

Training on use of masks for language teaching to tribal children held in Udaipur

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It has been felt that by linguists and expert language teachers that for tribal children whose home language is the local dialect and school language is standard Hindi, language teaching has to be culturally linked and interesting methods like use of masks and involving children in interaction can be useful. Keeping this view, training to master trainers was given in simple mask making using paper plates.

During a training of master trainers (N=60) of Maa-Bari Project teachers being prepared for MultiGrade Teaching in Rajasthan state of India, a session was taken up by me on easy-to-make and low-cost masks for teaching language in grade two tribal students.

The masks were designed using paper plates and identification marks of animals like eyes, nose, ears, mouth, whiskers, horns, scales, etc were cut from glaze paper and glued on the paper plate.

The training session consisted of (i) demonstration; (ii) drawing of four sketches of more animal faces; (iii) making of masks by participants; and (iv) discussion on the use of masks in language instruction.

It was felt that with some creative imagination and experience, teachers can use for masks for personification to remove hesitation of students in speaking as well as Communicative language teaching. It was gathered that masks can work powerful teaching tools by creating interest through drama in language teaching since students can playing many roles by wearing different masks.

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