

TEACHERSPEAK

New measures have brought in vibrancy in education system

NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

■ Budget for Amrit Kaal 2022-23, a complete paperless budget presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, provides a ray of hope for our economy.

With regard to schooling and the education sector, the budget has a positive note. Measures like technology-based learning, whether online or blended, are indispensable for our education systems. The focus on a digital university and digital learning to provide access to world-class education to Indian students is a welcome move. The expansion of Swayam Prabha TV under the PM e-Vidya scheme, new skill development courses, state ITIs will all help the youth of the country.

Revising the syllabus of agricultural universities to meet the needs of natural, zero-budget & organic farming, allowing setting up of foreign universities in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT city) have given vibrancy to the overall education system of the country. But as many students in India don't have access to a laptop or a stable internet connection, there needs to be a focus on ensuring that the required infrastructure is developed adequately and is available to everyone.

H Sweta Naidu, department head - social sciences, Diya Academy of Learning

WAIT, WATCH AND EVALUATE POLICY NEEDED

■ Budget 2022-23 has been a disappointment as schools were among the worst hit during the ongoing pandemic. We were expecting working capital funding to avoid closure of thousands of small and medium scale schools. Government should have

allowed schools to buy only third party insurance if not at least reduce GST on school vehicle insurance. On the positive side upgrading 200000 Anganwadis is a welcome move and a digital university can help students get convenient and cost effective education. Though adding TV channels to PM e-Vidya is a good move, impersonated teaching-learning in primary education needs to have a wait, watch and evaluate policy.

Gayathri VijayaKumar, principal, The Polaris International School

FOCUS ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT

■ The pandemic has forced us to alter the education system. In the present situation more resources should be allotted for teacher training and skill development like stress management, learning disabilities and mental health, which is the need of the hour. In the NEP there is a good balance between education and sports, which helps the overall development and skills of the students. The budget has good initiatives towards education and sports. The virtual labs and eshiksha platform will be very helpful in the rural parts of our country.

R Sunil Kumar, secretary, Mount Litera Zee School Whitefield

MAKING YOUTH JOB READY

■ Digital university is a great leap forward. One class one TV channel will reduce gap between rural and urban students, new skill courses will also make the youth job ready. Agri education is also a good initiative.

Manjula Raman, CEO, Royale Concorde International Group of Schools

A GROWTH FOCUSED BUDGET

■ The extension of the PM e-Vidya scheme from 12 channels to 200 to be made available in all regional languages and e-learning content delivery platforms will be launched. This is a welcome move as it will have a huge impact on the students and will enhance learning substantially.

Neelam Prasad, teacher, DPS East

INVEST ON UPSKILLING TEACHERS

■ As such it is futuristic and progressive.

Planning for digital university and 200+ TV channels including vernacular languages will hopefully reach last child at a remote corner and fill the learning gaps created during pandemic time.

However, as we all know teachers are the pillars of an educational portals. If there is no focus and investment on upskilling existing teachers' future digital capabilities, investment made on channels may not be fruitful and will not give best dividends.

Students' engagement comes only through interactive media. Hence there should be parallel focus on existing teacher's enrichment courses on par with digital university and TV channels.

J A Vani Sharma, director academics and principal, Tapovan School

BRIDGING URBAN-RURAL DIVIDE

It is very good to see the government's planned expenditure on education increase by 12% from the last budget estimate. Following the covid-19 pandemic in the past two years, the education budget saw a reduction, to meet urgent needs elsewhere. However, the massive impact on education throughout the country and the widening of the gap between rural and urban students has been very concerning. Therefore, it is a welcome move that the budget is focussing on digital learning and e-learning content delivery platforms. Expanding the dissemination of educational content through TV, which has a high penetration in Indian homes, is a very good move. Expanding these TV channels to now cover all regional languages and grades will go a long way in providing quality content to learners across demographics. The announcement by the FM to have optical fibre connection in all villages by 2025, I believe will go a long way in bridging the gap between urban students and rural students, if met.

Shashank Shenoy, class XII, Delhi Public School East

EDUCATION has got the needed fillip

While education allocation is only a small fraction of the budget, the impact the various new schemes and plans can have on the populace is immense. Students and teachers give us their opinion about the budget.

REVOLUTIONARY CHALLENGE

Budget 2022 emphasizes digital education and skill-building programs. As a student hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, I understand the need for quality online education, as it seems to be our only option. Expanding the PM eVIDYA program to 200 channels is appreciated as it helps those who aren't as privileged as I am. A digital university, promising world-class education for all, seems like a challenge to take on but could revolutionize the education sector if executed properly. Despite these announcements, the finance minister didn't speak of any major boost to the education sector, which was quite disappointing.

Urvi Priyadarshi, class XII, DPS East

GOOD STEP TO PREVENT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

One of the most crucial parts of the 2022 Union Budget is the investment in the education sector as they are investments towards a better future. The expansion of the one class-one channel scheme to 200 channels - in all regional languages - will help efface existing language barriers. High-quality educa-

tion can be disseminated through the proposed Digital University. The National Tele Mental Health Programme is a welcome step to militate worsening mental health issues of students. Developing e-content for students must be coupled with efforts to bridge the digital divide. Schools are also a source of food and protection for many students. Therefore, investments in Covid precautions need to be made so that schools can reopen quickly and safely.

Cyriel Clement, class XII, Delhi Public School East

CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday unveiled budget for 2022-23 with an aim to encourage development. This year, the budget gave a boost to the education sector. In my view, this was long-awaited, especially because of the slash in the education budget last year. In this budget, not only would online education be encouraged, teachers would be trained to use e-resources in a better way. I believe that now that the nation is transitioning towards becoming technologically competent, online education should be encouraged. The budget also states that skill subjects would be improved by launching of the Desh E-Portal and PM E-Vidyalaya. This is a constructive proposal, as skill subjects are undervalued.

Anushka Krishan, class X, DPS East

WAY FOR EFFECTIVE LEARNING

■ The government has proposed to expand the innovative One Class One TV channels from the initial 12 to 200 under the impressive e-VIDYA scheme. An initiative to help rural students to learn in their mother tongues, it'll also ensure supplementary education in regional languages from classes 1 to 12. Students will be given access to world class education through digital universities with personalized learning experience at their doorstep. Another positive development is the high quality e-content in all spoken languages for delivery via internet, mobile phones etc. This'll ensure more effective learning outcomes.

Smriti Atmaram, faculty of English, School Of India

MITIGATING DIGITAL DIVIDE

■ There are reasons for the stakeholders of education to welcome the Union budget 2022. For

GIANT LEAP FORWARD

States to be encouraged to revise the syllabus of agricultural universities to meet the needs of modern agriculture and natural, zero-budget & organic farming. AICTE will also improve its syllabus. I feel this is the right step taken in order to sustain modern standards and methods.

The biggest highlight in the Budget was the One class, One TV program. High-quality content delivery through TV, radio and internet, classes on regional channels soon and Pradhan Mantri E-vidya expanding from 12 to 200 channels. Imagine turning on your TV to a particular channel to learn a complete chapter in 30 minutes. This will be absolutely beneficial for students right from primary school to class XII, especially in today's times.

Another key point is that a digital university will be established to provide access to students across the country for personalized universal education at our doorsteps. World-class universities will be allowed to offer courses in financial services and technology, free of Indian regulations, at the GIFT City, Gujarat. This Budget has considered the current situation very well and has put efforts in putting across quality education through mass media. This is the step towards

true development since the government has taken steps to provide learning for this country's future. I hope all these steps are implemented well, leading to positive effects for students.

Siddharth Kothari, class X, St Joseph's Boys' High School.

AIDING CONTINUAL SCHOOLING

I think one of the most significant announcements in the budget this year was the initiation of the digital university which plans on providing quality universal education to all the students across India. Mobile devices and the internet have made their way into almost every household at this point, making the digital university an excellent way for students of low-income families to broaden the scope of their knowledge. Also, the launch of the 'One Class, One TV Channel' scheme to provide supplementary education via TV and radio will certainly help students living in rural areas without access to internet in continuing their schooling.

Likhith L Gowda, class XI, Vyasa International School

A SILVER LINING

I believe that the union budget, 2022, has brought great promises that will benefit students immensely.

Online learning has indeed become the new normal for all. However for those who aren't as blessed as us, it was a living nightmare. The proposal to launch a 'digital university' would definitely help in compensating for all the classes lost due to the pandemic and also ensure continuity in learning for the future as well! Since the finance minister also proposed the idea of making 200 TV channels available in all regional languages as an expansion to the PM eVIDYA scheme, I feel that it would help in not only quenching the thirst to learn in students but also in encouraging them to never stop the journey of education and even increase one's appreciation for one's mother tongue. During these difficult times, especially in villages, children were made to work and hence, I strongly believe that these reforms would convince their parents to send them back to school, even if it is online! The budget provides the proper platforms which aid in improving skills, accommodating modern and efficient changes, urban planning courses and most importantly quality e-learning!

It wouldn't be wrong to say that through this budget, students would no longer have to sacrifice their education and would be able to equally step foot in society.

Shreya Ravi, class XI

beginners, an increase in the budgetary allocation for education by 11.86% as compared to the last year indicates many progressive steps to look forward to. The one highlight that caught my attention is the extension of One Class -One TV Channel programme to 200 channels to enable all states to provide supplementary education in regional languages for classes 1-12. This is a much needed initiative to bring in equity in opportunities for children, especially from the rural and far flung areas of the country. Investment on development of high-quality e-content in all spoken languages that will be delivered via internet, mobile phones, TV and radio through teachers is the right step to mitigate the 'Digital Divide' and bring in sustainable growth in learning outcomes.

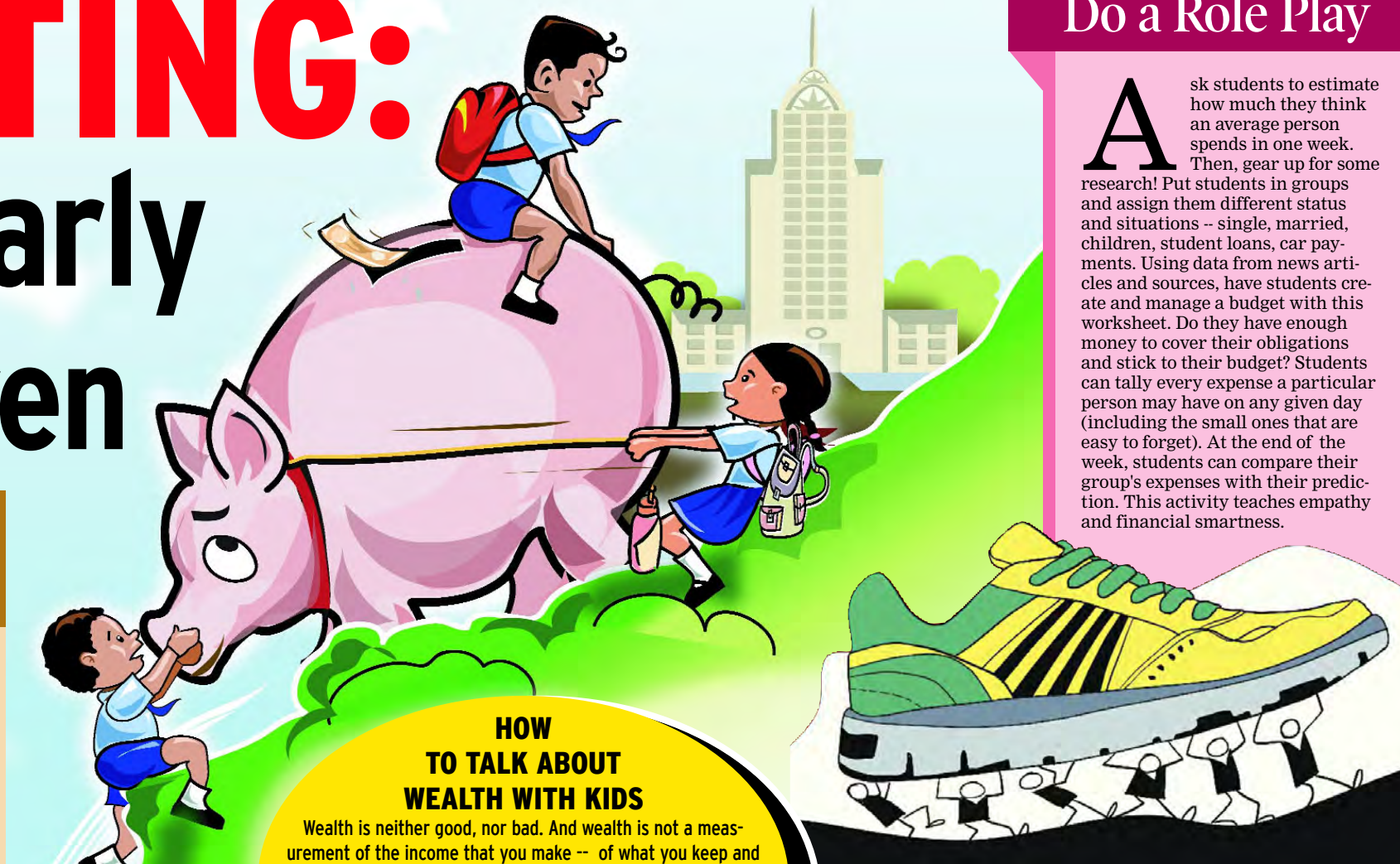
Anupama Ramachandra, principal, DPS Electronic City

BUDGETING: Starting Early With Children

Start With Goals, Wants & Needs



One of the best ways to get a child to understand budgeting is by talking about money and how to use it wisely. Use 'money references' in positive conversations, rather than let it come up in an angry state of mind like -- "Do you think money grows on a tree?" Reinforce that everything is achievable--sometimes in short term, other times in long term. Try not to dismiss your children's demands. Make them feel that it is achievable but "when the want becomes the need of the hour." It is helpful for children to have a reminder of why they are saving and why they should not spend all of their money now.



HOW TO TALK ABOUT WEALTH WITH KIDS

Wealth is neither good, nor bad. And wealth is not a measurement of the income that you make -- of what you keep and how it grows, or the income and assets that a person accumulates. Wealth is also relative to factors such as the cost of living, people around you, the culture you live in, etc. Have the kids go through the **GLOBAL RICH CALCULATOR** with their allowance, and see how "wealthy" they are! This calculator tells you how rich you are in a particular country

Do a Role Play

Ask students to estimate how much they think an average person spends in one week. Then, gear up for some research! Put students in groups and assign them different status and situations -- single, married, children, student loans, car payments. Using data from news articles and sources, have students create and manage a budget with this worksheet. Do they have enough money to cover their obligations and stick to their budget? Students can tally every expense a particular person may have on any given day (including the small ones that are easy to forget). At the end of the week, students can compare their group's expenses with their prediction. This activity teaches empathy and financial smartness.

Start Small and Set an Example

It is helpful for children to see how parents budget, but start small. For example, allow them to help you plan the weekly grocery shopping. Start by planning a list from sale flyers and coupons, and then stick to that list at the store. This can turn into a saving game for them. Remember, children will learn from your example. So telling them that budgeting is important, but it will be much more impactful if they see you following a budget yourself.

IT'S ACTIVITY TIME!



1 Have students make a list of up to 10 items they'd like to buy. These items can range in price, but encourage students to think as big as they'd like.

3 From this exercise, ask students to explain why they chose these items and to answer some other guiding questions. What personal values do these items represent? How will these items

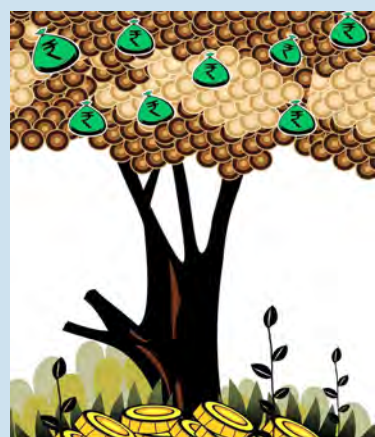
help them achieve their goals? Will those items make them feel happy?

4 Then, have students create a buying plan for a few of the objects that they'd like to buy in the next year.

5 Help them decide, based on whether they have a job, receive an allowance, or have a savings account, how they'll make the purchase and help them tailor each plan to their situation.

Save, Share and Spend

Save, Share and Spend is a method for children where they set aside money for each of these three things. It is a great way to make them realise how every penny counts!



SAVE

When your child earns money, they should first set aside a portion for savings. The recommendation is to save at least 10% of earnings. This percentage can be increased for children because they have fewer expenses. Savings can be accumulated in many ways. Some use a jar, piggybank or even a joint bank account to gain interest. The savings account should be kept for emergencies.

SHARE

Teaching children about charity at a young age is also useful. Allow them to research and contribute to a charity of their choice. Sharing is typically around 10%. Discuss options with your child to determine which cause they may enjoy helping. For example, it can be very rewarding for children to use money to purchase toys for a local outreach centre and help needy.

SPEND

The remainder of their earnings can go towards spending. The spending category is available so your child can make purchases they choose, but remind them that additional savings will help them reach their long-term goals faster.

Be a GOALDIGGER!

1 Give students a budget reality check

What kind of lifestyle do your students want? They can explore options and expectations (what kind of income they'll need) with this reality check tool. How does this impact their career plans? What kind of wages will they need? Be ready: Enlightening discussions ahead!

2 Teach grocery shopping and meal prep

Challenge your students to meal prep on a budget! Either ask families to sign permission slips and send money for a real trip to the grocery store or use an online service to make a hypothetical grocery list. Help students budget for and prepare their own lunches to last one week. At the end of the week, students assess how they used their money: Did they have enough food or too much? Was the food they purchased nutritious? This game helps students understand how financial habits support wellness as well as consider how food access and financial health are linked.

3 Make budgeting concepts fun

The Bouncing Ball Budgets game is designed for students to think about past spending decisions, and how to think about spending habits in new ways. Tossing the ball from one to the other and answering money habit questions, they'll be actively listening, engaged in teamwork, and thinking critically--all while having fun!



4 Engage students with the game of chance.

The National Standards for Financial Literacy suggest that all teens should weigh the cost of education and the income they want from their careers. Have students envision their future life and write down: 1) a profession that they are interested in (including stay-at-home parent); 2) the number of kids they think they want; and 3) where they want to live. Then, have students create a financial-future map, including a plan for their education and a household budget based on their future salaries. Make it fun by using photos, magazines, and art materials to create vision boards along with their money maps!

5 Introduce the idea of risk

Like the tortoise and the hare, there are different approaches to long-term saving. Randomly assign students either high-risk or low-risk investing strategies. Next, have them work in teams to calculate the savings over five, 10, 20, 30, and 40 years. Finally, have them reflect on which strategy would be most appropriate based on their goals and for stage of life.

6 Build Belief!

Inspiration goes a long way: read articles to students, show them YouTube videos, and bring in speakers who have either turned their financial health around or earned wealth with good habits to speak to your class. Ask the question, "What would you do with one million dollars?" and then give them time to reflect, journal, or create and share a vision board. Hold one-on-one or smaller group sessions with students to help them devise individualised plans.

Trip, treat and talk of surplus!

By Elizabeth Thomas
Chief Mentor, Tale Tellers,

Training the teachers with Tale Tellers Jr, Elizabeth comes in with 10 years plus work ex in training and human resources. She also has industry experience in banking with one of the leading banks in India



What comes to your mind when I say road trip? *Dil Chahta Hai* title song? *Pataaka Guddi* song from the film *Highway*? Well, life is not always Bollywood movies, and let me tell you there is no better way to teach our kids budgeting other than a road trip.

When was the last time you went on a family road trip with your little ones? A road trip teaches a lot to us and one of the most important points it teaches is budgeting. There is a tremendous amount of difference in going on a road trip with a budget as opposed to one without a budget.

In life if we do not plan and budget for events, it can be drastic for our finances and this is why among many other life skills, financial skills are given importance in a child's holistic development.

Giving the onus:

While planning a road trip with your family, give the responsibility of the trip to your child. Tell him/her that she is going to help mom and dad throughout the trip, starting from planning to route map to the expenses. They will love this kind of engagement.



Sensitise your child about the destination, how far is it from home, and most importantly, set a budget for this trip and let your child know the probable expense that may occur.

Writing down the expenses:

Give your child a notepad to write down all the expenses like filling petrol, toll booth expense, food and tea expenses on the way. The child needs to think he is helping his parents plan this and feels important and learns a lot of things like why a toll booth is there, what is a fast tag etc. While the child writes

down all these expenses, he/she learns about budgeting in a subtle way and carries this learning a long way.

Reward them

After the trip, thank your little one for helping you plan this trip and make her/him review everything he wrote as expenses. Tally this with the allocation set aside for the trip and there he learns surplus and deficit. Allocate a small amount of surplus as pocket money as a reward for his/her services and in case it's a deficit, it's an opportunity to make them understand the unwanted expenses.

After a long trip, my child tells my tired husband, "Dad there is a surplus, can you take us for an ice cream?" I thought he would say a long big NO, but he said "Dil Chahta hai". The car's engine obliged and there we go again and this time for a deficit!