**BaLA (Building as Learning Aid)**

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| IntroductionBaLA (Building as Learning Aid) is an innovative concept towards qualitative improvement in education, through developing child-friendly, learning and fun based physical environment building in school infrastructure.This concept was originally developed by Vinyas, Centre for Architectural Research & Design with support from UNICEF. It is now implemented across the country in all states in India. While government may have limited resources, the demand for making or converting schools to Model schools with BaLA is growing by day.What is BaLA ?BaLA is a way to holistically plan and use the school infrastructure. It incorporates the ideas of activity based learning, child friendliness and inclusive education for children with special needs (CWSN). At the core, it assumes that the architecture of school can be a resource for the teaching-learning processes.There are two levels of this intervention:* Develop the SPACES to create varied teaching-learning situations.
* Develop the BUILT ELEMENTS in these spaces as teaching-learning aids

The Spaces can be:* Classrooms
* Corridor
* Steps and staircase
* Outdoor space

The Built Elements can be:* Floor
* Wall
* Window
* Door
* Ceiling
* Platform
* Furniture

BaLA is about innovatively treating the space and the built elements to make the existing school architecture more resourceful with higher educational value in a child friendly manner.But, why BaLA?It

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| * Lets school be conceived in a holistic way
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| * Makes the school a child friendly place
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| * Can be introduced in existing and new school
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| * Makes school an exciting place, allowing learning with fun
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| * Creates conducive self-learning situations for children Can help creating inclusive learning spaces and provisions spaces for Children With Special Needs (CWSN) - i- BaLA is being developed for this purpose.
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| * Allows learning materials accessible to children, at all times
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| * Does not allow the TLM to be stolen or misplaced and hence it can can remain orderly
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| * Allows Teachers to adapt them to suit their specific needs
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| * Is more lasting and durable
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| * Can be combined with building repairs and up-gradation
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Intervention of BaLA could be achieved through a large inventory of 'design ideas' developed by Vinyas through an intense interdisciplinary approach. These are listed as follows. They have been implemented at several urban and rural sites across the country. |