# Adding value to mathematics

*Chennai Corporation and NIIT has set up a math lab at school*

**LALITHASAI**

Children of Chennai High School, V.P. Koil Street, Mylapore, can avail a new facility now. Chennai Corporation, in co-ordination with NIIT, has set up a math lab at the school. This initiative aims at making the subject simpler to the students. The novel concept was inaugurated by Saidai Duraisamy, Mayor, Chennai Corporation. The state-of-the-art 'N Guru Math Lab', as it is called, enables children to explore mathematical concepts using the Geometer's Sketchpad. This exploration tool has been structured on NCERT guidelines and spans the mathematical curriculum from Class I to XII. According to Nalina Kumari, Headmistress, "Many of our students find it difficult to understand the abstract concepts of mathematics. With this novel software, maths has been made simple and easy. They have also turned it into an



**FUN QUOTIENT TO THE SUBJECT:** *Maths Lab inaugurated at Chennai high School.* PHOTO: K.V. SRINIVASAN

enjoyable learning experience for our school students."

The software has been incorporated in four to five computers at the school. Arranged neatly in a large room, each computer enables about five to six students to learn the concepts at one go. From the next academic year, students will have a weekly math lab period. Teachers have also been trained by NIIT personnel to handle the software.

Hemant Sethi, president, School Learning Solutions and HiWEL, NIIT Ltd., remarked, "NIIT is committed to make education more impactful, interactive and fun-filled for teachers and students alike. 'NIIT NGuru Math Lab' is yet another initiative by us to make the present curriculum simpler and interesting, thereby bringing back the joy of learning mathematics. We are delighted to launch 'NIIT NGuru Math

Lab' in Chennai High School, Chennai, which will help young children comprehend the subject better."

With this software, students will be able to plot graphs, understand properties of line, circle, quadrilaterals, etc.

They will be able to draw triangles, hexagons and other shapes and learn about the various angles in them, decide whether it is an acute, obtuse or equilateral triangle, etc. With the touch of an icon, they can have in depth understanding about an annual bisector, perpendicular, circumcentre, to name a few. "Teachers will also find it easy to explain the same to the students," said the headmistress.

In addition to providing greater scope for individual participation in the process of learning and becoming autonomous learners, the Math Lab also enables the teacher to demonstrate, explain and reinforce abstract mathematical ideas by using concrete objects, models, charts, graphs, pictures, posters, etc. Speaking on the revolutionary teaching learning solutions from NIIT NGuru, NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand said, "With a vision to create 'schools of tomorrow', NIIT has designed complete education and technology solutions to engage

students, teachers and parents alike in the whole process of learning. This pioneering initiative by NIIT will help the young generation script many success stories in their life ahead. Math Lab has been specially designed to add a fun quotient to the subject that is usually feared by students."

World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand is the face of the new NIIT NGuru campaign that aims to create awareness about these revolutionary solutions. NIIT NGuru has impacted more than 10 million children across 17,000 schools in India. It has adeptly leveraged technology and encompassed all possible components to meet the present and the future needs of schools.

The school has also been provided a large number of manipulatives to understand the subject with ease. "One of the easiest or popular ways to help them understand the concepts is the use of manipulatives and this is exactly what NIIT has done for us", said the HM.

What are these manipulatives? They are small plastic objects which come in different shapes (blocks, rods and tangrams) and are used to explain and understand concepts such as addition, subtraction, fractions, algebra and so on.