



## Abacus Math – An Urban Strategy to Smarter Children

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### Abstract

Indian urban children are running behind abacus mode of learning mathematics & the abacus mode of learning has become very popular in Urban India. The system of Abacus has been proved success & in India too this training is considered as trendy & numerous centers have sprawled up in cities. Even though the abacus training is considered as smart way to learn calculations, there have been several challenges as well. The parents are willfully sending their children to abacus classes without even knowing the methodology adopted for training. This paper unearths some of the challenges undermining abacus teaching & considers a review by parents before jumping to conclusions.

**Key words:** urban India. Abacus calculations, training lacuna

### Introduction

There have been several phases of present abacus methodology. Abacus as a concept has originated from a Greek / Latin word abs which means to calculate. Abacus math is an arithmetic method based on the principles of abacus calculation. It is known that human intelligence is largely determined by external environment not just set by the genes. Everyone is born with immature brain & has along childhood fort brain development. By the age of 10 the human brain can be 99% developed. (Abacus-the development of elementary mathematical calculations in

preschool children. National council of teachers of mathematics 2007).

Indian system of abacus- In a work abhidharma kosh bahshay of vasubhandhu gives a rare picture about traditional method of counting which resemble modern day Abacus system of calculation This Sanskrit work speaks about a varthika meaning a wick being placed on designated holes which meant 1, 100, 1000, 100000 etc ( Amitava sanyal-learning by beads Hindustan times 2007). According to H. Gardener, Intelligence refers to the human ability to solve problems or to make something that is valued in one or more cultures. Abacus math establishes a clear logic concept of



numbering for small children. ( ABACUS-The development of elementary mathematical calculations in preschool children . National council of teachers of mathematics 2007 ). The abacus mental picture training will increase memory power & sharpen complete mental formation for a child. ( Amitava Sanyal- learning by beads Hindustan times 2007).

### **The Mental Health Benefits of Abacus**

The speed of training enables the child to gain better reflexes. In addition the speed hearing training encourages the child to give full attention to study by listening more attentively & effectively. Using an abacus requires coordination of the main nerves of a human body for eyes, ears, & fingers. Constant practicing of an abacus provides stimulations that is socially responsive & intellectually congruent for the growth of brain cells. (ABACUS-The development of elementary mathematical calculations in preschool children. National council of teachers of mathematics 2007).

Studies of brain have shown that the exposure to the right kind of stimulations helps the brain to grow in right direction. Thus the outcome for the abacus math program is intelligent kids with smart brains.

Hence this program has become very popular in urban India. Numerous abacus teaching centers have been established in every nook & corner of cities. These centers have become so popular that some of the abacus centre is run in batches. Urban people have become obsessed with abacus as even toddlers & preschool children are admitted to abacus classes.

(ABACUS-The development of elementary mathematical calculations in preschool children . National council of teachers of mathematics 2007).

**Benefits of ABACUS math -** abacus math courses are very popular in India because it has numerous benefits.

1. Abacus improves comprehension in math calculations hence arithmetic which is considered as a tuff subject becomes easy for children. They can learn math like a play kit tool.
2. Abacus improves faster calculation skills , improves problems solving skills , improves logical reasoning
3. Abacus helps children become more attentive to instructions hence attentive & obedient
4. Abacus improves keener listening skills it sharpens memory & supports better reflexes
5. Abacus improves stronger mental formation skills



6. Abacus improves self-confidence & self-esteem this is very important for a child because confidence building helps a nation with confident minded citizens.
7. Abacus supports better endurance of stress & pressure. These days' children are burdened with through academic learning. The time prescribed for play & physical activity is very less. There have been very less outdoor activities for children. This has affected the overall growth of children .But with abacus math skills, children learn to focus their monotony & boredom in a
8. Abacus helps in better comprehension & faster calculation skills .This will support the mental comprehension level, hence children are benefitted with healthy mental growth.

Thus the abacus culture has been gripping Indian city people towards making their child math scholars. (ABACUS - the development of elementary mathematical calculations in preschool children. National council of teachers of mathematics 2007).

**Challenges Ahead:** Often abacus trainers use a traditional way in addition subtraction method some centers have become money spinners. Some centers have old teaching methods; some of the trainers are not

updated. Some centres are not attending to the basic needs of learners. All these issues have to be met with before starting abacus training for children. Parents, trainers' abacus organizations & such NGOs are to make suitable correction before starting the classes. But in Urban cities, abacus classes even though are popular they are suffering from various challenges. These challenges have to be met immediately. Parents should not over burden their children in to learning abacus math. centers over emphasizing on equal learning trend all children are not equal in learning it gives way for unnecessary competition .Some center are looting money in the form abacus equipment sales & marketing. Centers make children extraordinary in a short period this is a bad But Abacus needs self-practice & systematic learning. Centers should not boast about creating math experts should not compare children.

**Conclusion:** abacus training makes the learner more confident & academically affluent is very popular in urban India . As this makes children interested in curricular & co curricular activities urban parents are sending their children to these training institutions. Parents aspire that abacus training enhances confidence level, boosts up self-reliance & supports the development of a positive approach all through his life. Childhood is an exploring stage &



children comprehend several things during their childhood .If childhood begins with a positive note. Then the whole future becomes bright.

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