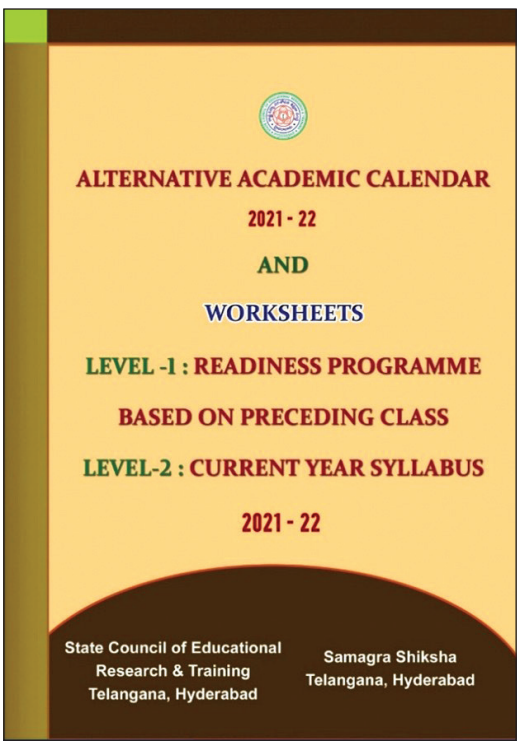
Before FLN and Beyond—Telangana SCERT

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The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) of Telangana located at Hyderabad has been playing a dynamic role in coming up with the necessary material in the form of various books and materials, and living up to the expectations of teachers and students. Due to the pandemic, the challenges in education were unexpected as well as multi-faceted. The lack of infrastructure and resources, coupled with the digital divide, exacerbated the situation. Furthermore, teachers too had to face the sudden transition of adopting new methods of teaching with technology.

The Curriculum and Textbooks Department at SCERT Telangana and a team of content developers produced a module with printable worksheets in 2021, including the enhanced and tweaked academic calendar. This module was placed in the public domain as it was not feasible to distribute physical copies to the

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students. A system was in place where Telangana SCERT in collaboration with the State Institute of Educational Technology (SIET) produced a series of class-wise and subject-wise digital lessons. After the telecast of every digital lesson, the printouts of the lesson-related worksheets were distributed to the students. This practice helped the teachers to be in touch with the students, though not directly.

To keep up the momentum created by the digital lessons, worksheets, and the commendable work by teachers; the School Leadership Academy at Telangana SCERT, an extended arm of the National Council for School Leadership (NCSL)—National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA) documented the remarkable journeys of the teachers in the form of success stories of the meritorious teachers who came up with the innovative activities. This encouragement inspired many teachers and paved the way for School Leadership Academy (SLA) to release a series of books in the consecutive academic years as well. The motivation continues.

When the schools reopened, the major challenge was to address the learning gaps among the students, especially, among the students of Grades 1 and 2. In sync with the Vidya Pravesh Guidelines of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) related to the school readiness programme, SCERT Telangana developed the School Preparation Module for the academic year 2022–2023 for the first and second graders with activities and a timetable for 40 working days. Primary school teachers across the State were encouraged to use activities from the module to address the learning gaps of the students who were directly enrolled in Grades 1 and 2 without pre-primary education, as a result of COVID-19.

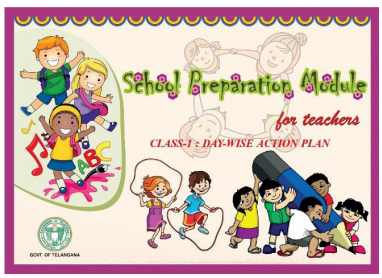




Figure 1: Series of Books – SLA

The learning gaps among the students of Grades 3, 4, and 5 have been alarming, and therefore, the Telangana SCERT saw the need to streamline the teaching–learning process by designing proper lesson plans for classroom transactions. A team of subject experts and teachers, including those from Grades 1 and 2 as content developers, were engaged in preparing teachers' handbooks with lesson plans for the entire academic year. To augment the learning process of the students, class-wise workbooks for Grades 1 to 5 were also prepared for the year 2023–2024 alongside the handbooks. The physical copies of the handbooks were given to the schools, and every Primary school student was supplied with three copies of workbooks for English, Telugu, and Mathematics.

No matter when there arises an academic situation that needs immediate attention, Telangana SCERT has lived up to the expectations and come up with proper planning and publications within record time. The aforementioned support and other academic activities are helping the Primary school education systemise the classroom transactions in the hope of creating a better teaching–learning environment and sustainable learning among the students.

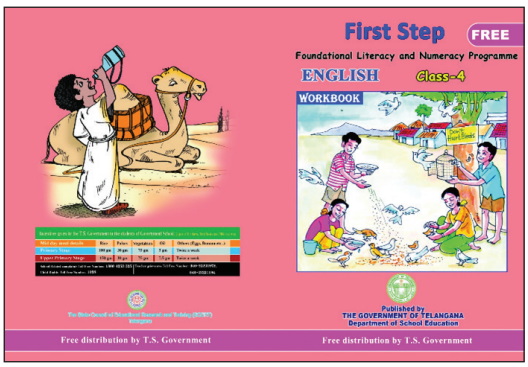


Figure 2: Grade 4 English Workbook for Students



Figure 3: Grade 4 English Handbook for Teachers