BALID Informal Literacy Discussion Hidden Literacies and Numeracies Dr Rafat Nabi



Introduction

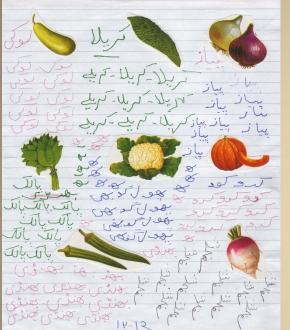
Who am I?

- Why I came to UK
 (<u>Researching Alternatives For Adult</u> <u>Teaching</u>)
- Shift in my thoughts
- Change of Ideas
- Search for Social Literacies

Amen Baba's Six Steps of Learning

- Who was Amen Baba?
- ***** How did I come to know Amen Baba?
- ***** How Amen Baba attracted my attention.
- Amen Baba's disappointment with educated people.
- ***** What motivation did he have to learn?
- *****Who supported him?

Step 1; copying and practicing words





Step 1: He copied (in terms of drawing) the spelling of words (vegetable and fruits) in Urdu from the vegetable charts and practised them. Once he felt confident that he could write the names of fruits and vegetables without looking at the chart, he went on to the second step.

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Step 2; Writing Receipt

Step 2: Dates, names of fruits and vegetables, numbers. cost Mistakes and improvement.

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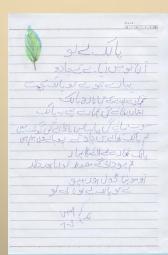
Step 3; Tape Recorder

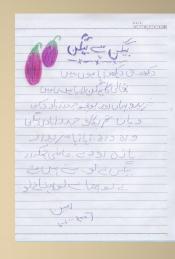
- * He learned how to use the tape recorder.
- ***** He developed some poems and recorded them.
- He listened again and again. He wrote down those words which he knew and left a blank for those which he could not write.
- * He gave the tape and notebook to Hamida.
- Hamida listened to the tape, checked the notebook and filled in the blanks.
- * He visited Hamida once or twice a week.
- Hamida explained the spelling of the words, breakdown of the syllables, and making new words.

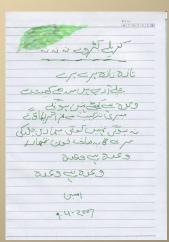
Step 4: Strong Features

Language
Concepts
Uses
Remedies
Drawing and Colours

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Step 5 and Step 6

Step 5: Reading newspapers and completing forms.

Step 6: Opened an account in the bank so that, in the future, he could apply for a loan to buy a shop.

Amen Baba lamplighter



Spring on Amen Baba's vegetable cart. He claims to bring fresh vegetables which gives a feeling of spring to the buyers. His six step learning plan will always guide me in my future literacy planning. This is a gift from Amen Baba for all of us.

Zia the Plumber's 10- sitting learning program

1st sitting: Five pictures of plumbing tools and five words.
 2nd sitting: Writing the five names of the plumbing tools.
 3rd sitting: Learned five more words and practised with ten

words also played games.

Learning program continued

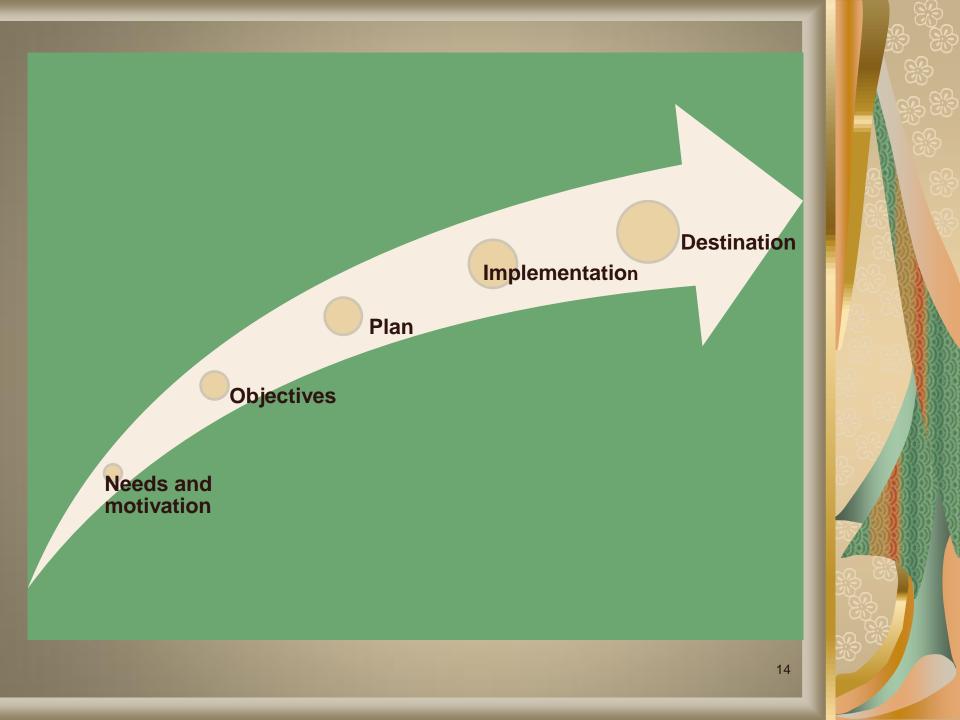
4th sitting: Learned to write five more words (15 words). Now he could correctly read and write the names of 15 parts. He also learned the make-up of the words and how to make new words from the parts of the words. This was very interesting for him.

Learning program continued

- Sth,6th and 7th sittings: He was able to write 45 to 50 words related to plumbing and was also able to make new words from these fifty words.
- Sth sittings: Taught him joining words to make a sentence. He started to write short sentences which were useful in his work.

Learning program continued

- *<u>9th sitting</u>: He learned to write a receipt.
- the sitting: Revised everything.
- * "Now I am not handicapped. I can do my job very well. With on-thejob practice, I am able to read and write."



What could be learned

Motivation / Need
Clear Objectives
Multimodality
Relationship (informal, close, trust)
Built on learning
Relevance

 Sources of learning (human, environmental and material sources, place of learning e.g. sea)
 Planning their own learning program
 Flexibility, less barriers

Trust
Pace of learning
Control of the learning
Motivation for learning
Sharing Learning.
Learning and Practicing

- Learning in literacy centers and beyond literacy centers.
- Simple and not sophisticated but effective methods of learning.
- Imperfect literacy led to a fear of being laughed at.
- Attitude of educated people.

WHY ?(Question to be addressed)

- Our perceptions about so called illiterates. Why?
- Barrier free adult literacy programme.
- Relevant literacy programme.
- Primary formal literacy versus adult and youth literacy approach.

continued

• Accreditation of the literacy programme

Sharing between the implementers

• More research-based pilot programmes

What policy makers should learn: One size cannot fit all.
Working with learners is necessary.
New Ideas may be difficult to conceive, to plan, to implement, to manage, BUT it is not impossible.

What is required?

 What is required – a little bit of openness towards new successful approaches, knowledge of adult learning patterns, flexibility, change in attitude and perception about so called illiterate people.

Programs for adult literacy

- Health Literacy
- Coastal area literacy
- Agriculture literacy
- Craft literacy

Many successful examples in terms of programs and people are around us, just need to open our eyes, ears and learning attitude.

We are not children

- We are adults with experience, wisdom, acknowledge this, respect it.
 For God's sake understand this - we are not children so do not treat us like kids.
- If you work for us and with us, Success is guaranteed. Donors, Gov and Implementers must understand this.

M Thank you for your time .

