner and path".

Highlighting the need of involving children in creative pursuits, Prof. Ravindra said, "It is important to laugh with children instead of laughing at them".

Earlier in her welcome address, Prof. Vasudha Kamat expressed her happiness over the number of entries that has increased from 68 to 84. She further informed that the number of awards has also been increased and that the cash award has seen a quantum jump from 2.5 Lacs to 5.1 Lacs this year.

She said, "The festival over the years has become a forum for enhancing the creativity of a child, besides creating an awareness of the positive values of cultural diversity".

Calling this festival an 'access to good educational programmes', Prof. Kamat termed this experiment as 'fruitful'.

During the two screening sessions 11 programmes (6 video and 5 Video) were screened and the programmes were discussed at length by the producers, scriptwriters and media personnel. Ms. Ananya Banerjee, Director, Door Darshan and Prof. Jai Chandiram, Ex-Joint Director, CIET chaired the sessions. Dr. Kamini Bhatnagar and Dr. Jitendra Singh from CIET convened these screening sessions.

The list of the programme is enclosed.