

An Insight into the Primary Urdu Language Learning Kit (PULLK)

Chaman Ara Khan*

Abstract

An input-rich communicational environment is essential for effective language learning. Research suggests that young children, especially in their early years, learn best through engaging, stress-free activities integrated into their daily lives. When learning is framed as a fun activity, such as through games and stories, children are more likely to enjoy and absorb the content. To facilitate meaningful language engagement, educational kits play a crucial role alongside textbooks and audio-video materials.

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 emphasises the importance of hands-on and minds-on learning approaches, advocating for the use of educational kits to enhance learning experiences. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), the apex body responsible for developing textbooks and supplementary materials in India, has created several educational kits to support effective learning. One such kit is the 'Primary Urdu Language Learning Kit (PULLK),' designed specifically for teaching Urdu at the primary level. This kit aims to enhance children's listening and speaking skills in Urdu, promoting a stress-free learning environment and encouraging meaningful language construction.

INTRODUCTION

In schools across India, Urdu is taught as one of the languages at the primary stage, where the development of the language skills is heavily reliant on a stress-free, engaging learning environment. Recent research underscores that children, particularly in their early years, benefit greatly from

a learning atmosphere that integrates their daily life activities and minimises stress. When learning is framed as enjoyable through activities, games, and stories children not only learn, effectively but also enjoy the process.

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, developed by the National Council of Educational

*Associate Professor, Department of Elementary Education, NCERT, New Delhi

Research and Training (NCERT), advocates for connecting children’s school experiences with their life outside the school. This approach departs from traditional pedagogical practices that often disregard children’s natural learning efforts and their experiences. According to the NCF 2005, effective language use helps children make connections between ideas, people, and their surroundings (NCERT, 2005).

To achieve this, there needs to be a shift from rote memory and teacher-centred methods to hands-on, minds-on learning approaches. These methods—such as problem-solving, activity-oriented, performance-based, and learner-centred approaches encourage learners to understand, develop, and use language creatively. A stress-free atmosphere, enriched with various educational inputs beyond textbooks, supports the development of language skills and fosters joyful learning.

PRIMARY URDU LANGUAGE LEARNING KIT (PULLK)

The Primary Urdu Language Learning Kit (PULLK) was developed by NCERT for the first time to support young learners from Grades 1 to 5 in schools. Designed specifically for the primary stage, the kit includes a diverse range of 19 items such as stories, word games, a Braille chart, word tiles, Urdu riddles, skill games, and anagrams. These materials are intended to facilitate interactive activities for students in

Grades 1 and 2. Additionally, the kit comes with a manual that provides detailed instructions for teachers on how to effectively conduct these activities.

Kit Items—List and Relevance

The kit consists of various kinds of material and a user’s manual.

The primary objective of the kit is to provide a stress-free environment. The following is a list of the items available in the kit.

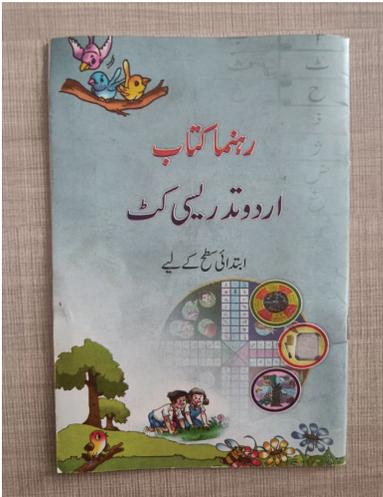
1. Alphabet Tiles: This is a complete set of small tiles, having letters of the Urdu alphabet and numbers from 0 to 9. Students can join the tiles to form words. They can also arrange numbers in various sequences.

2. Word-Image Circle: There are two concentric circles. The inner circle contains words, while the outer circle has pictures. The learner has to move both the circles correctly so that the images correspond with the words.



3. Braille Chart in Urdu: The kit contains a laminated large-size chart containing the braille alphabet. This enables the visually impaired and weak sighted children to read and recognise the letters of the Urdu alphabet. Furthermore, the sighted children will be able to understand the challenges faced by them.

4. Urdu Ludo: Similar to ludo, this board game in Urdu has numbers from 1 to 100, with one word under each number. Through this game, learners would be exposed to singular and plural nouns, opposites, prefixes and suffixes, idioms, etc. This facilitates learning in both oral and written forms.



5. Using the Spelling Chart: Using the Spelling Chart increases the vocabulary and improves the spelling of the young learner, thus contributing to reading and writing skills in Urdu.



6. Educational Taash (Playing Cards): Educational Taash, or playing cards, as the name suggests, involves young learners in increasing their vocabulary through the game of cards. This can be played in small groups. Each player places a card in the centre one by one and says the word written on it aloud. Alternatively, the plural or the opposite of the word can also be said aloud.



7. Situation Clock: This is one of the most interesting articles in the kit. The young learners can turn the hands of the clock; and instead of numbers, the clock presents different situations, such as ‘Tell a joke’, ‘Speak five sentences on the given topic’, etc. The learner is expected to do the task in one minute. The listening and speaking skills will be enhanced through this activity.

8. Diversity Chart: This is a large chart depicting various celebrations. This chart can be put up in classrooms to familiarise children with the significance of the national days as well as the festivals of various religions found in our diverse country.

ANALYSIS OF THE RATIONALE QUESTIONNAIRE

Based on the study’s findings, it was observed that most teachers found the Primary Urdu Language Learning Kit (PULLK) to be highly beneficial for developing language skills. They believed that the kit would help learners to develop:

- Grammatical awareness
- Vocabulary and its usage
- Appropriacy

Teachers noted that the kit contributes to making the teaching–learning process more effective, enabling learners to acquire Urdu language skills joyfully through their mother tongue. The activities provided in the kit are designed to

cultivate essential abilities required for primary-level learners. By engaging with the kit, students can learn through hands-on experience, which often has a lasting impact on their learning. The kit encourages learners to create their own games, thereby broadening their creative faculties—a key objective of language education.

Another advantage of the kit is its ability to help learners connect with the language more naturally. It promotes the development of speaking skills, allowing learners to discuss topics confidently and without inhibition. The play-based methods included in the kit help uncover and nurture hidden talents, enhance vocabulary usage in context, and build self-confidence, leading to improved mental development.

The kit was also designed to be inclusive, catering to Children with Special Needs. It includes braille items for visually impaired learners, helping to raise awareness among other students about the challenges faced by their peers. Additionally, the kit addresses the needs of dyslexic children, ensuring that all learners can benefit from its resources.

SAFETY ASPECTS

The Primary Urdu Language Learning Kit (PULLK) is designed specifically for young children to facilitate learning through engaging activities and games. The development of the Kit focused on ensuring that it is child-friendly

and safe. For example, the edges of charts and cards are rounded, and each item is covered with a micron pouch lamination to prevent injury to children's tender hands. The slates used for anagrams are durable and resistant to breakage, even if dropped.

The kit's items are crafted to be anti-allergic and non-hazardous, prioritising the health and safety of the users. Additionally, the kit includes a manual that provides teachers and other users with guidance on the rationale behind each activity.

NCERT aims to use this kit to enhance Urdu language skills among students and reach a wider

audience through its innovative and thoughtful design.

CONCLUSION

A five-day orientation programme was organised to gather feedback from practising teachers on the Urdu Language Learning Kit developed for primary school students. The programme included 29 teachers from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. During the orientation, participants were given both rationale and empirical questionnaires along with the kit to assess their perceptions of its utility. The teachers shared their views on the kit, while using it practically in the classroom.