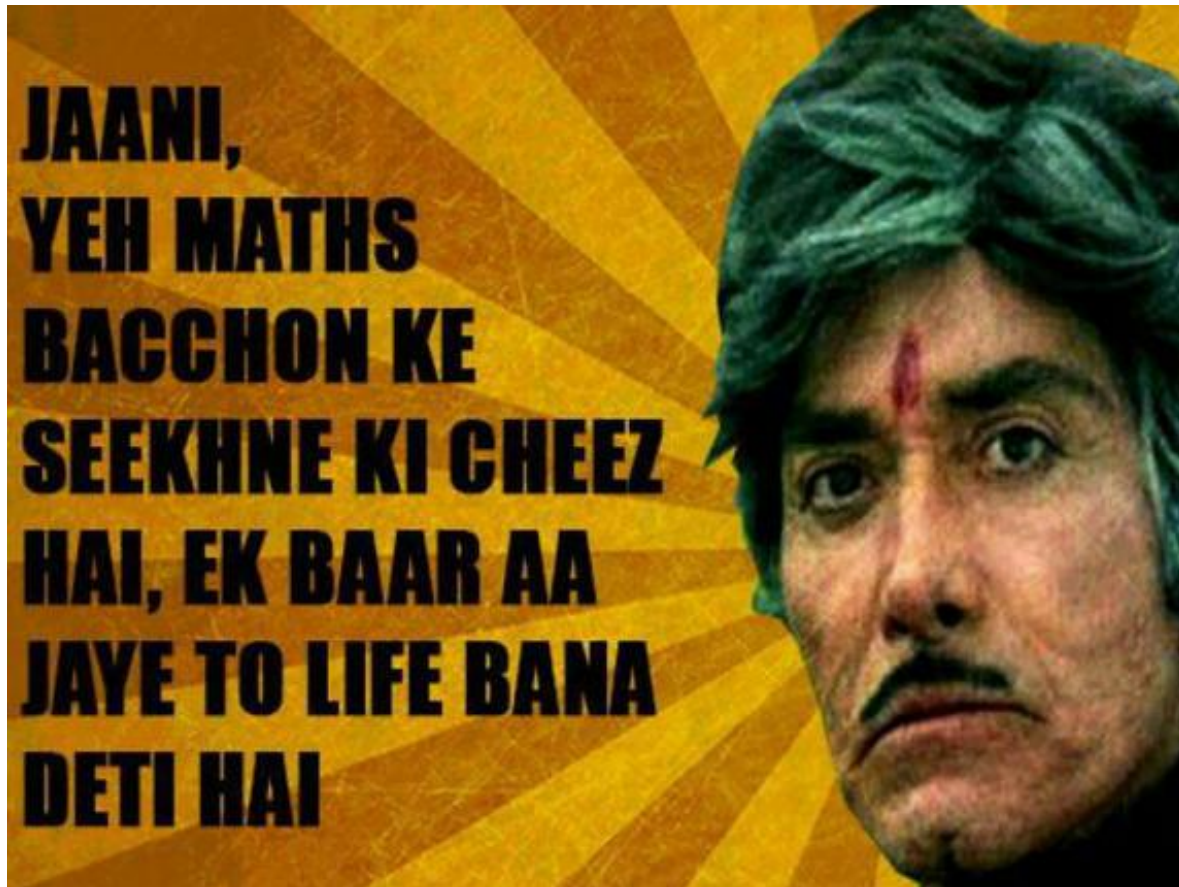


## Making a math movement



• [SRAVASTI DATTA](#)



Math memes -- These cool memes have legendary dialogues of Bollywood actors centred on math.



Ashok Kamath



Bag these -- It consists of teaching-learning material. The GKA methodology is compatible with the National Curriculum Framework 2005 guidelines. A colourful abacus, blocks, play money, cushy counters made of foam, weighing scales and beakers and red and white beaded rope., are among the 21 items available in the kit.

*Ganitha Kalika Andolana aims to make math fun and accessible through math kits, memes and songs for children.*

The adage “practice makes perfect” is often used to take the mystery out of mathematics.

Is it enough to remove math phobia? Not in all cases. Learning math can be fun and creative and Bengaluru is also home to innovative math learning projects, such as NumberNagar by BrainSTARS. In a latest endeavour to make learning math a movement, the Karnataka Government in collaboration with the Bengaluru-based Akshara Foundation has initiated *Ganitha Kalika Andolana* (GKA).

Phase one of the movement has begun in six districts in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region -- Bellary, Bidar, Gulbarga, Koppal, Raichur and Yadgir. Earlier this month, the team at Akshara is said to have sent 7,520 math kits to 3,00,000 children.

Ashok Kamath, chairman of Akshara Foundation, says, GKA is an Andolana, a movement, for a reason. “We often think of initiatives as a project. But does it sustain itself over 10 years? Unless education becomes a movement and people are invested in it, we will not see an impact.”

Considerable thought went into developing GKA. “We worked on it for four years to allow it to sink in,” says Ashok. The module was first introduced in over 500 schools in Hoskote for three years. “Before we approached the State Government, it took us a while to think we could scale across the State in a sustainable way,” recalls Ashok.

*(Driving away math phobia -- The kits make math fun to learn)*

Rote learning, which is entrenched in our education system, is a hindrance to effective math learning. “It’s hard for a child to understand the abstract,” explains Ashok, “If you use rote learning, it’s ineffective. In the math kit we have things like a weighing scale, so that the child knows what 100 gms means. These are concrete things we do on a daily basis.

As an advocacy tool and to make math fun, Akshara has created math memes. Grammy-award winning Ricky Kej has also composed a math song in Kannada and English. Ashok says that it is important to make math fun. “Everybody should enjoy it, teachers as well. If they see children are learning well, they will be enthused too.”

What’s the road ahead for GKA? “We hope to cover the whole State in the next three to four years.”

Akshara has also made all the resource material freely available. “All our manuals are under Creative Commons. You can download, translate and use them. We also have videos of modules for teachers, which are in six to eight minutes durations.”

Math song -- Listen to the math song by Ricky Kej here:

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